

20100415 Retiree News – Happy Tax Day

“Even the palest ink is better than the best memory.”
- Chinese proverb

1. The Promise. *Retiree News* contains 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. Rules of Engagement (ROE). Periodically, someone e-mails a request for contact information for another *Retiree News* reader. We forward that e-mail to the reader for their action. This preserves the privacy of the reader and their e-mail address.

3. Business.

- **Health Reform 'Threat' to TRICARE Weak and Fading.** The following article written by Tom Philpott appeared in his March 25, 2010 Military Update column. Tom Philpott has been breaking news for and about military people since 1977. After service in the Coast Guard, and 17 years as a reporter and senior editor with Army Times Publishing Company, Tom launched "Military Update," his syndicated weekly news column, in 1994. "Military Update" column features timely news and analysis on issues affecting active duty members, reservists, retirees and their families. Tom also edits a reader reaction column, "Military Forum." The online "home" for both features is Military.com.

Tom's freelance articles have appeared in numerous magazines including *The New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest* and *Washingtonian*. His critically acclaimed book, *Glory Denied*, on the extraordinary ordeal and heroism of Col. Floyd "Jim" Thompson, the longest-held prisoner of war in American history, is available in hardcover and paperback.

Republican lawmakers raised the specter of military families and survivors of veterans seeing health care costs rise as a result of the national health reform law that President Obama signed March 23. But the threat was never more than a notion and it is fading away. That's the consensus among most military associations and veterans groups, as reinforced by statements from the secretaries of defense and veterans affairs, the White House and chairmen of key congressional committees.

White House officials were angered, and some veterans groups perplexed, by press releases issued last Sunday from Republicans on the House armed services and veterans' affairs committees, and by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, hours before the House voted to approve the landmark Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

The VFW said "the president and the Democratic leadership are betraying veterans" by not adopting a Republican amendment that explicitly would list [TRICARE](#) and VA [survivor health benefits](#) as meeting the health reform bill's minimum essential coverage standard. Without that status, argued ranking committee Republicans Howard "Buck" McKeon (Calif.) on armed services and Steve Buyer (Ind.) on veterans' affairs, these beneficiaries and even some veterans' children with Spina Bifida could be forced to pay a penalty or buy extra health insurance. The chances of that occurring were between nil and infinitesimal, according to

Democrats. They saw the Republican rhetoric as a last attempt to derail the health reform bill by angering veterans enough that they would persuade wavering Democrats to vote no.

To calm any such fears, the chairmen of five House committees, including Veterans Affairs Chair Bob Filner (D-Calif.) and Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) issued a joint letter reaffirming that the health reform legislation, as written, would protect those receiving care using TRICARE or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition, a day before the critical vote, the House unanimously passed a bill from Skelton that would amend the tax code so that all TRICARE plans, and even health plans for Defense non-appropriated fund employees, met the health reform bill's minimum essential coverage. Vietnam Veterans of America praised the House for swift passage of Skelton's bill and criticized politicians who would play on veterans' fears.

"It is unfortunate that some continue to raise what now is even more clearly a false alarm that is apparently meant to frighten veterans and their families in order to prompt them to oppose the pending legislation," said John Rowan, VVA's national president, in a press release. "Last summer there was a similar incident, also involving partisans in the health care reform debate that VVA soundly condemned."

But Buyer, in an interview, said Skelton's bill still isn't enough. He tried to amend it so it would protect all veterans' widows and orphans but was rebuffed. "When political expediency equals sloppy, people get hurt in the process," Buyer said. "That is exactly what happened when we did the [GI Bill](#). We tried to correct the errors. They wouldn't do it and they passed the bill. And look at the problems we've had. This is political Ground Hog Day."

In the Senate, James Webb (D-Va.) has introduced a bill identical to Skelton's. Buyer said that Senate bill, before passage, should be amended to close the gaps that he found for veterans' families. VA committee chairman Filner countered that Buyer has relied on a "false interpretation" of health reform legislation and "somehow the VFW bought into it." His committee, Filner said, watched progress on health reform carefully and was in constant contact with veterans' groups. "We knew from the beginning to make sure we watched everything so no benefits are touched or affected," he said.

It is true, Filner conceded, that the Senate health reform legislation as enacted does list only some military and veterans programs as specifically meeting the new law's minimum essential coverage standards. "But we think the intent is clear in other parts" of the new law that no veterans' and military health programs are to be changed. He said lawyers at VA and the White House had confirmed this view.

"And, if it turns out there are unintended things in there, we would fix them immediately," Filner said. With all of that, Filner characterized the VFW release of March 21, hours before the critical House vote, as "very offensive." In his four years as chairman, Filner said, "that's the first time this kind of partisan attack occurred."

"They took, I guess, what Buyer said as gospel...If [the release] had said, 'We are worried that this is not listed and we need to fix it,' that would be one thing. But they started screaming about Democrats and that only Republicans had their interests at heart, which is just false."

The quote about Obama and Democrats "betraying" veterans was attributed to VFW National Commander Thomas J. Tradewell Sr. Reached a few days later, Tradewell did not sound angry, even though the House passed health reform without the McKeon-Buyer amendment. "Our concerns were relieved," he said. And the VFW isn't opposed to national health care reform, he explained, though some got that impression.

"We just felt...they pushed it through with a few things that could affect TRICARE dependents and some other VA-type coverage. And if they had put that in the original bill we would have been much happier with it." "It was not the Republicans who put us up to it," Tradewell said. "It was the fact that we had asked that those things be...in the bill. And, like I say, [the response] was, 'Okay, we'll take care of it in a future bill.'"

- Senate votes to protect TRICARE beneficiaries. Rick Maze, a *Military Times* writer wrote the following article. The article first appeared on Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

Although military and congressional leaders insisted it wasn't necessary, the Senate gave final approval Monday to a bill intended to reassure TRICARE beneficiaries that national health care reform won't require them to buy additional health insurance or to pay a penalty if they do not.

Called the TRICARE Affirmation Act, the bill is now on its way to the White House for signature. The bill says Defense Department health coverage will be treated as minimal essential coverage under the new national health care law, which means that TRICARE beneficiaries would not be subject to the \$750 penalty created by Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act if they do not have private health insurance.

The bill also says that health care coverage provided to non-appropriated fund employees of the Defense Department also satisfies the requirement of being minimal coverage.

Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., the Senate armed services personnel subcommittee chairman who shepherded the bill through the Senate, said he hoped passage quelled doubts. "Following months of confusion surrounding military health care programs, we can now definitively tell our service members and their families today that their health care is secure," Webb said in a statement.

"As one who grew up in the military, served as a Marine in Vietnam and spent five years in the Pentagon, I know the special obligation we have to provide our military service members, their families, and our veterans with the very finest health care coverage available. Today, we can tell them that we've continued to make good on that promise," said Webb, who grew up in an Air Force family.

The Senate passed the bill, HR 4887, by voice vote and with no debate on its first day back after a two-week recess that followed passage of the historic health reform law. The House of Representatives passed the TRICARE Affirmation Act on March 20 by a 403-0 vote, on the eve of its passage of the health reform law, after questions were raised about whether military families and retirees might be hurt by the new law.

The acting head of TRICARE, Charles Rice, and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius both issued statements saying TRICARE met the definition of essential coverage. But concerns have continued, fueled in part by some Republicans who are trying to get the reform law repealed, which is what led the Senate to pass the House bill.

While the bill addresses the narrow question of "essential" coverage, it does not answer every concern about whether health reform, Public Law 111-148, will affect military members and retirees. Rice said in an April 2 statement that his agency was battling "misinformation" and was working to squelch rumors that TRICARE benefits will be lost as a result of the new law.

Passage of the TRICARE Assurance Act was praised by representatives of major military and veterans' groups. Retired Navy Vice Adm. Norbert Ryan Jr., Military Officers Association of America president, said his group accepted assurances from congressional and administration

leaders that TRICARE was not going to be harmed, but “the lack of statutory clarity was a source of concern to many.” The bill, Ryan said, provides “clarity beyond any doubt.”



- TRICARE and VA Work Together. Falls Church, Virginia – Service members who became ill or injured while serving on active duty and are then medically retired have health benefits available to them through both the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Like all retirees, medically-retired veterans can choose TRICARE Prime where it’s available, or TRICARE Standard and Extra if they are not eligible for Medicare. Their family members have the same TRICARE choices. Veterans who are eligible for Medicare because of disability must maintain Medicare Parts A and B to keep their TRICARE coverage.

Retirees with a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or higher; are unemployable due to the service-connected disability; or are seeking care for the service-connected disability are automatically eligible but must request care from Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Retirees eligible for VA health benefits along with their TRICARE retiree health care benefits can receive care from the VA or TRICARE. These retirees must apply for health benefits from the VA. Though there is an initial choice each time they seek care for a non-service related condition—VA or TRICARE—once treatment has begun, it must be completed using the same benefit. However, when seeking care for a service-related condition, they must use VA benefits.

Almost all VA health care facilities are part of the TRICARE network, however treatment of TRICARE beneficiaries is provided on a space and resource available basis only. When choosing to use their TRICARE benefit, retirees may be authorized to receive non-service related care at participating VA medical centers, a military treatment facility (MTF) or a TRICARE network provider. Representatives are available at VA facilities to assist veterans who are eligible for TRICARE and VA health care, and VA liaisons and benefit counselors are available at many MTFs to assist veterans transferring from Defense Department to VA care.

Veterans can learn about the different financial responsibilities for TRICARE-covered services and VA benefits by contacting their TRICARE regional contractor or VA Health Benefits Service Center at 877-222-VETS. Regional contractor contact information can be found at www.TRICARE.mil/contactus.

There are many programs available through TRICARE, VA, the armed services and TRICARE’s regional contractors supporting veterans who became ill or were injured serving on active duty. Visit www.warriorcare.mil for more information about these resources.

- Two interesting articles from Kiplinger’s *Personal Finance Magazine*. The March issue of Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine has two interesting articles.

“What You Need to Know About Social Security” discusses five ways to make sure you get the biggest possible check. To read the article, go to

<http://kiplinger.com/magazine/archives/what-you-need-to-know-about-social-security.html>

“Where to Find Free Money” talks about State treasuries are holding nearly \$33 billion in unclaimed assets. Some of it could be yours. To read the article, go to

<http://kiplinger.com/magazine/archives/where-to-find-free-money.html>

- New Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Changes. Although Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam became official earlier this year, smaller changes will happen as the joint base operation evolves. The following note should be of special interest to those who use the Fitness Center.

ID cards are required when going to the Hickam Fitness Center. We will no longer be using the digital sign-ups with your social as we have in the past. You will now need to have your ID on hand to show to a member at the front desk before entering. Members who do not have it will be asked to retrieve it. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience, but with the official merge of our bases coming up this is something we need to get used to, so please help us by being in compliance and making sure those in your units do the same. Any questions can be directed to any of our staff members on shift or management members if necessary. Thank you and have a great "Fit to Fight" day!

VA to Intensify Gulf War Illness Outreach, Care. Donna Miles wrote the following American Forces Press Service article.

Washington, April 1, 2010 - Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki yesterday announced promising news for veterans of the Persian Gulf War experiencing the broad range of symptoms referred to as Gulf War Illnesses. Acting on recommendations from a task force he stood up to identify gaps in service, Shinseki said VA plans to reconnect with veterans who deployed during the Gulf War in 1990 and 1991 to ensure they get the best information and care possible.

As part of that outreach, VA's Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force recommended improved data-sharing with the Defense Department to notify veterans of potential exposures, monitor their long-term health and provide additional follow-up. The task force also recommended that VA strengthen training for clinicians and claims processors so they're better postured to diagnose, treat and process disability claims related to Gulf War Illnesses, and reenergize its research and medical surveillance efforts. The task force's report will redefine how VA addresses the concerns of veterans deployed during the Gulf War, Shinseki said. "Our mission at VA is to be advocates for veterans," he said. "This report's action plans provide a roadmap to transform the care and services we deliver to Gulf War veterans."

The new recommendations come on the tail of a VA proposal announced last month to presume nine specific infectious diseases to be service-connected for anyone who served in Southwest Asia after Aug. 2, 1990, or in Afghanistan after Sept. 18, 2001. That ruling, once adopted, will impact veterans who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. It will relieve those suffering from the designated diseases from the burden of proving their ailments are linked to service in the Persian Gulf or Afghanistan to receive VA health care and disability payments. The nine diseases are: brucellosis, *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever), malaria, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, nontyphoidal *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, visceral leishmaniasis (kala-azar) and West Nile virus.

During an interview with American Forces Press Service, Shinseki called the proposed ruling a positive step in taking care of Gulf War veterans suffering numerous symptoms and diagnoses yet to be pinpointed to any specific exposure. "We can't historically go back and decide what actually caused [Gulf War Illness]," he said. "We spent \$350 million trying to find the cause, and we haven't arrived at a clear answer."

Rather than simply waiting for researchers to come up with a cause-and effect solution, Shinseki pressed VA to come up with a plan to compensate affected veterans now. "My request was, 'Can we agree that something happened?'" he said. "We have enough evidence here, symptomatically, that something happened. It may be a combination of things. We may never

be able to answer exactly what caused this. "But we can deal with the problem,' he said. "So let's take care of people."

Shinseki took a similar approach to Agent Orange, a defoliant used during the Vietnam War that many veterans blame for causing a variety of illnesses and diseases. VA previously presumed 12 diseases to be service-connected based on Agent Orange exposure. In October, Shinseki proposed adding three more diseases to the list: hairy-cell leukemia and other B-cell leukemias, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease.

Shinseki said he based his decision on a report by the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine citing compelling new evidence of a connection between the three illnesses and Agent Orange exposure. "That was not an independent decision by the VA," Shinseki emphasized. "The Institute of Medicine is designated by Congress as the impartial determiner of whether or not there is sufficient evidence to make the decision like the one I made.... And they gave me enough information for me to say, 'I can see the tie.' So the decision was made."

Shinseki, a former Army chief of staff and Vietnam veteran, had long criticized past practices that put the burden on veterans to prove that the variety of illnesses many suffered was linked to Agent Orange exposure. Too often, he said, this created an adversarial relationship between VA and veterans. "It was important to clearly let the Vietnam veterans know that they have not been forgotten," he said. "We are dealing with our responsibilities here."

- *DFAS Retired Pay Newsletter*. March 2010 Issue. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) published a newsletter dedicated to retired pay issues. The index for the current March 2010 issue includes the following articles: Director's Corner, New and Improved Web Pages, 2010 Tax Updates, International Direct Deposit Information, myPay Puts You in Control, and Retiree Seminars.

Visit <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/march2010.html> to read the March 2010 issue.

Thanks to the *Retiree News* readers who forwarded the link to the DFAS newsletter.

- *About Federalhandbooks.com*. FederalHandbooks.com is the ultimate resource for Federal employees. All of the handbooks are free to view and download and contain the very best information about pay, retirement planning, education, employment benefits and more!

For more information, visit www.federalhandbooks.com. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

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Follow them on Twitter:

<http://emailmarketer.grantham.edu/link.php?M=1765673&N=25&L=55&F=H>

4. The Wanted List. We are looking for these *Retiree News* readers because their e-mail addresses on file for them no longer works. Please forward their new e-mail address to retireenews@hawaiiantel.net if you can share them.

Leslie Asada
Edward Correa
Norman Chang
Chris Wilson
Tom Gresch
Edward Uyeda

C. Hutton Smith
James Kahalehoe
Patrick Casey
Steve Ware
Katherine Asato

The addresses now total **1200+** 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!

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.

Byron Kim (update)
Richard Kawana
Lon Paresa
George Beppu

Charlie Chang
George Beppu
Ed Garrett

5. Condolences. These Hawai'i National Guard retirees and those who served with the Guard passed away recently. They all served honorably and added something to our unique culture here in the Guard. Aloha Pumehana to all....

Joseph Kama, 77, of Kea'au, Hawai'i, died March 22, 2010. Born in Kalaoa, Papaikou, Hawai'i. Retired heavy-equipment operator at James W. Glover Ltd.; also worked for Willocks Construction; Korean War U.S. Marine Corps veteran and former member of the Hawai'i Army National Guard. Survived by companion, Lorna Lorenzo; sons, Robert, Clifford Sr. and Jeffery; daughters, Liane Muronaka and Darleene Pogliano; hanai daughter, Lanea Lorenzo; brother, George Sr.; 13 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

6. Retiree Update.



• The HIARNG's new Combatives Champion. **SFC Ryan Taniguchi** is the 2010 National Guard Combatives Champion in the Fly Weight Division. SFC Taniguchi won first place at the Army National Guard Combatives Championship Tournament at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He will represent the Army National Guard at the All Army Combatives Competition in September 2010. **COL Keith Tamashiro**, his commander at the 298th Regional Training Institute, said, "SFC Taniguchi has trained extremely hard for this tournament. I have personally witness his training cycle. He is disciplined, hard working and very focused. What an honor for SFC Taniguchi!

Send congratulatory e-mail: ryan.r.taniguchi@us.army.mil

At left. SPC Elisha Helsper of Idaho squares off against SFC Ryan Taniguchi of Hawai'i during the 2010 Army National Guard Combatives Tournament at Fort Benning, Ga. (Photo by Army SGT Andrew H. Owen, Virginia Guard Public Affairs)

• Congratulations to **COL Edward Chun-Fat** and the entire US Property and Fiscal Office staff! They just passed an IG Inspection conducted March 15-19, 2010 by NGB IG with flying colors. Another great inspection that shows the superior work of the US Property and Fiscal Office!

• New 154th Operations Group Deputy Commander. **Lt Col Stephen Su'a-Filo**, the 154th Operations Group commander announced the selection of **Lt Col Glen "Knockers" Nakamura**

as the new Operations Group deputy commander. Knockers will take on the responsibilities of the Deputy OG (DOG) on April 6, 2010. He will continue as the 199th Fighter Squadron commander until the naming of the new commander. Congratulations to Knockers!

Send congratulatory e-mail: glen.nakamura@hihick.ang.af.mil

- Hawai'i Army National Guard Soldiers Return from Kuwait. **CPT Jeff Hickman** wrote the following press release about HIARNG Soldiers returning from Kuwait.

On Tuesday, April 6, 2010, a flight of about 125 Soldiers from the Hawai'i Army National Guard returned to Hawaii after being deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There was a short ceremony, and then the Soldiers were released and reunited with their families and friends.

The Soldiers have been mobilized on active duty for the past year. Many of the Soldiers in this group opted to stay behind in Kuwait and support the next brigade when the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's (IBCT) deployment was completed. There is also a large contingent of Soldiers who did not deploy with the 29th IBCT and are from various units within the HIARNG, who volunteered to mobilize with the 29th's replacement, Wyoming National Guard's 115th Fires Brigade (FiB).

The 115th FiB and the 29th IBCT shared the same missions that include: security and administration of several military posts and also escorting convoys into and out of Iraq. The 29th IBCT returned from their deployment in August of 2009.

- 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment Change of Command Ceremony. The commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, **COL Bruce Oliveira**, hosted a change of command ceremony for the 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment. **LTC Paul Tamaribuchi** assumed command from **LTC Rudolph Ligsay**. The ceremony took place on Saturday April 10, 2010 at the squadron's facility in Hilo, Hawai'i.

LTC Tamaribuchi moves from his position as the S3 Operations Officer, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. LTC Ligsay is now the Executive Officer at the 103rd Troop Command. Congratulations to both officers!

Send congratulatory e-mail:

paul.tamaribuchi@us.army.mil

rudolph.ligsay@us.army.mil

- Officer Candidate School Graduation. The 298th Regiment, Multifunctional Training Unit, Hawai'i Army National Guard hosted its 50th Officer Candidate School graduation on Sunday, April 11, 2010. The graduation ceremony took place at the SGT Deyson Cariaga Auditorium in Waimānalo. The new second lieutenants are:

2LT Torano Harris, Company A, 29th Brigade Support Battalion, Platoon Leader

2LT Corey Ark, Det 1, Troop C, 1st Battalion, 299th Cavalry RSTA, Platoon Leader
(RSTA: Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition)

2LT Nephi Camacho, HQ & HQ Troop, 1st Battalion, 299th Cavalry RSTA, Assistant S2

Congratulations to each of these new officers! Send congratulatory e-mail:

torano.harris@us.army.mil

corey.ark@us.army.mil

nephi.camacho@us.army.mil

- The 298th Regiment, Multifunctional Training Brigade Change of Command Ceremony. The Hawai'i Army National Guard Commander, **BG Joseph Chaves**, will host the change of command ceremony for the 298th Regiment, Multifunctional Training Brigade. **COL Arnold Iaea** will assume command from **COL Keith Tamashiro**. The ceremony will start at 1530 on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at the SGT Deyson Cariaga Auditorium, at the 298th Regional Training Institute facility in Waimānalo.

COL Iaea moves from his current position as the Joint Force Headquarters. COL Tamashiro will assume command of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in late May. Congratulations to both officers!

Send congratulatory e-mail:

arnold.iaea@us.army.mil

keith.tamashiro@us.army.mil

- Col Ann Greenlee Promotion Ceremony. **MG Robert G. F. Lee**, The Adjutant General, will host a promotion ceremony in honor of **Col Ann M. Greenlee** on her promotion to brigadier general. The ceremony will take place on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at the Governor's Ceremonial Room at the State Capitol, starting at 1130. Attire for military is uniform of the day and business attire for civilians. A reception will follow in Rooms 224-225 of the State Capitol. Please RSVP to **Emmy Maikui-Grampusch** or **Carolyn Taketa** at 733-4230.

Col Greenlee will retire from her technician position as the Director of Staff at HQ, Hawai'i Air National Guard. She will now serve as the Assistant Adjutant General, Air. Congratulations to Ann!

Send congratulatory e-mail: ann.greenlee@hihick.ang.af.mil

- HIARNG Officer Promotions. The Hawai'i Army National Guard G1 Branch staff provided the name of the following officer who was recently promoted. Congratulations!

WO3 Jeremiah Paraoan, Joint Force Headquarters

Send congratulatory e-mail using this format: jeremiah.paraoan@us.army.mil

- MSgt Fred Higa Retires. **MSgt Fred Higa** retired earlier this month after 38 years of military service. He served the last 25 years working as the maintenance analysis technician. The 154th Maintenance Operations Flight hosted a luncheon for Fred in the 154th Wing dining facility on Friday, April 9, 2010. Among the retirement presentations, a NGB representative presented Fred with a Minuteman stature recognizing his contributions to the maintenance analysis field. Happy Retirement Fred!

- "Aloha to Our Military Ohana Then and Now". The Hawai'i National Guard will participate in the "Aloha to Our Military Ohana Then and Now" events on Saturday May 22, 2010. There will be a parade from Fort DeRussy to Kapiolani Park starting at 0900. There will be military marching units from all services, veterans groups, and civilian organizations. Both the Hawai'i Army and Air National Guard will have marching units in the parade.

After the parade, there will be free entertainment for everyone at Kapiolani Park. The Honolulu Zoo has an open house event at no charge to the military members and their families via Gate #6, along Monzarat Avenue.

The 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will conduct a change of command ceremony following the parade. The starting time is set for 1100.

- Calling All 29th Infantry Brigade Retirees and Veterans. If you were assigned or affiliated with the 29th Infantry Brigade at one time or another in your military career, here is your chance to be recognized for your dedicated service with the 29th Infantry Brigade. Join your fellow brigade retirees and veterans in the “Aloha to Our Military Ohana Parade” on Saturday, March 22, 2010, and march with the current 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s units and Soldiers.

Although planning is still on going, the current plan is to have the retirees and veterans arrive at the Fort DeRussy start point by 8:00 am. The parade starts at about 9:00 am and ends at Kapiolani Park, with a 29th IBCT Change of Command Ceremony to follow at 1100. Other details are still being worked out; i.e. – transportation for those unable to march, meals, and the uniform for the Retirees and Veterans.

If you are interested, contact:

CSM (Ret) Robert N. Inouye at 844-6550 or robert.n.inouye@us.army.mil
SGM(Ret) Milton Yee at milton.yee@gdit.com
CPT (Ret) Henry Choy at henry.kwai.choy@us.army.mil

The deadline for the first headcount is Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

- The 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Change of Command. Hawai’i Army National Guard Commander, **BG Joseph Chaves**, will host the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s change of command ceremony. **COL Keith Tamashiro** will assume command from **COL Bruce Oliviera**. The ceremony will be on Saturday, May 22, 2010 in Kapiolani Park behind the Waikiki Shell. The ceremony will be after the morning parade, starting at 1100.

COL Tamashiro just completed his assignment as the commander of the 298th Regiment, Multifunctional Training Brigade. COL Oliviera will become the commander of the Hawai’i Army National Guard.

Send congratulatory e-mail:

keith.tamashiro@us.army.mil
bruce.oliviera@us.army.mil

- HIARNG Retirees for March 2010. The Hawai’i Army National Guard G1 Branch provided the names of the following soldiers who recently retired. Mahalo to each Soldier for your long and faithful service and Happy Retirement!

SGT Edward Payne, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry RSTA, 20 years service
(RSTA: Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition)

SFC Carlito Rabanal, Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 37 years

SFC Andy Ruiz, Joint Force Headquarters, 26 years service

- Retiree Connections.

- I recently had a telephone conversation with **William Wright**, the former commander of the 291st Combat Communications Squadron in Hilo. After he left Hawai’i, Bill served as a combat communications commander in the Massachusetts ANG. After he retired, he moved his family to Des Moines, Iowa and still works for a private engineering firm. Great talking to Bill!

- In an e-mail exchange, I caught up with **Richard LaPuente**, who retired from 154th Mission Support Flight several years ago. Richard still works with the Navy at Pearl Harbor and plans to work a few more years before retiring.

- I received a e-mail from **George Beppu**, a HIANG retiree who worked in the Comptroller section many years ago. He left the islands in 1977 and currently resides in Clarksville, Tennessee.

• Checking Out Old Photos. **Ted Merrill**'s last assignment with the Hawai'i Air National Guard was the 154th Wing's historian. He sent in a DVD with a lot of HIANG historical material. We are working to post some of the materials on the State DoD website. It will take a while and you will see an announcement in *Retiree News* when the uploading is complete. In the mean time, there will be a "teaser" photo in each issue.



The 154th Fighter Group commander, Col John "Saigon" Lee, and his front office staff:
MSGt Kenneth Young, MSGt Wallace Asato, CMSgt George Oshiro

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

• Retirement Party for MSG Samuel Makaiwi. **MSG Samuel Makaiwi** is retiring from the Hawai'i Army National Guard. There will be a retirement luncheon honoring him on Friday, April 16, 2010. The specifics follow:

- When: Friday, April 16, 2010
Time: 1145-1330
Where: Makino Chaya, Pearlridge Center
Cost: \$22.00 gift and meal, \$5.00 gift only

RSVP: Monday, April 12, 2010, checks payable to [Heather Antoque](#)

POC: [Heather Antoque](#) @ 844-6364 or heather.antoque@us.army.mil

- DOD Retirement and Awards Luncheon. Friday, April 23, 2009 is the date for the next DOD Retirement and Awards Luncheon. Invitations have gone out to the following retirees and service award awardees. The names of the honorees who submitted their RSVP and are attending are notated with a ★.

Retirees:

[Edward T. Omine](#)
[Peter S. Pawling](#)
[Melvin M. Damasco](#)
[Glenn M. Hirata](#)
[Morris S. Miyose](#)
[Colosse Eliapo Jr.](#)
[Russell T. Abe](#)
[John T. Anderson](#)
★ [Jeanne Hamamura](#)

[Dalwyn C. W. Wong](#)
[Ainsley H. Hori](#)
★ [John Y. Gollero, Jr.](#)
[George C. Lumives](#)
[Victor K. Murata](#)
[Stanley S. Nishimoto](#)
[Fred M. Higa, Jr.](#)
★ [Pamela Goya](#)
★ [Alika Watts](#)

30 Year Service Awards:

★ [Edwin D. Biete](#)
[Michael E. Vidrick](#)

★ [Marshall G. Harvest](#)

When: Friday, April 23, 2010

Time: 1100, lunch served at 1130

Where: Hale Koa Hotel, Banyan Tree Showroom

Menu: Buffet: Tossed salad, sliced tomatoes and fresh mozzarella, potato macaroni, Greek salad and rainbow Jell-O, sliced tropical fruit platter, fresh vegetables with creamy dip, assorted cold cuts and a selection of domestic cheeses, house specialty smoked mahi-mahi, grilled skirt steak with Shiitake mushroom sauce, steamed vegetables, assorted rolls, French apple tart, Key Lime pie, assortment of French pastries, chocolate mousse, fresh brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee or tea.

Costs: \$30.00 (includes gratuity)
Checks made out to [DOD Retirement & Service Award Fund](#)

RSVP: Friday, April 9, 2010 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
HIARNG: [Ms Dora Ama](#), 672-1256
State DoD: [Ms. Ann Miyahira](#), 672-1206
State Civil Defense: [Ms. Ellen Murakami](#), 733-4300



- Retirement Party for COL Alicka Watts. There will be a retirement party for **COL Alicka Watts**. The specifics follow:

When: Friday, April 30, 2010

Time: 1630-2100

Where: 103rd Troop Command
96-1210 Waihona St., Pearl City, Hawai'i

Cost: \$15.00

Menu: Ono pupus and refreshments

RSVP: Thursday, April 15, 2010, checks payable to [Elaine Whitlock](#)

POC: [Elaine Whitlock](#) @ 672-1249 or elaine.whitlock@us.army.mil

- Retirement Party for SMSgt Ross Hoopai. There will be a retirement party honoring **SMSgt Ross Hoopai**. The specifics follow:

When: Sunday, May 23, 2010

Time: Starts at 1100

Where: Mililani Recreation Center 5 (Mililani Mauka)

Cost: \$25.00 per person

RSVP: Friday, May 7, 2010; checks payable to [Arthur Kaai](#) or [Wendell Au](#)

POC: [SMSgt Arthur Kaai](#) @ 448-8443 arthur.kaai@hihick.ang.af.mil
[MSgt Wendell Au](#) @ 448-8439 or e-mail wendell.au@hihick.ang.af.mil

8. Website Links.

- The 154th Wing's External Website is Online. The 154th Wing's external website is accessible from any computer. Check it out at www.154wg.ang.af.mil. Be sure to check out the "photos tab". If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- The State Department of Defense's Newspaper, the *pupukahi*, is Online. The *pupukahi* is now electronic. The link to the current issue starts at www.hawaii.gov/dod - then click on the *pupukahi* link listed under the "What's New?" section.

- The Winter Issue of *On Guard* Magazine is Online. The new winter issue of the *On Guard* online is out, go to: http://www.ng.mil/features/onguard-mag/pdf/Winter09/winter_09.pdf. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- The April 2010 Issue of *Soldiers* Magazine is Online. To view the current issue of *Soldiers*, the official U.S. Army magazine, just log on to: <http://www.army.mil/soldiers/>. You can view back issues (electronic issues only) by clicking on "back issues" on the scroll bar. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- The March-April 2010 Issue of *Airman Magazine* is Online. To view the current issue of *Airman Magazine*, 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.