

## 2010904 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](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.**



- **New E-Newsletter Available for TRICARE Standard Beneficiaries.** Falls Church, Virginia – A new e-newsletter aimed at TRICARE Standard beneficiaries is available online now at the TRICARE website. It supplements the printed Standard newsletter mailed every January to all Standard beneficiaries. The direct link to the e-newsletter is: [www.tricare.mil/tricaremart/product.aspx?id=789&s=standard](http://www.tricare.mil/tricaremart/product.aspx?id=789&s=standard).

Packed with information about finding a provider, immunizations, preventive health screenings, back-to-school physicals and more, the Standard e-newsletter helps beneficiaries get the most out of the flexible TRICARE Standard and Extra healthcare plan options.

TRICARE Standard and Extra are used by over two million non-active duty beneficiaries – such as family members, military retirees under age 65 and those covered by the TRICARE Reserve Select plan. Beneficiaries who use Standard and Extra may visit any TRICARE-authorized provider, network or non-network without a referral. The main difference between Standard and Extra are that beneficiaries save “extra” on their out-of-pocket costs by only seeing network providers.

For more information on TRICARE Standard or Extra go to the new [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil) and answer three easy questions to get connected to information tailored specifically to the user. To sign up for future newsletters and other TRICARE benefit information by e-mail go to: [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions).

- **Center Seeks Paperless Air Guard, Reserve Records.** Washington, DC, August 20, 2010 - Employees at the Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC) in Denver are working to securely convert thousands of paper and microfiche personnel records to an electronic format for Air National Guardsmen and Air Force Reserve airmen. "These records represent reservists' careers from the moment they are gained to the reserve until death, and even beyond, because then we use the record to provide service to the family," Jackie Bing, the center's director of records quality management, said during a "DoD Live" bloggers roundtable August 18.

Phased computer scanning of military personnel records and images is helping the Air Force Reserve move away from a paper-dependent environment, Bing added. The group has converted more than 120,000 paper records to an automated records management system on an accelerated schedule since the effort started two years ago. This system stores millions of retrievable documents on more than a million records using secure network storage technology, Bing explained.

ARPC officials are continuing the process by converting 130,000 paper records of nonparticipating reservists, retirees and discharged members and 6 million microfiche images by a March 31 target date. Bing said more than 100 civilian contractor personnel are scanning the files using high-speed scanners, eliminating the previous process of printing out a record, making a copy and then scanning it. The newer process allows more work to be done more quickly, she said.

Andy Hamilton, a quality assurance evaluator for ARPC, said the team has a 100 percent quality review prior to downloading the records to the automated system and after the scanning. He added that the Air Force is trying to create an environment in which documents are created within the system and go into the archives. "With the use of smart forms, we're trying to make this a 100 percent paperless environment," he said. There is no cutoff date for records that will be scanned, Hamilton noted. "If we have a record that needs to be scanned, regardless of how old the record is, we're going to scan it," he said.

Some servicemembers are able to access their records through the Personnel Records Display Application, commonly referred to as PRDA, which allows members using a military or government computer to access their records at any time.

"We feel that there are some exciting things that are happening as our whole work force is being transformed, and we're right in the middle of it with our effort," Bing said. "We have one record that goes all the way back to 1942. The reservist came in the Enlisted Reserve Corps, went to aviation cadet school, became a pilot, retired and started drawing pay. We were able to scan it, put it in an electronic format and give that member better access to [his] record."

#### Related Sites:

Air Reserve Personnel Center

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

"DoD Live" Bloggers Roundtable

<http://www.dodlive.mil/category/dod-news/category/bloggers-roundtable/>

● Determining VA Loan Eligibility. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines VA loan eligibility guidelines. A Certificate of Eligibility shows the amount of entitlement. Those interested in VA home loan benefits may find it helpful to speak with a VA loan professional to understand their own eligibility and entitlement.

In order to be considered for the VA home loan program, a borrower must meet military service requirements. The eligibility requirements vary depending on when the military service was completed, but can be summarized as follows:

- 90 days of active duty during wartime
- 181 days of continuous active duty during peacetime
- 6 years of service for Reservist/National Guard

For applications involving military discharges that are other than honorable, the VA determines eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

A potential VA borrower must obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) before applying for a veterans' mortgage. The Certificate shows the lender how much entitlement a borrower has available.

Borrowers who are eligible for a VA loan can enjoy:

- No down payment (100% financing)

- No private mortgage insurance (PMI)
- Relaxed qualifying standards
- Competitive interest rates
- No penalties for mortgage pre-payment
- Cash-out and debt consolidation
- Streamline rate reduction

Ultimately, the VA determines whether a person is eligible for VA home loan benefits. For more information on your own eligibility, you can contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or speak with a VA loan professional.

VA websites concerning home loans:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/>  
[http://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/components/landing2\\_relatedlinks.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/components/landing2_relatedlinks.asp)

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

- DFAS, Retired and Annuity Pay Center 1-800-321-1080 to stop retired pay, apply for Survivor Benefits, and obtain information about insurance and other allotments
- Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213 to discuss Social Security Survivor benefits
- Veterans Administration 1-800-827-1000 for Disability Pay and burial assistance and/or applying for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DICE) for the surviving spouse
- Office of Personnel Management 1-888-767-6738 for retirees who are receiving civil service pensions in addition to military retired pay

● Information about avoiding ID theft. **Sandy Hashimoto** of the Human Resources Office sent out the following information about a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website. She gets her information through an Office of Personnel Management (OPM) e-mail distribution.

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This website is a one-stop national resource to learn about the crime of identity theft. It provides detailed information to help you deter, detect, and defend against identity theft. On this site, consumers can learn how to avoid identity theft - and learn what to do if their identity is stolen.

Businesses can learn how to help their customers deal with identity theft, as well as how to prevent problems in the first place. Law enforcement can get resources and learn how to help victims of identity theft.

Go to: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft>

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

**Barbara Lee**  
**George Lumives**

**Mark Waddell**

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

**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](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.

**Estelle Kajiwara  
Clifford Tsuyama**

**Warren Fukunaga  
Caroline Young**

**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.**

● 154<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander TDY to Alaska. **Brig Gen Joseph Kim** just returned from a four week temporary duty tour to Alaska. The Air Force selected him to serve as the president of the Safety Investigation Board that looked into the circumstances surrounding the recent C-17 Globemaster III crash at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. It always a tough job to be a part of a safety investigation!

● 154 FSS Assumption of Command Ceremony. **Colonel Ryan T. Okahara**, commander of the 154<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group, cordially invites you to attend the 154<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron Assumption of Command Ceremony. **Maj Sharnell Valeho** will assume command of the squadron. The ceremony will start at 1500 on Sunday September 12, 2010 in the courtyard of Building 3417, Hickam AFB, Hawai'i. Maj Valeho recently completed the 10 month Air Command and Staff College residence course at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Congratulations!

Send congratulatory e-mail: [sharnell.valeho@hickam.af.mil](mailto:sharnell.valeho@hickam.af.mil)

● Col Stephen Su'a-Filo Pinning Ceremony. **Brig Gen Joseph Kim**, Commander of the 154<sup>th</sup> Wing, cordially invites you to attend the Pinning Ceremony for **Col Stephen L Su'a-Filo**. The ceremony will start at 1300 on Sunday, September 12, 2010 in the auditorium of the C17 Operations Building, Building 2140, Hickam AFB, Hawai'i. Col Su'a-Filo serves as the commander of the 154<sup>th</sup> Operations Group. Congratulations!

Send congratulatory e-mail: [stephen.suafilo@hickam.af.mil](mailto:stephen.suafilo@hickam.af.mil)

● Among those promoted at CY10 Air Force Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Promotion Board was a former Hawai'i Air National Guard member. **Wayne Acosta**, who served in the Military Personnel Flight and as the commander of the 154<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, will pin on his new rank in October 2010. Congratulations to Wayne!

Send congratulatory e-mail: [wayne.acosta@navy.mil](mailto:wayne.acosta@navy.mil)

● The Joint Military Center at the Keaukaha Military Reservation. Construction of the long awaited new Joint Military Center in Hilo is ongoing. The ground breaking was June 19, 2009 and construction is more than 50% completed. Construction costs will amount to \$50 million.

**Robert Inouye**, the retired Command Sergeant Major, who now works on the staff of the Facility Management Office, provided the information for this article. Appreciate all his work gathering the information.



This photo shows the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Keaukaha Military Reservation (KMR) currently under construction. Robert Inouye said, "To the old timers, it's being built where the old tent city pads were. That's the Hilo Airport just above it, and the HIANG facilities to its right."

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) website provides the following information about the Keaukaha Military Reservation, Joint Military Center, DAGS Job No 21-14-7292.

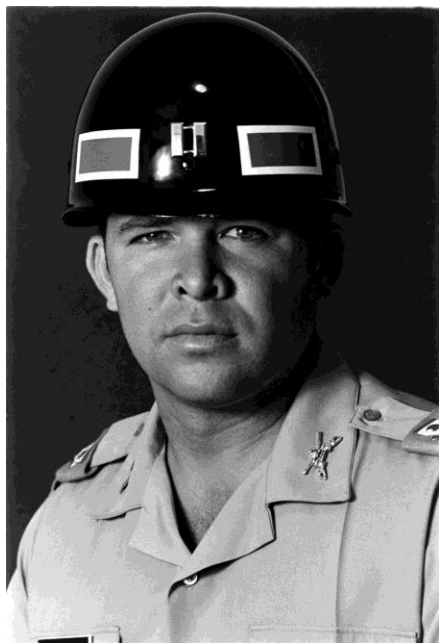
The project located in Hilo, Hawaii is necessitated by the closure of the armories located at Honoka'a and Kea'au, and the Army Reserve Kuneida facility under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program. The new Armed Forces Reserve Center will house:

- HQ and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment
- Company D (Forward Support Company), 29th Brigade Support Battalion
- Company C, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment (UH60)
- Detachment 2, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation (OH58)
- 871st Engineer Company (Vertical), 411th Engineer Battalion (USAR)
- Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry
- Office of Veterans Services, Hawaii Island office
- Hawaii National Guard and United States Army Reserve Family Support Offices

The new facility is comprised of six buildings totaling approximately 104,300 square feet and is situated on a 19 acre site within the Keaukaha Military Reservation. Buildings and improvements include an assembly hall/physical fitness building, an administration/unit storage building, a classroom building, a lobby and community service building, a State maintenance building, vehicle maintenance building and flammable material storage, privately owned vehicle and military vehicle parking, and BBQ shelter.

The goal for this facility is to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver rating.

- Among the recent Hawai'i Air National Guard retirees are some long serving Guard members.
  - **Thomas Mau**, the long time 199<sup>th</sup> Weather Flight commander. Tom led the flight through some major mission and equipment changes over the years. His flight had the first joint mission, providing weather services for the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade (Separate). He continues at his civilian job with the Navy at Lualualei.
  - **Jan DeRego**, who served in the supply function for 34 years. Jan served many years in the enlisted association – serving as the local president and a national director. Jan always worked on the decorations on National Guard events.
- Checking Out Old Photos. **Steven Lum**, a retired HIARNG member who works at the Public Affairs Office, shared the following photograph of **MG Edward "Butch" Correa, Jr.** The general served as Hawai'i's Adjutant General from December 1999 - December 2002.



This photo is of a very young Captain Edward Correa. The photo shows him as a Tactical Officer at the Hawai'i Military Academy in the mid seventies.

General Correa began his military career in June 1965 and was commissioned an armor officer in 1966. He then served with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, U.S. Army Training Center, Armor (USATCA), Fort Knox, Kentucky, as a platoon leader, company executive officer and company commander. He was then assigned to HQ, USATCA, and served as chief, advanced individual training, until honorably discharged in 1969. General Correa then joined the Hawai'i Army National Guard. Throughout the years, he served in various positions including Commander of Troop E, 19th Cavalry; senior tactical officer of the Hawai'i Military Academy; Commander of the 103rd Troop Command; Executive Officer and Commanding General of the 29th Separate Infantry Brigade; Commander of Task Force Iniki, Kauai; and Commander of the Hawai'i Army National Guard.

- Retiree Connections.
  - I ran into **George Kaneshiro** last week. He served in the 154<sup>th</sup> Wing's avionics branch and retired in 1997. He still escorts tours to Japan and Okinawa for a local travel agency. George is enjoying his retirement.
  - I got an e-mail from **Charles Pieters**, who recently retired as the Command Sergeant Major of the HIARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion. He said, "I have been retired now for over 3

months and enjoying my retirement from the Guard after 31 years of service. I work for Disney at Ko'Olina and enjoying myself very much. There is life after the Guard!"

- Shopping in the Hickam Commissary, I ran into **Kaipo Sing**. Kaipo served in personnel and in the fuels section of the Wing. He's another smiling retiree. Kaipo is looking forward to the University of Hawaii Wahine volleyball season. He attends home games with fellow HIANG retirees, **Ivan Mineshima** and **Lester Ho**. Great catching up with Kaipo!

- On the same shopping trip, I met **Robert Yokono** at the checkout line. Bob served in the 154th Wing's life support section. He mentioned that he had some old photos of HIANG activities that he wanted to get to me. More photos to share in *Retiree News*! He looked great - another smiling retiree.

**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*.

● 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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@hick.af.mil](mailto:kenneth.aoki@hick.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 be 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](mailto: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](mailto:mariavictoria.durham@us.army.mil)

Send congratulatory e-mail: [scott.nomura@us.army.mil](mailto: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 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.

★ HIANG's Flickr Photo Sharing Site. This site is accessible from any computer with no "registration" required. Go to: [www.flickr.com/photos/hiang](http://www.flickr.com/photos/hiang) for photo for recent HIANG events.

★ The **September** 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.