

## 20100628 Retiree News

### **Happy Independence Day!**

**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@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:retireenews@hawaiiantel.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.**



- **TRICARE SMART Website: One-stop Information Portal for Guard, Reserves.** Falls Church, Virginia - National Guard and Reserve members who may not live near a military treatment facility or TRICARE Service Center no longer have to rely on printed publications as a main source of TRICARE benefit information.

In the six years since its launch, the TRICARE SMART – Standardized Materials and Research Technology – website has been a one-stop, online information portal full of accurate, up-to-date information about TRICARE benefits that members and their families can easily access in the comfort of their homes. View the website at [www.tricare.mil/smart](http://www.tricare.mil/smart).

By using the TRICARE SMART website, National Guard and Reserve members can stay informed about the latest TRICARE programs created just for them and their families. These programs include TRICARE Reserve Select, as well as benefits that are only available while serving on active duty.

The “TRICARE Choices Guide,” which can be found under “Handbooks” on the website, makes it easy for a guardsman or Reserve member to make informed decisions about programs such as TRICARE Prime and Standard for his or her family. For easy navigation, all publications on the website are organized by regions and publication type and there is a search feature. Publications are also printer-friendly.

A guardsman or reserve member can go one-step further and subscribe to TRICARE alerts to receive updates on new benefits and programs. Subscribing to TRICARE e-alerts is easy. Visit [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions), enter an e-mail address and choose a beneficiary category and topics or TRICARE products of interest. Subscribers can receive, via e-mail, the latest benefit updates, the “TRICARE Beneficiary Bulletin” weekly podcast, as well as TRICARE news releases.

National Guard and Reserve members are encouraged to stay informed about TRICARE benefits during activation and deactivation periods. The TRICARE SMART website and e-mail updates are easy ways to do just that. For more information on TRICARE SMART, visit [www.tricare.mil/SMART](http://www.tricare.mil/SMART).



- [Air Guardsman Leads Officer Training School](#): For the first time ever, a member of the Air National Guard now commands the Air Force's Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. The milestone occurred on June 8 when **Col Timothy O'Brien** took over OTS. He had been the school's deputy commander since September 2009. "Colonel O'Brien is a natural leader who inspires both the students and the faculty," said [Brig. Gen. Terry Djuric](#), commander of the Jeanne M. Holm Center for Officer Accessions and Citizen Development, which oversees OTS. It was just last year that the Air Guard [moved its officer training](#) to Maxwell, joining the active duty component and Air Force Reserve. Djuric said OTS continues to evolve and, "the real change we are hoping for is a more natural integration of Air Guard, Air Force Reserve, and active duty members." (Maxwell [report](#) by Carl Bergquist)

- [SCAM Watch](#). **Col Randall Tom** sent in this Federal Trade Commission link. The website provides information for consumer to know how to spot, stop and avoid scams. Go to: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/moneymatters/scam-watch.shtml>

- [The Department of Veterans' Affairs Announces New Hotline](#). The Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) has announced a new telephone hotline to provide emergency support and resources to homeless veterans. The hotline of the new National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID VET will provide homeless veterans with timely assistance and coordinated access to VA and community services. Family members, workers at community agencies and non-VA providers also may call the hotline to find out about the many programs and services available to assist homeless veterans. For more information, visit the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans webpage](#).

Thanks to the many *Retiree News* readers who shared this information for publication.

- [Hawai'i Air National Guard Now on Facebook](#). **MSgt Kristen Stanley** of the 154<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs office reported that, "we have an official Hawaii Air National Guard page on Facebook. We are encouraging people to "LIKE" us so that they can get the latest and greatest HIANG news." Start at this link: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

For more information contact MSgt Stanley at 448-7292 or [kristen.stanley@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:kristen.stanley@hihick.ang.af.mil).

**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@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:retireenews@hawaiiintel.net) if you can share them.

**Victor Ioli**  
**Jeffrey Okazaki**  
**Norman Chang**  
**Chris Wilson**  
**Tom Gresch**

**Roberto Carlos**  
**Patrick Casey**  
**Steve Ware**  
**Katherine Asato**

The addresses now total **1300** 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](mailto: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.

**Blane Ogata**  
**C Hutton Smith** (update)

**Francis Tauga**  
**Claire Tanaka** (update)

**Don Walker  
Bruce Spear**

**Elaine (née Tsutaoka) Ross**

**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....

**Benjamin Delanor Tumbaga**, 69, of Honolulu, a Hawai'i Army National Guard and self-employed entrepreneur, passed away in Honolulu on May 26, 2010. He was born in Honolulu. He is survived by sons Benjamin II and Kynan; daughters Jeannine Freitas and Chandra Kinilau, mother Isabelle; sisters Margaret Jean Hansen, Betty Jane Repoyo, Isabelle Kaonohi and Eleanor DeVeas.

**Alfredo Canopin Jr.**, 53, of Honolulu, a retired Hawai'i Air National Guard veteran and senior community liaison for City Councilman Rod Tam, passed away at home on June 15, 2010. He was born in Honolulu. He is survived by wife Antonia; father Alfredo Sr.; stepfather Albert Chang; brothers Michael, Floyd and Curtis Canopin and Kimo Danielsen; and sisters Laura Canopin-Williams and Teresa Canopin-Medina.

**Francis Y. Muramoto**, 63, of 'Aiea, a retired state Department of Agriculture plumber and Hawai'i National Guard veteran, passed away in 'Aiea on June 17, 2010. He was born in Hawaii. He is survived by brothers Melvin and Lawrence, and sister Faith Chinen.

**6. Retiree Update.**



National Guard.”

• HIARNG Member Awarded French Medal. The French government has awarded Hawai'i Army National Guard soldier **CW3 Balentin Meza** the French Commemorative Medal. Colonel Brice Houdet, the Military Attaché at the French Embassy in Washington, DC forwarded the medal and accompanying certificate with a letter recognizing CW3 Meza's service to the French in Afghanistan. In his endorsement to the letter, MG Robert G.F. Lee added his congratulations and said, "WO3 Meza represented the Hawai'i Army National Guard in a very positive way during his tour in Afghanistan. I am extremely proud to have him as member of the Hawai'i



• Pacific Leadership Academy Graduate. **CMSgt Debra Brownhill**, the Human Resources Office training manager reports that **CMSgt Geoffry Stiteler** recently completed the prestigious Senior Leaders Program at the Pacific Leadership Academy. He is the first Hawai'i Air National Guard technician receive his certificate of completion from the Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board who runs the Pacific Leadership Academy. Congratulations to Geoffry!

Two Hawai'i Army National Guard members - **SGM Kathryn Arizo** and **LTC Benedict Fuata** completed the curriculum two years ago.

The foundation for the Academy's leadership program is a series of managerial competencies, knowledge, skills and behavior that are critical for success. These competencies are based on research done by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management with modifications to fit the needs of federal agencies in the Pacific region.

The leadership program incorporates three major phases:

- learning the competencies
- applying the competencies on the job
- evaluating the application of the competencies

The curriculum consists of the following three week-long sessions (over a nine month period) and the successful completion of required action plans and assignments. A key component of the program will be the development of Individual Action Plans following each week of the program. These action plans apply the learning to Fellows' specific work situations and measure results. Fellows learn to manage individual performance, develop team performance, build relationships with managers and peers and lead employees through change.

Further information on the Pacific Leadership Academy may be found on the Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board who web site at: <http://www.honolulu-pacific.feb.gov/pla/index.html>.

- Retiree Connections

- While reading this month's National Guard magazine, I ran across the name **Phil Skains** in the section that listed military contractors. Double checked and it is the Phil Skains who flew with the 199<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron in years past. He retired as a colonel and works for Analytic Services, Inc. as the National Guard contact. Analytic Services is a not-for-profit, public service institute that provides objective studies and analysis to aid decision-makers throughout safety communities. [www.anser.org](http://www.anser.org)

- I received an e-mail from **Dave Howard**. Dave was the commander of the 291<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron in Hilo. He later worked for National Guard Bureau at Scott AFB and then became the commander of the 251<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Group in Ohio. Great hearing from Dave!

- Change of Command at the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery. On Sunday, July 11, 2010 at 1300, there will be a change of command ceremony at the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery. **LTC Roy J. Macaraeg** will assume command from **MAJ James A. Faleafine**. LTC Macaraeg recently returned from a tour at the National Guard Bureau. MAJ Faleafine will remain with the 1-487th FA.

Send congratulatory e-mail:

[roy.macaraeg@us.army.mil](mailto:roy.macaraeg@us.army.mil)  
[james.faleafine@us.army.mil](mailto:james.faleafine@us.army.mil)

- 103d Troop Command Leadership Change. On Sunday, August 8, 2010, there will be a Transfer of Authority ceremony for the 103d Troop Command's command sergeant major. **1SG Russell Ige** will become the Command Sergeant Major vice **CSM Ronald Oshiba**. More details to come.

Send congratulatory e-mail:

[russell.ige@us.army.mil](mailto:russell.ige@us.army.mil)  
[ronald.oshiba@us.army.mil](mailto:ronald.oshiba@us.army.mil)

- Checking Out Old Photos. **Ted Merrill**'s last assignment with the Hawai'i Air National Guard was the 154<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



This photograph above shows some of the aircrew and support personnel for the Hawai'i Air National Guard's Douglas C-54 Skymaster, named the "Spirit of Aloha." Some who have seen the photograph say it is right after the last C-54 flight. **Brig Gen Kenji Sumida**, who retired as the Hawai'i Air National Guard Commander provided the following feedback.

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If this was the last C-54 flight, I believe it was just a local flight that all those who flew it got together for the last time. The crew members were from left to right: **Norman Chang, Melvin Yen, Ken Sumida, Raymond "Berma" Bermudez, Edward Uyeda, William Klopp, ??? Ambrosia** (I think a Lt Col either AF Advisor or someone from PACAF), **Samuel Saffrey III**, and **Richard Tokairin**.

It must've been a local flight, since none of the navigators (**Clarence Jim, Herb Nemoto, and Richard Fried**) are in the photo. Also missing is **Gordon Reimel**.

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The date of the photograph is unknown, but the HIANG was still flying F-102A Delta Daggers because Mel Yen has a "Deuce" patch on his flight suit.

**7. Upcoming Events.** The events listed are by the event date. The red star ★ denotes new postings since the last issue of *Retiree News*.

- Retirement Ceremony and Luncheon for MSgt Buenaflor Robles, Jr. The 154<sup>th</sup> Operations Group will host a retirement ceremony and luncheon honoring **MSgt Buenaflor "Ben" Robles**. The specifics follow:

When: Saturday, July 10, 2010  
Time: 1300  
Where: Hanger 13, Building 2035, Hickam AFB  
Cost: \$12.00 per person; gift only: \$5.00  
Attire: Military: uniform of the day; Civilian: Aloha attire  
RSVP: Friday, July 2, 2010, checks payable to [Chad Ashida](#)  
POC: Commander's Support Staff at 448-8306 or [154\\_og\\_css@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:154_og_css@hihick.ang.af.mil)

Send congratulatory e-mail: [buenaflor.robles@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:buenaflor.robles@hihick.ang.af.mil)

- Retirement Party for Lt Col Scott Hoadley. There will be a retirement party honoring **Lt Col Scott "Rats" Hoadley**. The specifics follow:

When: Friday, July 16, 2010  
Time: Starts at 1700  
Where: Natsunoya Tea House  
1935 Makanani Drive in Alewa Heights  
Cost: \$40.00 per person; gift only: \$5.00  
RSVP: Thursday, July 1, 2010, checks payable to [Peter Ching](#)  
POC: [Lt Col Peter Ching](#), [peter.ching@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:peter.ching@hihick.ang.af.mil) or 448-8331  
[Lt Col Merv Oyafuso](#), [mervin.oyafuso@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:mervin.oyafuso@hihick.ang.af.mil) or 448-7270  
[Mrs. Donna Hoadley](#), [donna.hoadley@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:donna.hoadley@hihick.ang.af.mil) or 655-7094  
[Lt Col Glen Nakamura](#), [glen.nakamura@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:glen.nakamura@hihick.ang.af.mil) or 448-7230

Send congratulatory e-mail: [scott.hoadley@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:scott.hoadley@hihick.ang.af.mil)

- ★ Retirement Party for TSgt Evan Uyeda. There will be a retirement party honoring **TSgt Evan Uyeda**. The specifics follow:

When: Friday, July 23, 2010  
Time: 1900-2330  
Where: Flashback Friday's at Ige's Restaurant  
Cost: \$10.00 per person; gift only: \$5.00  
RSVP: Thursday, July 9, 2010, checks payable to [Peter Ching](#)  
POC: [Kekoa Uyeda](#), [kekoa.uyeda@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:kekoa.uyeda@hihick.ang.af.mil)  
[Rolando Layugan](#), [rolando.layugan@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:rolando.layugan@hihick.ang.af.mil)

Send congratulatory e-mail: [evan.uyeda@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:evan.uyeda@hihick.ang.af.mil)

- F-22 Raptor Arrival Activities. There are three events scheduled to celebrate the arrival of the Hawai'i Air National Guard's F-22 Raptors. These events celebrate "A Proud Heritage, A New Destiny".

Join us for the **HIANG F-22 Raptor Pāina**. The scheduled arrival of the first two F-22 Raptors will be on the July 2, 2010. The Raptors will land at approximately 1400 local time. The primary focus of this event will be for both 154<sup>th</sup> Wing and 15<sup>th</sup> Wing personnel, our families, and retirees.

No media will be authorized and will be a very low key event to include a very short program. All photography is restricted, and will be enforced by security.

The specifics follow:

When: Friday, July 2, 2010

Time: 1400-1800

Where: Building 3400 (HIANG fighter hanger)

Attire: Military: uniform of the day  
Civilian: Aloha attire

Cost: Heavy pupu is free  
There will be a charge for beer

The **public arrival ceremony** for the Hawai'i Air National Guard's first F-22 Raptor is set for the following week.

When: Friday, July 9, 2010

Time: 0900 (*The time was incorrectly listed as 1300 in earlier Retiree News Issues*)

Where: 15<sup>th</sup> Wing Base Operations, Hickam AFB

Attire: Military: uniform of the day  
Civilian: Aloha attire

Later in the day, there will be a "by invitation only" cocktail/dinner celebration at the lū'au grounds at Lanikuhonua starting at 1800. Lanikuhonua is located near the J.W. Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa in Ko 'Olina.

• Save the Date – Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Ball. This year's Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Ball is on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at the J.W. Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa in Kapolei. This joint event celebrates the 374<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our National Guard's beginnings. The planning meetings for this annual event have already begun. Definitely more details to come.

To find out more about the Ihilani, go to <http://www.ihilani.com/>

## **8. Website Links.**

Past Issues of Retiree News are on line at the Hawaii State Department of Defense's website. Go to: <http://hawaii.gov/dod/staff-offices/public-affairs/retiree-news>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

The 2010 Issues of the 154<sup>th</sup> Wing's newspaper, the Kūkā'ilimoku, is on the Hawaii State Department of Defense's website. Go to: <http://hawaii.gov/dod/hiang/kukailimoku/2010-kukailimoku-issues>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

The 154<sup>th</sup> Wing's External Website is Online. The 154<sup>th</sup> Wing's external website is accessible from any computer. Check it out at [www.154wg.ang.af.mil](http://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](http://www.hawaii.gov/dod) - then click on the *pupukahi* link listed under the "What's New?" section.

The Spring 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/Spring10/Spring\\_2010.pdf](http://www.ng.mil/features/onguard-mag/pdf/Spring10/Spring_2010.pdf). If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser. This is a very slow loading website.

The June 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 May-June 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.