

2010812 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@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.**



- **TRICARE for Gray Area Retirees – Update.** Falls Church, Virginia. – The interim final rule for the TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) program has been published. That brings the opportunity for members of the Retired Reserve who are not yet age 60, the so-called “gray-area” retirees, to purchase TRICARE Standard coverage one big step closer to a planned program launch expected as early as September 2010. At that time, instructions about how to qualify for and purchase TRR coverage will become available. If purchased, TRR coverage is expected to go into effect as early as October 1, 2010.

The statute that established TRR requires that qualified retired reservists pay premiums equal to the full cost of the coverage without government subsidy. According to the interim final rule, monthly premium rates for 2010 will be \$388.31 for TRR member-only coverage, or \$976.41 for TRR member and family coverage. Rates will be adjusted annually.

This year's premiums are based on the actual costs during 2007 and 2008 for providing TRICARE benefits to people in the same age categories as the retired reserve population. The 2011 premiums will be adjusted based on 2008 and 2009 costs.

Beneficiaries can read the entire interim final rule on line at:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-19313.pdf>.

A 60-day comment period will allow for public input before the final rule is issued. Those interested may submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal - www.regulations.gov - or by mail to the Federal Docket Management System Office, 1160 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1160.

Retirees who may want to purchase TRR coverage should make sure their eligibility information is correct in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

A quick summary follows:

Program:	TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR)
Eligibility:	TRICARE Retired Reserve coverage is for Grey Area Retirees (qualified for non-regular retirement, but not yet 60 years of age). Retirees cannot be enrolled in, or eligible for, a health benefit plan under chapter 89, title 5, U.S.C.

- Plan Coverage: Equivalent to TRICARE Standard and Extra with co-pays and deductibles.
- Start Date: TriWest (TRICARE's Western Region representative) will start accepting applications on September 1, 2010, with actual coverage to begin October 1, 2010. The forms are not posted yet, but check on TriWest's website TriWest.com as September 1 approaches.
- Monthly Costs: For 2010: Single: \$388.31 Family: \$976.41
For 2011: Single: \$408.01 Family: \$1020.05
* A cost adjustment may be applied to cover any significant changes in costs for administration.

Note: It is strongly recommended signing up for the automatic payment plan; this avoids missed payments and a 12 month lockout.



- Hawai'i National Guard Association Yellow Pages. The Hawai'i National Guard Association (HNGA) is establishing its own yellow pages strictly for soldiers, airmen, retirees of the Hawai'i National Guard, and immediate family members. The intent is for Guard members to shop for goods and services within our own Guard Community as well as helping one another out.

The HNGA is looking for carpenters, electricians, attorneys, dentist, musicians, auto detailing, insurance representatives, and other businesses the Guard members own or run. If interested in joining, please provide the following information for your website advertisement.

- Specialty (i.e., Auto Detailing, Musician, Attorney, etc)
- Name /Name of business
- Unit of Assignment
- POC Information (how do you want people to contact you - your website, e-mail, phone number, etc)
- Description (short summary of business)

Send your information to Rusty Spray, HNGA Vice President at william.r.spray@us.army.mil. The first year is free. After the first year, you must be a member of the either the Hawai'i National Guard Association or the Hawai'i National Guard Enlisted Association.



- Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors. Military servicemembers can receive expedited processing of disability claims from Social Security. Benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application. For more information, visit the Social Security Administration website at:

<http://www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors/>

- Gates Begins the Another Round of Cost Cutting Measures. The following *Military Times* article written by Andrew Tilghman first appeared on August 10, 2010. The article reports on the immediate and proposed cost cutting measures to reduce the Department of Defense budget. As mentioned in *Retiree News* earlier, TRICARE costs are part of the DoD budget and subject to adjustment.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates killed U.S. Joint Forces Command on Monday with the announcement that the Norfolk, Va.-based command will be shuttered "in about a year" as part of the latest round of cost-cutting measures.

The four-star command, home to 2,800 service members and employing more than 3,000 contractors, will pass along its primary mission — managing forces and coordinating deployments — to the office of the Joint Staff, Gates said at a Pentagon news briefing.

The move is part of a broader cost-cutting effort that Gates said is vital to maintaining the military's current size and capabilities. Gates began a cost reduction effort last year by ending the Air Force's F-22 program and trying to eliminate an alternative engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Gates also wants to cut 50 flag-officer billets in the next two years. He noted that the total number of jobs for generals and admirals has grown by about 100 since 2001.

The money-saving measures unveiled will have little immediate impact on most service members. **But Gates said changes to the military's TRICARE health care system — either increases in fees or service cutbacks — may be on the horizon.**

"There are no sacred cows, and health care cannot be an exception to that," Gates said.

Gates also called for the elimination of two little-known agencies that he said were redundant and unnecessary: the Business Transformation Agency, created in 2006 to overhaul the Pentagon's business practices, and office of the Networks and Defense Integration, or NII, that was set up in 2003 to oversee communications technology programs.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rob Lyon, a spokesman for U.S. Joint Forces Command, said there will be "much hard work and analysis" in the near future for the command. "We will do the best we can to provide solid data on which to base decisions."

He also said the command has been given assurances that "our work force will receive the best professional career advice and placement assistance available."

That assistance will begin with a Tuesday visit by Dr. Clifford Stanley, the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, "to talk with our leadership about the way ahead," Lyon said. "While this decision will understandably cause concern among our workforce, we will be diligent to make sure we keep distractions to a minimum and continue to provide the best possible support to the warfighter."

At his news briefing, Gates rattled off a list of cost-cutting efforts that will freeze budgets for many headquarters staffs and reduce the number of contractors across the military.

"Headquarters and support bureaucracies, military and civilian alike, have swelled to cumbersome and top-heavy proportions, growing over-reliant on contractors, and grown accustomed to operating with little consideration to cost," Gates said.

The measures are politically essential to avert more severe budget cutbacks if lawmakers on Capitol Hill try to balance the budget on the back of the military, Gates said.

"My greatest fear is that in economically tough times, that people will see [the defense budget as] a place to solve the nation's deficit problems," he said.

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.

Barbara Lee

Terry Ganiko

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

Mark Waddell
Francis Kawahara
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.

Allen Sakamoto
Calvin Okamoto

Mo Collette (update)
Cameron Deal

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.

• Attention to Orders - HIANG's Newest Colonel. **Brig Gen Joseph Kim** announced the promotion of **Stanley Sato** to colonel. Colonel Sato is the commander of the 154th Medical Group. His promotion ceremony will be during the September UTA weekend. Congratulations to Stan!

Send congratulatory e-mail: stanley.sato@hick.af.mil

• HIARNG Officer Appointments and Promotions. The Hawai'i Army National Guard G1 Branch staff provided the following information on recent officer appointments and promotions. Federal recognition documents were just received. Congratulations to all!

Corey W. Ark, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Initial appointment to Second Lieutenant effective March 19, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: corey.ark@us.army.mil

Nephi D. Camacho, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Initial appointment to Second Lieutenant 2LT effective March 19, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: camacho.nephi@us.army.mil

Captain W. Dekoning, 103d Troop Command
Initial appointment to Warrant Officer 1 effective date June 29, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: captain.dekoning@us.army.mil

Torano Harris, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Initial appointment to Second Lieutenant effective March 19, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: torano.harris@us.army.mil

Tom N. Huynh, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Initial appointment to Captain effective December 12, 2009
Send congratulatory e-mail: tom.huynh@us.army.mil

Jeffree Y. Kawamoto, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Promoted to First Lieutenant effective 18 June 18, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: jeffree.kawamoto@us.army.mil

CPT Lauren S. Sodetani, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Transfer from the Army Reserve to HIARNG effective October 1, 2009
Send congratulatory e-mail: lauren.sodetani@us.army.mil

Joseph S. Yu, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Initial appointment to Captain effective June 29, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: joseph.yu@us.army.mil

- Attention to Orders - HIANG Senior NCO Promotions. The Hawai'i Air National Guard promoted the following members to the senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) ranks. Congratulations!

Promoted to Master Sergeant (MSgt / E-7)

Kaleo Young, 154th Operations Support Squadron

Send congratulatory e-mail using this format: kaleo.young@hickang.af.mil

- Attention to Orders - HIANG Officer Promotions. The Hawai'i Air National Guard's Military Personnel Flight announced the names of the following officers who were selected for promotion by the CY2010 ANG Major & Lieutenant Colonel Boards. Public release date was July 19, 2010. The projected effective dates are included.

To Major (O4):

Ivan Aguirre, 154th Civil Engineer Squadron, April 1, 2011
Send congratulatory e-mail: ivan.aguirre@hickang.af.mil

Ian Beltran, 154th Civil Engineer Squadron, August 11, 2011
Send congratulatory e-mail: ian.beltran@hickang.af.mil

Jason Brinker, 109th Air Operations Group, January 5, 2011
Send congratulatory e-mail: jason.brinker@hickam.af.mil

Robert Galoni, 109th Air Operations Group, October 1, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: rob.galino@hickam.af.mil

Cindy Cuencas, HQ 201st Combat Communications Group, April 11, 2011
Send congratulatory e-mail: cindy.cuencas@hickang.af.mil

Ryan Itoman, 199th Fighter Squadron, October 1, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: ryan.itoman@hickang.af.mil

Elzadia Kaina, 154th Medical Group, December 14, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: elzadia.kaina@hickang.af.mil

Heidi Mosteller, 203^d Air Refueling Squadron, May 25, 2011
Send congratulatory e-mail: heidi.mosteller@hickang.af.mil

Michael Sahara, HQ 201st Combat Communications Group October 1, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: michael.sahara@hickang.af.mil

To Lieutenant Colonel (O5):

Marc Gonsalves, 109th Air Operations Group, October 1, 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: marc.gonsalves@hickam.af.mil

Nikki Johnson, 109th Air Operations Group, September 1, 2011

Send congratulatory e-mail: nikki.johnson@hickam.af.mil

Brian Leong, 154th Maintenance Group, May 19, 2011

Send congratulatory e-mail: brian.leong@hihick.ang.af.mil

Peter Weidner, HQ 154th Wing, July 1, 2011

Send congratulatory e-mail: peter.weidner@hihick.ang.af.mil

- 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 Hawai'i Army National Guard recruiters have a newly refurbished recruiting van that is a part of their recruiting efforts. The HIARNG van brings back memories of the Hawai'i Air National Guard van used years ago. The following photo was among those Ted Merrill had in his files.



Carl "CJ" Simmons, who retired after many years as the chief of the HIANG's recruiting team, sent in his comments about the van.

If my memory serves me correctly **MSgt Richard "Dickie" Saunders** salvaged the van from the Navy around 1974. It was a mothballed X-Ray van. The guys from motor pool refurbished it. Guys from CAM Sq did the paint job. We took it to the schools, State/Farm Fair, parades, community events at Ala Moana.... and even shipped it out to the Maui Fair, when the 292nd was being formed. Believe it was retired after being in service for 10 years, as there were no funds available for repairs and no one could legally claim ownership....not sure if ownership was ever transferred from the Navy.

- 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 excerpts are from my "In My Opinion" column in the **August 1999** issue. How time flies....

Attending his last UTA weekend in **MSgt Solomon Ford**, 154th Communications Flight. Sol served for 30 years, a few years of active duty but mostly Guard time. Throughout his Guard years, Sol served in the audiovisual section with **MSgt Ronald Biho**, now retired and currently with **TSgt Wayne Pontes**. *Happy Retirement Sol!*

Another long-time HIANG member attending his last UTA weekend is **CMSgt Leo Nakano**, HQ 201st Combat Communications Group. The Chief spent 42 years in the HIANG, most of them as a technician. *Happy Trails to the Chief!*

Slipping out the door late last month was another old friend, **MSgt Robert "Bobby" Ramos**, 154th Operations Support Flight. Bobby retired several years ago from his technician position but continued working on MPA day tours up the hill at CINCPAC. *Happy Retirement Bobby!*

Congratulations to **Capt Duke Ota**, 154th Logistics Squadron and **Capt Charles Anthony**, HQ Hawaii Air National Guard. Both officers just completed their in-residence Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Lots of hard work but a lot of knowledge gained. *Congratulations to Duke and Chuck!*

Another recent in-residence PME graduate is **TSgt Kyle Okaneku**, 154th Communications Flight. Kyle graduated from the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy at Keesler AFB, Mississippi. *Congratulations to Kyle!*

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

★ Appreciation Dinner for Korean War Veterans. The All People Mission Church will host an appreciation dinner of Korean War veterans in Hawaii. After dinner, there will be a concert featuring the 38-member Korean choir. The specifics follow:

When: Sunday, August 15, 2010
Time: Dinner will begin at 1730
Where: [All People Mission Church](#)
620 Waipa Lane, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
RSVP: As soon as possible
POC: **Chaplain (COL) Peter Y. Lee**, 845-2111 or 398-3526

★ Retirement Party for MSgt Ken Aoki. Please come and join the Non-destructive Inspection Shop as they bid farewell to **MSgt Kenneth Aoki** and celebrate his 41 years of military service. The specifics follow:

When: Sunday, September 12, 2010
Time: 1800-2100
Where: Hawaiian Brian's

1680 Kapi'olani Boulevard, 2nd Floor

Cost: \$30.00 per person; gift only: \$5.00

Menu: Mochiko Chicken, Furikake Mahi-mahi, Mixed Greens, Mac Salad, Noodles, Rice, Fruit Punch. Cocktails are no-host.

RSVP: Monday, August 27, 2010; checks payable to [Nefi Martinez](#)

POC: [Nefi Martinez](#) at 448-7222
[Sam Bukoski](#) at 448-7460

Send congratulatory e-mail: kenneth.aoki@hickang.af.mil

★ DOD Retirement and Service Awards Luncheon. Friday, September 24, 2010 is the date for the next DOD Retirement and Awards Luncheon. The Adjutant General's Award and State Manager of the Year Award will be presented during the program.

Invitations have gone out to the following retirees and service award awardees. The names of the honorees attending will announced as their RSVPs are received.

When: Friday, September 24, 2010

Where: Hale Koa Hotel, Banyan Tree Showroom

Time: 1100-1300

Cost: \$26.00 (includes gratuity)
Checks payable to "DoD Retirement and Service Award Fund"

Menu: Hale Koa salad with house dressing; grilled skirt steak with shiitake mushroom sauce, paired with broiled mahi-mahi fillet; garlic mashed potatoes; sautéed zucchini with tomatoes; coffee or tea and red velvet cake.

Retirees: contact [CMSgt Deb Brownhill](#), 672-1233 or debra.brownhill@us.army.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

★ United States Air Force 63rd Birthday Ball. This year's 63rd USAF Birthday Ball will celebrate the Pacific Centennial of Flight 1910-2010. The HIANG point of contact for the ball is [SMSgt Rob Shigeta](#). Contact him at 448-8439 or robby.shigeta@hickang.af.mil. Tickets will be on sale August 2-27, 2010. The specifics follow:

When: Friday, September 17, 2010, starting at 1730

Where: Hawai'i Ballroom, Sheraton Waikiki Resort

Attire: Military: Mess Dress; Civilian: Formal

Cost:	E1 – E4	\$20	GS1 – GS9	\$40
	E5 – E6	\$40	GS10 – GS12	\$60
	E7 – E8	\$50	GS13 – GS14	\$70
	E9	\$60	GS15	\$80
	O1 – O3	\$60		
	O4 – O5	\$70	Retired	\$60
	O6 – O10	\$80	DV	\$80



• 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.