

2010726 Retiree News

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 to 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.

• Retiree and Veteran are two terms that are correctly and sometimes incorrectly used interchangeably. In the July 2010 issue of *National Guard* magazine (the official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States), Richard Greene wrote an article entitled "So You Think you're a Veteran?" Some of the following material is taken from this article.

Let's start with retiree. A retiree is someone who retired from a branch of the armed forces of the United States. Personnel on active duty qualify for retirement after 20 years of service. Active duty retirees receive an immediate monthly annuity after their retirement date. Guard and Reserve members qualify for retirement after twenty "good" years of service. Guard and Reserve retirees start receiving their monthly annuities after reaching age 60. In both situations, you change to a "blue" identification card when you start receiving your monthly annuity. However, Guard and Reserve members (non AGRs) who retire prior to age 60 are called "gray area retirees". They have "pink" identification cards and do not start their monthly annuity until age 60.

Veterans are military members who honorably served on active duty in Title 10 status. A person does not have to be a retiree to be a veteran. The rules that define a former member of the U.S. armed forces as a veteran are complicated and constantly evolving. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, a veteran is someone who honorably separated and served on active duty other than for training.

The individual also must have served:

- During any war declared by Congress (the last was World War II) or
- For more than 180 consecutive days other than for training, any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955, and before October 15, 1976; or
- During the period April 28, 1952, through July 1, 1955; or
- During the Persian Gulf War from August 2, 1990, through January 2, 1992; or
- For more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred during the period beginning September 11, 2001, and ending on the date prescribed by presidential proclamation or by law as the last day of Operation Iraqi Freedom; or
- In a campaign or expedition for which a campaign medal has been authorized, such as El Salvador, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Southwest Asia, Somalia and Haiti.

With the ongoing mobilization of Guard and Reserve units and individuals starting with Desert Storm, a great majority of current and former members and retirees are veterans.

However, a majority of older Guard and Reserve members who did not spend any extended time on active duty are not veterans. Unfortunately, "active duty for training" in Title 32 status does not count.

In his article, Richard Greene reported that the National Guard Association of the United States is aggressively pursuing a change to the definition of veteran. He states, "The current eligibility guidelines are simply a loophole to limit the benefits earned by those who served our country." He closes by saying, "The rules should identify every person who honorably completes his or her term of service, whether it is four years of four decades, a veteran."

- Gray-Area Reservists' TRICARE Wait. The wait for the implementation of TRICARE for Gray Area retirees continues. Military Times published the following article about the current situation on July 19, 2010.

TRICARE health benefits for so-called "gray area" reserve retirees remain elusive, with signs the Defense Department won't keep a promised October 1 start date.

Aimed at National Guard and reserve component members who have earned retirement benefits but are not yet eligible for health care or retired pay because they have not reached retirement age, the TRICARE Retired Reserve Program was authorized by Congress last October.

Once implemented, retirees will be allowed to sign up for TRICARE Standard health insurance benefits, either individual or family coverage. Premiums for coverage, not yet announced, would not be subsidized by the government, making this program unlike other TRICARE benefits.

Defense and TRICARE officials have been telling reservists and Congress that they expected retired reserve enrollments to begin about October 1, but that date is now in doubt, said retired Navy Capt. Marshall Hanson, legislative director for Reserve Officers Association.

By Hanson's estimate, the new benefit may not be implemented until February or March.

The TRICARE Management Activity, responsible for the military health insurance program, submitted a copy of proposed rules for the health care expansion for White House review on June 28, according to TRICARE spokesman Austin Camacho. The White House's Office of Management and Budget, which oversees all federal regulations, has 90 days to look over the policy and order any changes.

Camacho said this does not change the goal of implementing the program this fall, as announced earlier.

Hanson, though, said that while the White House review could, in theory, take less than three months, there still would be a 60-day delay in the effective date when regulations governing the program are made available for public comment in the Federal Register.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. David Brockel, ROA's executive director, said the Defense Department has made giving a new benefit to reservists "overly complex and time consuming."

"What would take a business week to implement, DoD stretches out for over a year," said Bockel.

TRICARE Management Agency officials said a firm implementation date for the program has not been set, but they still believe it will happen before the end of the calendar year.

Delays in implementation feed some National Guard and reserve members' perception that the Defense Department is reluctant to work on improvements in reserve benefits, even ones like expanded health benefits that have strong congressional support.

One of the people waiting for the new benefits is Michael Kirschner of Gainesville, Florida., a 53-year-old Navy Reserve medical service officer who is prepared to buy TRICARE coverage as soon as it is available. "It is hard to understand why it is taking them so long," he said. "This is not something new they need to create. They just need to change the eligibility to let us in.

"You expect for the government and especially the Defense Department to do a little better for us. They have no qualms of sending us out into conflicts but they don't seem to care about the aftermath," Kirschner said.

- Senate cuts expansion of concurrent receipt. The following article comes from *Military Times*. It unfortunately details how this year's congressional effort to expand concurrent receipt of military retirement and veterans disability compensation failed.

Another congressional effort to expand concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans disability compensation has failed.

Facing election-year pressure to dramatically scale back new spending, the Senate voted Tuesday for a stripped-down economic assistance bill that now omits a proposal supported by the White House and approved by the House of Representatives that would have temporarily extended concurrent receipt of both benefits to medically retired veterans who served less than 20 years in uniform.

The revised Senate bill now includes only an extension of unemployment compensation.

House Democratic leaders had added an expansion of concurrent receipt to the bill as a way to get around budgetary restrictions that prevented the benefit from being added to the 2011 defense budget. Congressional aides who have been working on the legislation said there was no immediate fallback plan, potentially preventing any action this year.

House Democrats have talked about trying to restore some of the dropped items, but no firm plans were announced.

The House bill had included a temporary change in law that would have increased pay for some people receiving medical retirement pay by eliminating an offset in the retired pay for those who also receive VA disability compensation.

The change would have started on Jan. 1 for those with a disability rated by VA at 90 percent or more, and on Oct. 1, 2011, for those with disabilities rated at least 70 percent.

The offset would have resumed on Oct. 1, 2012.

The temporary nature of the proposed change was the result of an agreement to try to limit costs, with Democratic leaders hoping they could find money for a permanent and larger plan over the next two years.

The Obama administration wanted a permanent change. The 2011 federal budget proposed a five-year plan in which all medically retired veterans — known as Chapter 61 retirees because of the section of law governing their pay — would have their offset eliminated by 2016.

It also called for the elimination of the offset that still applies to some disabled retirees with low-rated disabilities that are not combat-related.

- Debt Panel Told to Leave Military, Vet Benefits Alone.

Advocates for military retirees and veterans urged a bipartisan commission studying ways to end runaway budget deficits not to lump [military-earned benefits](#) in with other entitlements eyed for cost controls. Read the entire story at:

<http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,217237,00.html?ESRC=retirees.nl>

- New HIANG Pass and ID Procedures. **MSgt Rick Namoca** of the 154th Security Forces Squadron send out the following e-mail explaining a change in their Pass and ID operations, specifically issued car decals. The 154th Force Support Squadron referred to is the old 154th Mission Support Flight.

Due to the new security measures in place, effective 1 Aug 2010, the 154 SFS pass and ID office will be serving members of the HIANG and retiree's at 154th Force Support Squadron service counter on Tuesday thru Thursday from 0900 -1200. This will allow retirees to obtain installation decals without having to access the controlled area. Current HIANG members will still be allowed to obtain decals during normal duty hours (aside from the aforementioned times) and on UTA weekends at the current 154 Security Forces Office.

Rick A. Namoca, MSgt, HIANG
ricardo.namoca@hickam.af.mil

- Space "A" Travel Information at Hickam AFB. The link below goes to the Hickam AFB website, specifically the page for the 735th Air Mobility Squadron. The page has general information about Space "A" travel and contact numbers. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser. <http://www2.hickam.af.mil/units/735thams/>

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 if you can share them.

Terry Ganiko
George Lumives
Victor Ioli
Jeffrey Okazaki
Norman Chang
Chris Wilson
Tom Gresch

Mark Waddell
Francis Kawahara
Mo Collette
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. 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.

Frank Cho
Cirilo "CV" Valera
Ben Robles (update)

Lisa Royce
Randy Kim
Roy Miyamoto

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....

No passings this issue

6. Retiree Update.

- Departure Ceremony for 1-171 Aviation. There will be a departure ceremony for Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment. About 150 soldiers of Bravo Company will deploy to Afghanistan. The ceremony will be on Sunday, August 8, 2010, starting at 1100 at the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 at Wheeler Army Air Field.

- 103d Troop Command Leadership Changes. On Saturday, August 7, 2010, the leadership of the 103d Troop Command will change in a dual ceremony. A reception will follow the ceremonies. Congratulations to all!

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**. 1SG Ige comes to the position from his current position with HIARNG aviation. CSM Oshiba returns to his operations position within the 103d Troop Command. The ceremony begins at 1300 in the Assembly Hall of the 103d Troop Command in Pearl City.

Send congratulatory e-mail:

russell.ige@us.army.mil
ronald.oshiba@us.army.mil

There will be a change of command ceremony with **Col Bryan Suntheimer** assuming command from **Col Stephen Logan**. This ceremony will begin at 1400 in the Assembly Hall. Col Suntheimer leaves his HIARNG G4 position to become the commander and Col Logan remains as the HIARNG's State Aviation Officer.

Send congratulatory e-mail:

bryan.suntheimer@us.army.mil
stephen.logan@us.army.mil

If you are attending either ceremony, RSVP by July 30, 2010. The POC is **SSG Hector Alegre** at 672-1761 or hector.alegre@us.army.mil

- 29th BSB Change of Command Ceremony. **COL Keith Tamashiro**, the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander cordially requests your presence at the 29th Brigade Support Battalion Change of Command Ceremony. **LTC Lynn J. Ishii** will assume command from LTC **Keith N. S. Yoshida**. The ceremony will commence at 1300 hours on Sunday, August 8, 2010 at Building 282, Kalaeloa, Hawai'i. There will be refreshments after the ceremony. Congratulations to both officers!

Send congratulatory e-mail:

lynn.ishii@us.army.mil
keith.yoshida@us.army.mil

- HIANG NCO Promotions. The following Hawai'i Air National Guard personnel were promoted to the grade shown. Congratulations to all!

MSgt Timothy R Barnett, 154th Operations Support Squadron

MSgt Venus Santamaria-Lusk, 154th Maintenance Operations Flight
MSgt Wilda T. Shigeta, 154th Maintenance Operations Flight
MSgt Steven T. Shimoda, 154th Maintenance Squadron

Send congratulatory e-mail using this format:

timothy.barnett@hihick.ang.af.mil
venus.santamarialusk@hihick.ang.af.mil
wilda.shigeta@hihick.ang.af.mil
steven.shimoda@hihick.ang.af.mil

- Montana Air Guardsmen to Protect Hawaiian Skies. A detachment of F-15 Eagles and Airmen from the Montana Air National Guard's 120th Fighter Wing in Great Falls will deploy to JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawai'i, to stand alert and protect the airspace around Hawai'i [while Hickam transitions](#) from operating F-15 Eagles to F-22 Raptors. Great Falls' KFBB News Station 5 [reported](#) Saturday that the Montana detachment will begin the air sovereignty alert mission at Hickam on August 6, 2010 with six of its F-15s and more than 30 Airmen. The 120 FW's presence at Hickam will last until Hickam's transition is complete, which could take up to two years, according to KFBB. This new comes a little more than one month after the 120th FW was [cleared for operations](#) with its F-15s after undergoing its own transition from F-16s per BRAC 2005. (Article taken from the *Air Force Magazine* website)

- F-22 Raptor Arrival Feedback. There was a lot of feedback about the F-22 Raptor arrival ceremonies and the Retiree News article. The following are two feedback comments.

John S. Carroll, e-mailed the following comment about the F-22 Raptor arrival. "**Jim "Spike" Dykes**, F-86 and F-102 jock came all the way from Vancouver, Washington to be here. He's a Punahou grad - great guy. Sorry you missed his name."

Lt Col Gene Feller, President of the Hawaii National Guard Association provided the following feedback about the F-22 Raptor arrival. "I am writing in regards to your statement in the last Retiree News that says: "There was some free food" at the F-22 Raptor Arrival Ceremony. I'm sure you realize food is never free. Someone always pays. In this case, the National Guard Association-Hawaii Insurance Inc donated \$4000 toward the food costs."

- From the 154th Support Group Training Bulletin. While serving as the executive officer for the then 154th Support Group from the mid 90s through the early 00s, I was the editor of the group's *Training Bulletin*. The following excerpt is from the August 2000 issue. How time flies....

The following personnel filed their retirement paperwork with our Military Personnel Flight, and will retire prior to our next UTA in September.

CMSgt Ronald Aniya, 169th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron
CMSgt Reginald Chun, 154th Maintenance Squadron
MSgt Scott Chapman, 154th Mission Support Flight
MSgt Lennox Cockett, 154th Civil Engineering Squadron
MSgt Theodoro "Teddy" Ganade, 154th Logistics Squadron
TSgt Frederick Denault, Headquarters, 154th Wing
TSgt Leonard Vilorio, 297th Air Traffic Control Squadron
SSgt Michael Santos, 154th Air Control Squadron

- 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.



Left to right: **Jon Iwashita**, **Gerald Rivera**, **Duane Wise**, **Andy Keaunui**

Jon Iwashita, who retired as a Chief Master Sergeant, provided information about the photograph after talking to Andy Keaunui. The Chief wrote: **Andy Keaunui** just got back from F-22 training at Langley and had the info on the photo. It was taken during one of our Barking Sands, Kauai gun firing exercises, about 1986. Andy Keaunui is the weapon's crew chief across from me, Duane Wise is behind Andy, and Gerald Rivera is behind me. I was the weapon's supervisor and must have jumped in to assist with the safety wiring.

Jon retired from the Guard around 2005 after a long career. Jon continues his civilian career at the Pearl Harbor Shipyard.

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 for Lt Col Thomas Mau. There will be a retirement ceremony to **Lt Col Thomas Mau**, the long time commander of the 199th Weather Flight. Lt Col Mau sent out the following message

I would like to thank everyone for making my 28+ years in the Hawai'i Air National Guard an extremely challenging, rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Each of you, in your own special way, have contributed to making the HIANG a great organization. Mahalo for your service to the state of Hawai'i and to this great nation!

Aloha Tom Mau

The ceremony specifics are:

When: Sunday, August 8, 2010
Time: 1100, refreshments and pupus to follow
Where: Headquarters, Hawai'i Air National Guard
3949 Diamond Head Road
RSVP: Call 448-8338 by Tuesday, August 3, 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: thomas.mau@hihick.ang.af.mil

● Retirement Ceremony for MSgt Galan Fujimoto. The 154th Civil Engineer Squadron will host a retirement ceremony in honor of **MSgt Galan Fujimoto**. The ceremony specifics are:

When: Sunday, August 8, 2010
Time: 1300, refreshments to follow
Where: 154th Civil Engineer Squadron Compound
Hickam AFB, Hawai'i
RSVP: 448-7019 or allison.delossantos@hihick.ang.af.mil by 31 July 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: galan.fujimoto@hihick.ang.af.mil



★ Retirement Luncheon for SFC Scott Nomura. Please come and join the Human Resources Office as we give a fond farewell to **SFC Scott Nomura** and celebrate his 37 years of military service. The specifics follow:

When: Friday, 1 October 2010
Time: 1130-1330
Where: Hale Ikena, Ft Shafter
Cost: \$21.00 per person; gift only: \$5.00

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

RSVP: Monday, August 16, 2010; checks payable to **Cash**

POC: **MSG Maria Durham**, 844-6291 or mariavictoria.durham@us.army.mil

Send congratulatory e-mail: scott.nomura@us.army.mil

● 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 374th 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 154th 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 154th Wing's External Website is Online. The 154th Wing's external website is accessible from any computer. Check it out at www.154wg.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 Spring Issue of On Guard Magazine is Online. The new Spring issue of the *On Guard* online is out, go to 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 **August 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 July-August 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.