

Retiree News

Serving Hawai'i National Guard Retirees

Issue 103

December 3, 2010

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.

BENEFIT UPDATES

★ **MUST READ** The National Commission of Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. On February 18, 2010, President Obama established the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform to address America's fiscal challenges. On December 1, 2010, the commission issued its final report, titled, "[The Moment of Truth](#)."

The Commission task was to identify policies to improve the fiscal situation in the medium term and to achieve fiscal sustainability over the long run. Specifically, the Commission would propose recommendations designed to balance the budget, excluding interest payments on the debt, by 2015. In addition, the Commission would propose recommendations that meaningfully improve the long-run fiscal outlook, including changes to address the growth of entitlement spending and the gap between the projected revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government.

The 66 page report contains proposals for reductions in the DoD budgets, TRICARE, Medicare, Social Security, and taxes. Review the report at:

http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/sites/fiscalcommission.gov/files/documents/TheMomentofTruth12_1_2010.pdf

★ **MUST READ** Deficit Commission's Final Plan Released. This National Journal article covers the release of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform report. This commission report is a recommendation to the President and Congress will put its stamp of any laws resulting from this report. But is important to read what the report recommends and how it could potentially affect retirees.

Washington - Adding detail - but no fundamental policy shifts - to a draft plan floated last month by its chairmen, President Obama's fiscal commission called this morning for "America's leaders to put up or shut up" and adopt a massive overhaul of taxation, government spending and the social safety net, in order to reduce the nation's mounting national debt. The commission's final proposal was dubbed *The Moment of Truth* and officially released at 9:30 a.m., but posted earlier on several websites. It includes cuts to both defense and non-defense discretionary spending; comprehensive tax reform; [Social Security](#) reform; and health care cost containment.

Appearing on Capitol Hill following the release, commission co-chairs Alan Simpson, a Republican, and Erskine Bowles, a Democrat, expressed little hope that Congress will act on the plan's recommendations immediately, or even that the plan would gather the 14 votes on the commission required to guarantee the

proposal a Senate vote. But the chairmen warned Washington would be forced to deal with the issue in short order. "Whether we get two votes or 18" on the commission, Simpson said, "this baby ain't going away. Oh sure, it may be buried in an unmarked grave, and soon, but when the votes for the budget and extending the debt limit and debate on that comes up in the spring, this cadaver will rise from the crypt."

Bowles said the commission had "fundamentally changed the debate in America. We've put the debt issue on the map." And he conceded that "I don't like every aspect of this plan. To vote for this plan, each of us will need to tolerate provisions we oppose or previously opposed to reach a compromise."

The report scored an early endorsement from Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., a commission member, who declared that after reading it three times, he concluded "while there are things that I dislike intensely - and I do - there are also things in this plan there are grand slam home runs for the American economy." He said he would support the plan strongly "because I don't see another alternative. I just don't." Another commission member, Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., also said he would back the plan. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said he was studying the proposal and would not commit either way.

The most important reactions will come from congressional leaders and the president. When Simpson and Bowles released a draft document three weeks ago, they were met with indignation and outrage. House Speaker Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called the plan "simply unacceptable."

The final plan offers little real change from that proposal, other than more details and some flexibility in rates.

Perhaps most importantly, the final proposal adds emphasis on the importance of economic growth to deficit reduction. It pledges to delay major spending cuts until 2012 to allow the economy more time to recover, and it floats an idea to further spur growth: asking Congress to consider a temporary payroll tax holiday, originally proposed by the Bipartisan Policy Center's unrelated Domenici-Rivlin commission, to encourage consumer spending.

Still, the basic concept of the plan's attack on the deficit remains the same. It begins with a modest increase in the overall tax burden, softened by a broad tax reform that knocks out most tax breaks and reduces tax rates at every level. It then calls for an increase in the retirement age for Social Security -- which would save tens of billions of dollars over the next decade alone -- and more changes aimed at slowing the growth in health care costs.

The commission goes further than the president's stated goal of reducing the deficit to 3 percent of gross domestic product, instead whittling it down to 2.3 percent of GDP by 2015. It caps revenue and spending, meanwhile, at 21 percent of GDP each.

The plan recommends the immediate implementation of fundamental tax reform and the elimination of nearly all of the 150-plus tax expenditures, with a few exceptions: the earned income tax credit, the child credit, mortgage interest deductions (but only for primary homes), employer-provided health insurance credits, retirement savings and pensions credits, and charitable giving deductions.

Itemized deductions would be eliminated, and capital gains and dividends would be taxed at ordinary rates.

The plan cuts tax rates across the board, reducing the top rate to between 23 percent and 29 percent. Originally, the co-chairs recommended establishing three rates -- 15 percent, 25 percent, and 35 percent. Their proposal to implement a 15 cent-per-gallon fuel tax hike within the next five years remains unchanged.

The corporate tax rate would be streamlined, with the rate necessarily falling between 23 percent and 29 percent, down from the current top rate of 35 percent. The plan suggests a 28 percent rate in its illustrative proposal, a 2-point increase over the chairmen's mark proposal. Meanwhile, a territorial system would be established for foreign-owned companies with U.S. subsidiaries, allowing them to keep foreign profits. All tax deductions and expenditures for businesses would be eliminated.

The plan calls for discretionary spending to return to pre-crisis 2008 levels in 2013, while freezing spending in 2012 at 2011 levels and constraining spending growth to half the rate of inflation through 2020. It would cut non-war defense spending at the same rate as non-defense spending, while war spending would fall under the responsibility of the president, who would be required to propose annual limits.

The plan adds details on how to reduce federal health care spending, which were noticeably absent in the initial Simpson-Bowles proposal. They include changing how Medicare pays doctors, scrapping a long-term care insurance plan created by President Obama's signature health care bill, overhauling medical malpractice litigation, and chipping away at Medicare and Medicaid costs through a variety of measures.

But the final proposal still lacks specifics on how to control upward-spiraling health care cost increases throughout the economy - the biggest driver of long-term budget deficits, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The commission's boldest attempt to control those costs is by eliminating the tax exemption for employer-paid health benefits, which many economists say would help reduce costs by forcing individuals to shoulder more of the burden of their health-care choices.

The retirement age would be raised to 69 from 65 in order to rein in Social Security spending to ensure the program's solvency.

More generally, the plan proposes budget process reforms to encourage accountability in the budgeting process.

The plan faces opposition from both liberals and conservatives. Republicans remain implacably opposed to any increase in the overall tax burden. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., the author of a long-term fiscal plan that includes no tax increases, signaled earlier this week that he was unlikely to support the co-chairs' plan. Democrats, meanwhile, oppose cuts in domestic programs and are even more militant about imminent cuts in Medicare. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., one of the panel's most outspoken liberals, has served notice that she will vote against cuts to either Medicare or Social Security.

People close to the commission [told](#) *National Journal* that at least 10 of the panel's 18 members support the plan. Under the panel's charter, any recommendation to Congress needs the support of at least 14 members. But that threshold has always been viewed as unrealistic, given the intense party polarization in Congress. Current House and Senate lawmakers make up 12 of the panel's members.

★ **Hop On, Hop Off: Bill Would Ease Space-A Travel.** Senator Mark Begich, D-Alaska, introduced the National Guard, Reserve, "Gray Area" Retiree and Surviving Spouse Space-Available Travel Equity Act in late November. It would provide the same travel opportunities aboard military aircraft for reserve-component members as those provided troops and family members of the active component. Currently, members of the reserve component have restrictions unlike those for the active component.

The bill, S. 3955, has the support of National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), which helped draft the legislation. It is the subject of a NGAUS Legislative Alert sent out on November 20, 2010. Read the alert and use the "Write to Congress" feature to ask your senator to support the bill.

<http://www.mmsend3.com/link.cfm?r=357705446&sid=11460492&m=1169472&u=NGAUS&s=http://www.ngaus.org/tier2.asp?bid=17750>

In a release, Begich said, "Members of the National Guard and Reserve serve shoulder-to-shoulder with active-duty members in conflicts across the globe and they deserve to have equitable benefits for themselves and their families." The bill would also provide the benefit of space-available travel to surviving spouses of retired military members or those who died in the line of duty. At this time, surviving spouses have no space-available privileges.

Thanks to [LTC Stuart Tomasa](#) for sending in this article.

★ **Veterans Affairs Warning.** [Doug Hanashiro](#) and several other *Retiree News* readers forwarded an email containing a warning from the Department of Veterans Affairs. *Retiree News* contacted [Caz Ross](#), who is a Veterans Services Coordinator at our Office of Veterans Affairs. Both the Department of Veterans Affairs memo and Caz's comments follow.

Department of Veterans Affairs memo:

WARNING TO VETERANS - Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DOD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, General Counsel requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Feedback from Caz Ross:

Yes, I did receive this and this veterans' group is not a veterans organization that I know of. Individuals contacted by this organization should not, provide any personal information. The VA can call you but they have your information since you would have filed a claim and awaiting adjudication. If you have elected a veterans' organization e.g. HOVS, DAV, VFW, MOPH, AmVets, PVA you should have signed a form (VA form 21-22 Appointment of Representative). I strongly recommend that anyone contacted by this group, not respond and do not give any personal information (Social Security Number, VA claim number, address, branch of service, date of birth, etc...)

★ 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:

- Defense Finance and Accounting Service (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

★ Benefit Websites:

Press CONTROL and Click on underlined title to go to the respective website. The information on these websites are updated regularly. Readers should check these sites often.

[Air Force Retiree Services](#)

[Defense Commissary Agency](#)

[DFAS Retirement Pay](#)

[Military.Com Benefits Summary](#)

[Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam MWR](#)

[National Resource Directory](#)

[Space "A" Travel from Hickam](#)

[TRICARE](#)
[Veterans Affairs](#)

[TriWest Healthcare Alliance](#)
[VA 2011 Benefits Summary](#)

RETIREE UPDATES



★ **CSM Elizabeth Kenui**, the Hawai'i Army National Guard's Command Sergeant Major sent an email updating her email address. In her email, she said she retires March 1, 2011, but begins her transition in mid December.

When asked what's in her future, her reply was, "finishing my bachelor's degree – only eight more classes, and I'm done."

CSM Kenui has done an outstanding job during her tenure as the HIARNG's Command Sergeant Major. She faced many challenges but her personal "down to earth" approach resolved all but a few of them. Happy Retirement Sergeant Major!

★ **Sharon Pasion** sent in an email updating her status. She and her husband Jovi are now stationed in Washington State. Jovi serves in the Navy and they just returned from a tour in Japan. Sharon served in the Military Personnel Flight for several years before getting married and following Jovi's career moves. Great update from Sharon.

★ Thanks to **MSgt Alan Yoneshige** for providing the email addresses of several more 154th Medical Group members. Over the years, he has been the medical unit's main connection with *Retiree News*. Alan is the last of the "old time" medical unit members still serving, and will retire one of these days. He coordinates an annual reunion luncheon for the medical unit retirees and former members. Appreciate his continuing support.

★ Thanks to **Bert Hamakado** who sent in **Mario Tabaquin's** email address. The number of Hawaii Army National Guard readers has increased steadily through the efforts of Bert and other HIARNG retirees. Appreciate his continuing support.



★ Checking Out Old Photos. This issue's photo shows a very young **Gregory Gardner**, who flew with the 199th Fighter Squadron during the F-4C Phantom era. Greg was one of young officers who became fighter pilots with the squadron as they started flying F-4Cs.

Greg graduated from the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa in 1976 with a Bachelors of Business Administration degree. He was a distinguished graduate of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the Mānoa campus.

Lieutenant Gardner was selected to enter flying training and joined the Hawai'i Air National Guard in 1977. He received his pilot wings in December 1977 after completing undergraduate pilot training at Reese Air Force Base, Texas. He completed his follow-on training at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico and

MacDill Air Force Base, Florida

Lieutenant Gardner returned to Hawai'i in November 1978 and served in the squadron as an interceptor pilot and later became one of the instructor pilots in the squadron.

In December 1982, Captain Gardner left Hawai'i to become the Chief, Fighter Exercises & Deployments at the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Andrews Air Force Base. In April 1984, he moved to the National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon to work as the Plans and Readiness Staff Officer.



In June 1987, Major Gardner became a flight commander with the 184th Fighter Wing in McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. During his tenure with the wing, he gained experience by functioning as a flight examiner, F-16 & F-4 instructor pilot, air-to-air phase manager, range control officer, supervisor of flying.

In May 1991, Lieutenant Colonel Gardner began a National Guard Bureau Title 10 tour. He was assigned as the Air National Guard Advisor for Plans & Operations at Headquarters, Tactical Air Command and later Headquarters, Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

In April 1994, Greg returned to McConnell AFB and the now 184th Bomb Wing. The Wing now flew B-1 Lancer bombers after their conversion from fighters. He became the Wing Vice Commander and was promoted to colonel. In July 1997, he was selected as the Wing Commander.

In February 1999, he was selected as the Adjutant General of Kansas. His command included 8,500 Army and Air National Guard members. He also served as the Director of the Division of Emergency Management for Kansas and Director of Homeland Security for the State. He was promoted to brigadier general in March 2000 and major general in May 2001. Maj Gen Gardner retired in January 2004.

★ Passings:

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....

None this issue

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

★ The New Adjutant General. As this issue of Retiree News is about to be send out, Governor Elect Neil Abercrombie has not nominated his candidate for Adjutant General. The State Senate will hold confirmation hearings after the start of the Legislature in January. *Retiree News* will have information about the TAG nominee when Governor Abercrombie makes his announcement.



★ The New HIARNG Command Sergeant Major Selected. The Hawai'i Army National Guard commander, **BG Gary Hara**, announced that **Sergeant Major Ronald Oshiba** will become the HIARNG's new Command Sergeant Major. He will follow CSM Elizabeth Kenui, who is retiring.

SGM Oshiba currently serves as the Operations Sergeant Major at the 103d Troop Command. He recently completed a tour as the 103d Command Sergeant Major. His earlier service is with the HIARNG aviation at Wheeler Army Air Field. A full biography will be in the next issue of *Retiree News*.

Well deserved recognition of a super Soldier.

Send congratulatory email: ronald.oshiba@us.army.mil

In his email announcing SGM Oshiba's selection, BG Hara said

I have selected SGM Ron Oshiba to be the next Command Sergeant Major for the HIARNG. Ron comes to us with a wealth of senior NCO experience and will be a great follow on to CSM Kenui who will be retiring at the end of February.

I ask that all of you welcome Ron to the position and I expect the legacy of superior NCOs in the HIARNG to continue. CSM Kenui prepared a list of qualified applicants and I personally reviewed each packet. We then sat down and went over my top 5 which we reduced down to a final 3. I discussed the selection with MG Lee and he supports my recommendation.

There is no doubt that the 103d Troop Command will lose another key member of their full-time staff and at this critical period. But the moves are being made in the best interest of the HIARNG. It is my priority that we quickly backfill the XO and Operations SGM positions at the 103d Troop Command. The Chief of Staff, HIARNG has this mission.

★ HIARNG Senior Officer Transfers. The Hawai'i Army National Guard Chief of Staff, **COL Douglas Kurt Jackson** forwarded the following email about senior officer transfers within the command. The email read:

The Adjutant General has approved the transfer of **LTC Moses Kaoiwi** from Joint Force Headquarters Hawaii J3 Operations to the Executive Officer, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. **LTC Rudolph Ligsay**, the current 103d Troop Command Executive Officer will assume duties in the Joint Force Headquarters Hawaii J3 Operations.

The Hawai'i Army National Guard commander, **BG Gary Hara**, has approved the transfer of **LTC David Weisberg** the current Commander of the Warrior Transition Unit, Tripler Army Medical Center to the Executive Officer, 103d Troop Command. BG Hara approved the submission of a mobilization packet for **LTC Troy Kindred** from Title 10 Active Duty Operations Support at Pacific Command to Commander, WTU, TAMC

These are all high quality officers transferring from and to very important positions. Each officer impacted should understand their workloads will most likely increase as they work to insure gaining and losing organizations maintain continuity of

operations. The urgency is dictated by the fact the 29th Bde XO position is currently vacant.

The effective dates of transfer will be established as a win/win for 29th Bde, J3, and TAMC. Congratulations to the officers selected. This is an indicator of their value to the organization and to each of you. These transfers are open information.

Send Congratulatory email:

mo.kaoiwi@us.army.mil
rudolph.ligsay@us.army.mil
david.weisberg@us.army.mil
troy.kindred@us.army.mil

★ Organizational News Links:

Press CONTROL and Click on underlined title to go to the respective website. The information and photographs on these websites are updated regularly. Readers should check these sites regularly.

State DoD website	154th Wing website
29th IBCT Facebook page	1-487th FA Facebook page
HIANG Facebook page	HIANG Flickr site
HIANG Spouse and Family Association website	
Past issues of the Kūkā'ilimoku	Past issues of Retiree News
Current Issue of Soldiers Magazine	Current Issue of Airman Magazine

READER UPDATES

★ 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.

Jason Nakamura
Sam Makaiwi
Mark Waddell
Norman Chang
Chris Wilson
Tom Gresch

Tammy Szabo
George Lumives
Patrick Casey
Steve Ware
Katherine Asato

There are now over 1400 *Retiree News* readers. Be sure to ask your fellow retirees that you meet if they receive *Retiree News*. If not, forward 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.

Elizabeth Kenui (update)
Keith Kurahashi
Bruce Nagao

Vince Dacanay (update)
Fred Miura
David Nakamaejo

David Tyau
Mario Tabaquin

George Yonamine

★ 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.

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*.

★ 154th Comptroller Flight Activation and Assumption of Command Ceremony. The Commander of the 154th Wing, **Brig Gen Joseph Kim**, cordially invites you to attend the Activation Ceremony of the 154th Comptroller Flight. As part of the Activation Ceremony, **Maj Claire Tom** will assume command of the newly established Flight. Congratulations to Claire.

When: Saturday, December 4, 2010
Time: Ceremony will start at 0900, Refreshments to follow the ceremony
Where: Building 3400 (Fighter Hanger), Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam
Attire: Military: Uniform of the Day
Civilian: Business Aloha Attire
RSVP by: Tuesday, November 30, 2010
<https://einvitations.afit.edu/Tom921/anim.cfm>
POC: **SSgt Colyn Funakoshi**, 448-7489
colyn.funakoshi@hickam.af.mil

Send congratulatory e-mail: claire.tom@hickam.af.mil

★ Retirement Party for the Shirt. There will be a retirement party for **MSgt Howard Naone**, the First Sergeant of the 154th Mission Support Group. The Shirt served honorable for 30 years. He worked his first 24 years as a Traditional Guard member in the F-15 Eagle Avionics Branch. He became a First Sergeant in 2004. Howard will continue in his civilian job as a fire captain with the Honolulu Fire Department. Happy Retirement!

When: Saturday, December 4, 2010
Where: Hickam Harbor Beach, Cabana#1
Time: 1400
Cost: \$10.00 per person
Heavy pupus and refreshments
POC: **SSgt Katherine Tam**, 448-7438 or katherine.tam@hickam.af.mil

Send congratulatory e-mail: capt_howie@yahoo.com (Personal email with permission)

★ HIANG Ohana Day. Please bring your family and join the Hawai'i Air National Guard for the HIANG Ohana Day. The Ohana Day will feature food, music, entertainment, games, unit booths and static displays.

When: Sunday, December 5, 2010
Where: Hanger 35, Joint Base Pearly Harbor Hickam
Time: 1200 - Immediately following the 2010 Hometown Heroes Salute

★ Gary Teed Retirement Golf Tournament. The 154th Civil Engineer Squadron will host a retirement gold tournament for **Lt Col Gary Teed**. Contact the POCs for more information and to get an entry form.

When: Monday December 6, 2010
Time: Check-in at 1030, Start time at 1200
Where: Mamala Bay Golf course, Hickam AFB
Cost: Cost includes post pay food and drinks

E1-E4	\$45.00
E5-O3	\$55.00
O4 & above	\$60.00
DoD civilian	\$60.00
Civilian	\$65.00
Dinner and Gift only	\$15.00
Gift only	\$5.00

Checks payable to "**154 CES Club**"

RSVP: Wednesday, November 10, 2010

POCs: **Maj Cyrus Lung**, 448-7027 or cyrus.lung@hickam.af.mil
Joline Inouye, 448-7752 or joline.inouye@hickam.af.mil

★ Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Commemoration Golf Tournament. There will be a golf tournament as part of the Hawaii National Guard Birthday Commemoration. The specifics follow.

When: Friday, December 10, 2010
Where: [Leilehua Golf Course](#)
Times: 1000: Registration begins
1200: Shotgun start
Awards banquet immediately after completion of play
Format: Three-person Modified Scramble, USGA Rules govern play
Handicap: Only 10% of team handicap will be used,
Maximum: M - 24, W - 36
POC: **LTC Tyson Tahara**, 672-1456 or tyson.tahara@us.army.mil
For more information and a registration form

★ 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 – across Wheeler AAF in Wahiawā.
Cost: \$20.00 per person
RSVP: Monday November 8, 2010
POC: **1SG Thomas Odoardi**, 672-1633/295-6482
thomas.odoardi@us.army.mil

★ Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Commemoration.

On Wednesday, November 10, 2010, reservations reached the maximum capacity of the ballroom. RSVPs are now being "wait listed".

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 first muster in 1636. When the National Guard's oldest regiments met for their first drill on the village green in Salem, Massachusetts, they were barely 3 months old, organized on December 13th, 1636, the date we now celebrate as the National Guard birthday.

The success of the previous Birthday Commemorations has made it a great annual event. The event's planning alternates between the Army and Air Guard with the Army taking the lead in 2010.

A wonderful evening is planned and the committee invites all retirees to attend. It will be a good time to share time with present members and your fellow retirees. See you all there!

The specifics of the Birthday Commemoration dinner follow.

When: Saturday, December 11, 2010
Where: [J.W. Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa](#) in Kapolei
Time: No-host cocktails will begin at 1700, with dinner to follow
Menu: A choice of four entrées
Cost: E4 and Below: \$25
E5 - E7: \$40
E8, O3, W1 - W3: \$50
E9, W4 and Above, O4 and Above: \$65
Retirees and Civilians: \$50
Guests: Same Price as Respective Rank
Checks Payable to: [HING Birthday Commemoration](#)
RSVP: Monday, November 08, 2010

Attire: Military: Best Dress
Civilians: Coat & Tie and Formal Dress
Retirees may wear mess dress or Class A/service dress uniforms
as prescribed by the applicable Army or Air guidance

Retiree

POC: **Galen Yoshimoto**, 672-1221 or galen.yoshimoto@us.army.mil

★ Save the Date - The EANGUS Mid-Winter Conference in Hawai'i. The Hawai'i National Guard Enlisted Association (HNGEA) Auxiliary will host the Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Area VI & VII annual mid-winter conference.

Area VI & VII is comprised of: Area VI -- Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, and Area VII -- Alaska, California, Guam, Hawai'i, Oregon, and Washington.

The conference will be at the [Ohana Honolulu Airport Hotel](#) on February 18-20, 2011. The HNGEA President, **CMSgt Ethan Toyama**, encourages participation by Hawai'i National Guard retirees. For more information and registration forms, go to the HNGEA website: www.hngea.net

Mrs. Cheryl Felipe, the HNGEA Auxiliary Chair, is coordinating the upcoming conference. Contact her if you want to volunteer to support the conference. Her contact information (808) 554-3950 or felipec62@hawaii.rr.com.

★ Save the Date – 2011 Hawai'i National Guard Association (HNGA) Annual Meeting. The HNGA President **LTC Rusty Spray** announced that the Association's annual meeting will be held March 18-19, 2010, at the Hawai'i Convention Center. He went on saying, "Our conference theme this year is Homeland Security. We chose this theme as Hawaii will be the host for the Asian Pacific Economic Council (APEC) in November 2010. APEC has been designated as a National Special Security Event. We are inviting all organizations within the Department of Defense, Federal, State, County Law Enforcement, and Civil Agencies to attend our Industry day on March 18, 2011."

★ National Veterans Golden Age Games Set for Hawaii. Washington (AFRNS) -- More than 700 "golden age" veterans from the East Coast to the West and from the Pacific islands will travel to Hawaii to participate in the nation's largest sporting event for senior military Veterans. The 25th National Veterans Golden Age Games, a national sports and recreational competition sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Canteen Service and Help Hospitalized Veterans, will take place May 26 to 31 in Honolulu.

"VA is pleased to present the Golden Age Games for another year," said VA Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Tammy Duckworth. "The games showcase our senior veterans' spirit of competition and commitment to healthy activities."

Events at the games are open to all U.S. military veterans age 55 or older who are currently receiving care at a VA medical facility. Hosted by the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System, the games will have 14 competitive events, including swimming, cycling, horseshoes, bowling, croquet and air rifles.

The games have grown from 115 participants its first year to more than 700 in 2010. It is the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. It is one of the most progressive and adaptive rehabilitative senior sports programs in the world.

"To have this year's Golden Age Games in Hawaii has brought some logistical challenges to the event that took a fair amount of creativity between the sponsors and coordinators," said Marilyn Iverson, director of Veterans Canteen Service. "But challenges like this are well worth the effort, and I believe that everyone will love the results. This has been a labor of love for our veterans on this special anniversary of the Golden Age Games. The Veterans Canteen Service is honored to share the experience."

"Help Hospitalized Veterans is extremely proud to be once again a national co-sponsor of the Veterans Golden Age Games," said Mike Lynch, president and CEO of Help Hospitalized Veterans. "By participating, veteran patients gain a new sense of accomplishment and self-worth that can be life changing for many of them. The games are a proven therapeutic and rehabilitative program that enhances social interactions and helps rebuild self-esteem and confidence."

The 2011 games begin with a gala opening ceremony May 26 at Kuroda Field. Competitive events run May 27 to 31.

The National Veterans Golden Age Games serve as a qualifying event for competition in the National Senior Games in a number of competitive events. The National Senior Olympics are a community-based member of the United States Olympic Committee and recognize senior athletes as the best athletes in their respective age groups in the United States.

For more information about the National Veterans Golden Age Games and other VA national rehabilitation programs, visit VA's web site at:

www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov