

20101013 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.

- **Need Your E-mail Address Updates!** The “Wanted List” is growing again! If you are changing e-mail address, please send in your new address to retireenews@hawaiiintel.net. Thanks.

- **VA COLA Act of 2010 Ready to Sign.** October 4, 2010 - The news that Congress passed the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010 likely sparked some excitement for many veterans last week. But before anyone rushes off to spend the increase, it is important to note that this is an annual congressional ritual. By law Congress has to okay the linking of VA benefit increases to the increase in Social Security COLA. This happens every year.

The official summary of H.R. 4667 reads as follows: *To increase, effective as of December 1, 2010, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.*

But, here is “the Rest of the Story.” The increase is tied to the Social Security Administration COLA for 2011 which will likely be zero for 2011. This is because the SSA COLA is based on the previous year’s rate of inflation (Consumer Price Index), which for 2010 has been less than zero. Furthermore the SSA COLA is determined based on the last year in which the CPI rate was positive, this means that the 2010 CPI is weighted against the 2008 CPI. The 2010 CPI is currently tracking at 0.6% below the 2008 CPI.

The bottom line is that although the President will soon sign this into law, this annual legislative ritual will likely have no impact on any one’s VA benefits or Military Retirement pay.

- **2010 Oahu Tsunami Evacuation Maps Now Online.** In late August, the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of Emergency Management posted the 2010 Oahu tsunami evacuation maps on line. Go to: www.oahuDEM.org.

It is recommended that you get online to review these maps. While your home may not be in an inundation zone, the access roads to your residential area may be in a zone. While online, you should check the homes of your friends and relatives – they may have not gotten to checking themselves. Did you know that:

- 21 new tsunami evacuation maps including new maps for Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe Bay
- 20 public and private schools now in an evacuation zone

- the locations of ambulance, fire and police stations, hospitals, public and private schools, shopping malls and major thoroughfares

The existing tsunami evacuation maps in the telephone books were last updated in 1991. Since then, there have been dramatic advances in the science and technology of tsunami inundation. These new electronic maps reflect these advances.

A 2004 Federal Tsunami Mitigation grant funded the revision. The project was coordinated by the Tsunami Inundation Mapping Project at the University of Hawaii, Manoa with Dr. Kwok Fai Cheung as the Project Leader. The new evacuation maps account for the "what if" scenarios as well as historical tsunami events. First responders and emergency managers developed the new evacuation zones based on inundation data and scientific recommendations.

Things to remember:

- Evacuate beyond the zone during a tsunami warning
- If you are inland/not in the evacuation zone, stay put and stay off the road
- Vertical Evacuation - Evacuate to the third floor or above in a reinforced concrete or structural steel building of six stories or more
- If you are near the shoreline and feel an earthquake head to higher ground outside of the evacuation zone AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
- These maps are for public safety and are in no way associated with FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps

For more information, contact the Department of Emergency Management, City and County of Honolulu at 808-723-8960 or msamson@honolulu.gov.

- DEERS/ID Office at Ft. Shafter has moved. **Ken Takayama** emailed that, "The Ft. Shafter DEERS/ID office has moved out of their Shafter Flats office. They're now up on the main post adjacent to the Aloha Center. They were in Shafter Flats while their offices were being renovated." Thanks for the update.

Quick Update: **COL Ken Takayama** retired from the Hawai'i Army National Guard a few years ago, where he led the Judge Advocate General staff. In his civilian career, he continues as the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

- Deadline for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay Extended. The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) has been extended to December 3, 2010, allowing personnel more time to apply for the benefits they've earned.

To apply, or for more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution signed by President Obama yesterday, providing funding for federal government operations through December 3.

"It's important that all those eligible for this benefit take the opportunity to apply for what they've earned," said Lernes Hebert, acting director, Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management. "We encourage those eligible to apply as soon as possible, to avoid the last minute rush, which can increase processing time."

RSLSP was established to compensate military members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between September 11, 2001, and September 30, 2009. Eligible

members or their beneficiaries are required to submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

The original deadline for claims was October 21, 2010.

When RSLSP began on October 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts throughout the year.

Efforts including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue throughout the period of eligibility.

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.

Orlan "Bud" Peterson
Tammy Szabo
George Lumives
Victor Ioli
Jeffrey Okazaki
Norman Chang
Chris Wilson
Tom Gresch

Leonard "Olie" Oliveira
Joseph Spatola
Mark Waddell
Francis Kawahara
Roberto Carlos
Patrick Casey
Steve Ware
Katherine Asato

The addresses now total **1350** 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@hawaiiantel.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.

Wendy McWherter (Ohio NG)
Warren Yagi (update)
Russell Arikawa (update)
Karen Stender

Art Kimura (update)
Dean Norwood (update)
Ron Katto (update)
Roddy Paguyo

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....

Leon E. "Buddy" Camara Sr., 74, of Waimanalo, passes away on September 15, 2010. A retired Hawaii Stevedores rigger and an Army and Hawai'i Army National Guard veteran. He was born in Paia, Maui. He is survived by wife Yvonne G., sons Leon "Buddy" Jr. and Lyndon "Smitty," brother Hana, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and six hanai grandchildren.

Dennis M. Leong, 63, of Pearl City, Hawaii, passed away on September 27, 2010 in Aiea. Born December 4, 1946 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Dennis was a retired hazmat worker at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. "Sargeant Leong" was also retired from the Hawai'i National Guard. He is survived by wife, Karen Leong; daughters, Kalena Leong, Kaulana Leong; sister, Naomi Kaleiupu; brothers, Herbert (Sylvia) Leong of Waimea, Hawaii, George Hulama Leong.

Scott Coffin, 63, of Kula, Maui, passed away on October 3, 2010. A retired Hawai'i Air National Guard master sergeant from the 292nd Combat Communication Squadron. He was born in Billings, Mont. He is survived by wife Angelina; sons David, Sean R. and Andrew S.R.; daughter Cassie K.D.; brother Steven J.

Bernard Moniz, 59, of Aiea, passed away on October 6, 2010. A machinist and a National Guard veteran. He was born in Waimea, Kauai. He is survived by wife Juliana, daughters Mallia Macquiston and Carrie Moniz, and brothers Manuel Jr., Ernest R. and Raymond.

6. Retiree Update.



● New HIARNG Chief of Staff Named. **MG Robert G.F. Lee**, the Adjutant General has named **COL Douglas Kurt Jackson** as the Hawai'i Army National Guard's Chief of Staff. He replaces **COL Arthur "Joe" Logan** who now serves as the Chief of Staff of the Hawai'i National Guard Joint Force Headquarters. The effective date of COL Jackson's new assignment is October 15, 2010. COL Jackson currently serves and the Hawai'i Army National Guard G1 Personnel.

MG Lee's email announcing his selection follows. Congratulations Kurt!

With Col Joe Logan being assigned the Chief of Staff for the JFHQ-HI, Col Kurt Jackson is appointed as Chief of Staff for HIARNG.

Please join me in welcoming Col Jackson to this important job.

MG Lee

Send congratulatory e-mail: douglas.kurt.jackson@us.army.mil

● HIANG Senior NCO Promotions. The Hawai'i Air National Guard promoted the following members to the senior non-commissioned officer ranks. Congratulations to all!

Promoted to Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt / E-8)

Ronald Timbreza, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Send congratulatory e-mail: ronald.timbreza@hickam.af.mil

Promoted to Master Sergeant (MSgt / E-7)

Gordon Kai, 169th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron

Send congratulatory e-mail: gordon.kai@hickam.af.mil

Melissa Quong, 109th Air Operations Group

Send congratulatory e-mail: melissa.quong@hickam.af.mil

● HIARNG Officer Promotions. The Hawai'i Army National Guard G1 Branch staff provided the names of the following officers who were recently promoted. Congratulations to all!

Melvin Masaki, HIARNG Element, Joint Force Headquarters

Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 2 effective September 30, 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: melvin.masaki@us.army.mil

Hector Rivera, Company B, 29th Brigade Support Battalion

Promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 2 effective October 2,, 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: hector.f.rivera@us.army.mil

Michael Tanaka, HIARNG Element, Joint Force Headquarters

Promoted to First Lieutenant effective October 2, 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: michael.tanaka@us.army.mil

Gaine Sakagawa, H&H Company, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Promoted to Captain effective October 5, 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: gaine.sakagawa@us.army.mil

David Sanchez, HIARNG Element, Joint Force Headquarters

Promoted to Captain effective October 1, 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: david.sergio.sanchez@us.army.mil

Paul Takata, HIARNG Element, Joint Force Headquarters

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel effective October 5, 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: paul.takata@us.army.mil

Suzanne Vares Lum, HIARNG Element, Joint Force Headquarters

Promoted to Colonel effective October 2, 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: suzanne.vareslum@us.army.mil

- **New 29th IBCT Facebook Page.** **CPT Lisa Royce**, the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Officer, send an email about the brigade's new Facebook page. CPT Royce said, "Please invite all of your Soldiers in your unit to the new 29th IBCT Facebook page. It is still under construction. Newsletters, photos and articles will be posted here by me via inputs I receive and review for OPSEC first." Contact CPT Royce if you want to post anything on the Face Book page. Her contact information is 844-6035 or lisa.royce@us.army.mil



When you log in a "LIKE" the page, periodic updates will show up in your News Feed. Go To: [29th IBCT Face Book Page](#)

- **Spouse Tour Successful.** The Hawai'i Air National Guard hosted a tour for spouses from the 154th Wing and their Air Force partners from the Hq Pacific Air Forces and the 15th Wing. The purpose of the tour was to provide an orientation of the State Department of Defense. The spouses visited State Civil Defense for a tour and briefing, a mission briefing about the Joint Force Headquarters and the CERF-P mission, and a Hawai'i National Guard mission briefing.

Mrs. Kimberly Kim, wife of the 154th Wing commander, **Brig Gen Joseph Kim**, coordinated this successful spouse's tour. Great Job by everyone who supported this orientation tour.

The spouses who attended were:

From the Hawaii Air National Guard:

Momi Sakai (Col Braden Sakai)

Sharon Nakamura (Lt Col Glenn Nakamura)

Kehau Amorin (TSgt Jon Amorin)

Jessie Higa (Lt Col Irving Higa)

From Pacific Air Forces:

Pam Strickler (Col James Strickler, PACAF/CS - Chief of Staff)

Karen Murphy (Col Sean Murphy, PACAF/SG - Surgeon General)

Dorothy Hatcher (Col Arthur Hatcher, PACAF/A6)

Suzi Hutchinson (Col Ottis Hutchinson, PACAF/FM - Comptroller)

From the 15th Wing:

Ann Dague (Col Robert Dague, 15 WG/CV - Vice Commander)

- Retiree Update: Lt Col Arthur Kimura. **Arthur Kimura** served in the 154th Wing Headquarters staff when he retired several years ago. He currently serves as a part time education specialist with the Hawaii Space Grant Consortium, University of Hawaii, a NASA funded agency whose primary interest in catalyzing students into technical and scientific career paths. He has been a leader in science and space related education; earlier working for the Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology (HIGP). Recently he sent in his email address update. When asked if he was retiring, Art replied

"....having tried to re retire (after retiring from DOE in 1999) 3X, still finding it difficult as there are just too many opportunities out there to open doors for students and teachers and the community....from space science presentations, to family science nights (<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2002/Feb/28/In/In42a.html>), to astronaut community days (<http://www.spacegrant.hawaii.edu/Day-of-discovery/>), to a whole slew of robotics programs (<http://www.hawaiiroc.org/>) with several million invested in schools/teams, and to a new partnership with a super science high school in Japan (we are taking Iolani and Waiakea students this month...., <http://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/fkc/rssf2010/>) guess we will continue until we can't walk/talk at the same time. (Just) wanted to switch over emails to my personal home address for non work issues. Appreciate your keeping us retirees up to date on what is doing on...it has remained as one of the highlights of our lives to have been part of the ANG. mahalo....art

Art provide these additional news reports on his efforts on science and space related education.

<http://www.spacegrant.hawaii.edu/Newsletter-Fall2008-forWeb.pdf>

<http://www.hanahou.com/pages/Magazine.asp?Action=DrawArticle&ArticleID=790&MagazineID=50>

<http://www.uhm.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=3618>

Art closed his e-mail by saying,

"You can mention that we are always looking for volunteers and mentors....from coaching and mentoring a robot team, to volunteering at robotics tournaments, no experience is necessary other than desire to make a difference in futures of young people."

- Retiree Connections.

- Congratulations to **Walter Kaneakua**, who retired a few years ago as the Vice Commander of the 154th Wing. He currently serves as the military liaison in Senator Daniel Inouye's Honolulu office. He recently graduated with his doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Phoenix University. Walt emphasized that he used his GI Bill to fund his education and recommended that anyone who qualifies for the GI Bill should definitely take advantage of a benefits they earned. Well done Walt.

- Ran into **Alton Higashi** while walking at Ala Moana Center. Alton served in the old 154th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron front office starting in the 1960s. In civilian life, he has worked for the management team at Ala Moana Center since 1977. His wife, **Lynn**, was a civilian employee in our Comptroller section. Alton mentioned she still works with the Navy at Pearl Harbor. Great seeing Alton!

- **Karen Stender**, who served as a CW4 in the United States Property and Fiscal Office, send in her email address. In the email exchange, she said, "I moved to Vancouver,

Washington over a year ago and am entirely retired. I do volunteer work at the Veterans Affairs (Vancouver) center and at the SW Washington Medical Center. Appreciate your efforts putting this newsletter together; I see familiar names and faces and it brings back such memories."

- 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.



This photograph shows a very young **Capt Steven Oka** receiving an award from **Col Arthur Ishimoto**. The photo was taken in the 1970s because on the wall is a photo of **Maj Gen Valentine Siefertmann**, who served as the Adjutant General from 1973 to 1981. The photo was taken in the old Headquarters, Hawai'i Air National Guard facility where Kapi'olani Community College is now located. Steve provided the following comments about the photo.

Hard to remember, but I think I was assigned to the 169th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron, maybe a year or two after my transfer from a seven year "tour" with the 150th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron (on Kaua'i). I was **Danny Au**'s replacement at the 150th.

This award probably was the James Sato outstanding weapons controller or HIANG Outstanding Officer. (It was) probably the latter since a meeting with the HIANG commander with pictures was normally reserved for higher level awards. Art Ishimoto was HIANG commander - I recognize the office.

Updates:

- Steve later served as the commander of the 169 ACWS for several years. He then moved to the Headquarters, Hawaii Air National Guard, where he served as the Executive Support Staff Officer (ESSO) – now titled the Director of Staff. He retired as a colonel. And in case you were wondering, **Maj Scott Oka**, a pilot with the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron is Steve's son.

- Arthur Ishimoto went on to become the Adjutant General before retiring as a major general in 1983.

- Daniel Au later served as the Chief of Supply and the commander of the then 154th Supply Squadron. He served several years as the Property and Fiscal Officer and later as the Deputy Adjutant General before retiring as a colonel.

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*.

● **154 SFS Family Support Fundraiser Bowling Tournament.** The 154th Security Forces Squadron Family Support Group will host a no-tap fundraiser bowling tournament. There will be trophies for the top three teams and for the top male and female bowlers. Contact **CMSgt Ray Duropan** to get the entry form. There will be a \$1.00 raffles for fabulous prizes.

When: Friday, 29 October 2010

Time: Check in at 1730

Where: Hickam AFB Bowling Lanes

Cost: \$20.00 per bowler, includes bowling fees for three games

RSVP: Wednesday, October 20, 2010; checks payable to **154 SFS Family Support**

POC: **CMSgt Ray Duropan**, 448-7262 or ray.duropan@hickam.af.mil

★ **HNGEA Annual General Membership Meeting.** The Hawai'i National Guard Enlisted Association will hold its annual general membership meeting. Agenda topics include elections, and the National Conference Report. The specifics follow:

When: Saturday, **October 30, 2010 (date changed from October 23, 2010)**

Where: [Oahu Veterans Center, 1298 Kukila St., Honolulu, Hawai'i 96818](#)

Time: 0900-1100

Contact **CMSgt Ethan Toyama** for more information ethan.toyama@hihick.ang.af.mil.

Related Sites: www.hngea.net and www.eangus.org.



● **TAG's Retirement Lū'au.** The Hawai'i National Guard cordially invites you to the retirement lū'au in honor of **MG Robert G. F. Lee**, The Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii. The specifics follow:

When: Sunday, November 7, 2010

Where: [Hale Koa Hotel](#), Luau Garden
2055 Kalia Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825

Time: 1700: Cocktails
1830: Dinner and program

Menu: Traditional Hawaiian lū'au

Cost: Officer/Civilian: \$45.00
Enlisted: \$35.00
Checks payable to "[DoD Retirement and Service Award Fund](#)"

Attire: Aloha attire

RSVP: Monday, October 11, 2010

Retirees: contact [Col Randy Tom](#), 672-1226 or randy.tom@us.army.mil

★ 1st Annual Hiki No Artillery Association 5 Miler. The Hiki No Artillery Association (HNAA) will sponsor its 1st Annual 5 Miler. The fun run is open to all current and past military members, friends, and family members. The goal of the fun run is to promote health and wellness, build community relations, and improve HNAA membership and awareness. There will be prizes for the top finishers and all entrants receive a t-shirt at the finish line. Contact the POC for more information and to get an entry form.

When: Saturday December 11, 2010

Time: Start time at 0700

Where: 1-487th FA Armory

Cost: \$20.00 per person

RSVP: Monday November 8, 2010

POC: 1SG Thomas Odoardi, 672-1633 / 295-6482 or thomas.odoardi@us.army.mil



★ Save the Date – Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Commemoration. This year's Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Commemoration 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 committee met last Wednesday and provided the following updates.

- There will be a golf tournament on Friday, December 10, 2010. There will be a flyer coming out on this event soon.

- No-host cocktails will begin at 1700, with dinner to follow.

- The Ihilani Resort will offer special rooms rates – more information to follow.

- The attire for the Birthday Commemoration will be Best Dress for military members and coat and tie/formal dress for civilians. Retirees may wear mess dress or Class A/service dress uniforms as prescribed by the applicable Army or Air guidance.

There will be a special *Retiree News* issue in a few days with more specific information about the Birthday Commemoration events.

Retirees: contact [Galen Yoshimoto](#), 672-1221 or galen.yoshimoto@us.army.mil

8. Website Links.

Past issues of *Retiree News* are on line at the Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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.

- HIANG's Flickr photo sharing site. This site is accessible from any computer with no "registration" required. Go to: www.flickr.com/photos/hiang for photo for recent HIANG events. The 154th Wing Public Affairs Office updates new photos of current events, check the site often.

- 1-487 FA on Facebook. The 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery has a Facebook page. When you log in a "LIKE" the page, periodic updates will show up in your News Feed. Go to: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001460924779>

- Hawai'i Air National Guard on Facebook. The Hawai'i Air National Guard Facebook page. When you "LIKE" the page, periodic updates will show up in you News Feed. Go To: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Honolulu-HI/Hawaii-Air-National-Guard/121689041205840>

- The October 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 September/October 2010 Issue of *Airman Magazine* is online. View the current issue of *Airman Magazine* at: <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.