Retiree News

Serving Hawai'i National Guard Retirees

Happy Holidays to you and your family

Issue 106 December 21, 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@hawaiiantel.net and you will be off the *Retiree News* mailing list.

BENEFIT UPDATES

★ **Big Win:** Congress Expands Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits. This December 17, 2010 article is from the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) website, posted the morning after Congress voted to approve the bill.

> Thousands of National Guard members who stood watch over federal property or flew air patrol missions over cities after America was attacked nine years ago soon can take advantage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill now that legislation prompted by NGAUS has passed Congress.
>
> A near-unanimous vote in the House of Representatives yesterday followed approval by the Senate earlier in the week.
>
> Congress' action on the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act fills a hole in the original bill, which passed in 2008 and became effective in 2009. That law was historic in its scope as it was the largest improvement to veteran education benefits since the original Montgomery GI Bill that followed World War II.
>
> However, the law inadvertently omitted fulltime Guardmembers who served under Title 32 status (federally funded but under state control). This includes most of the Guard's fulltime Active Guard Reserve personnel and those called by the president for such missions as Operation Jump Start on America's border with Mexico and Operation Noble Eagle, which provided security for airport and airspace operations following the 9/11 attacks.
>
> NGAUS pointed out the omission soon after the law passed and has pushed Congress to take action since then. Senator Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii introduced legislation correcting the oversight earlier this year. Representative Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, introduced a measure in the House. Some of its contents were merged into Akaka's bill.
>
> NGAUS members have responded to several Legislative Alerts asking that elected officials be contacted and urged to support the measure. A final Legislative Alert on the matter was distributed Wednesday and more than 1,000 NGAUS members took action prior to the House vote 24 hours later.

The views expressed in Retiree News are those of the editor and does not represent official policy of The Adjutant General or the State Department of Defense.

Retired MG Gus L. Hargett Jr., the NGAUS president, said, "We applaud Congress for bringing the letter of the Post-9/11 GI Bill in line with the spirit of the legislation. Thousands of National Guardsmen who helped secure our nation's skies, borders and sensitive facilities will soon be eligible for the educational benefits they were denied by inadvertent exclusions in the original measure.

"NGAUS was the first to bring the exclusions to the attention of Congress. And we worked hard with several members of the House and the Senate to eliminate them."

Hargett praised the membership of NGAUS for keeping members of Congress informed of the bill's importance to men and women of the Guard.

According to a report that accompanied the bill, an additional 131,000 Guardsmen will be immediately eligible for benefits. Each year, 8,000 more will qualify.

President Barack Obama is expected to sign the bill into law before the end of the year. It takes effect in August 2011.

The additional benefits include $1.8 billion in direct spending for the National Guard during the first 10 years it is in effect, but the costs will be more than offset by other provisions in the bill, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The new law also will:

- Allow veterans to apply their benefit to vocational and trade schools and distance learning in addition to four-year schools;

- Expand the housing allowance to more veterans;

- Increase assistance for the purchase of books and supplies; and

- Extend the time severely injured veterans and their caregivers have to use the benefit.

★ More on the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform Report. Rick Maze, a staff writer for *Military Times* wrote the following article about the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform report issued on December 1, 2010. In this article, he addresses the impact of the recommendations on the military.

UPDATE: the commission vote fell short of the required 18 to pass. But you should read the article because it identifies where they proposed to make cuts in the military budget.

Debt panel backs off on specific military cuts

A presidential commission looking for ways to trim federal spending is considering a revised plan that no longer includes specific military cuts, but would still require defense spending to be cut by the same percent as domestic spending. Gone from the recommendations are any specifics about exactly what to cut from defense. In fact, the plan unveiled Wednesday by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform specifically removed earlier proposals to freeze military pay and cut military retired pay as debt-reduction options.

The revised plan, contained in a report called “The Moment of Truth,” doesn’t mean military pay and benefits are off the hook. Instead, it means decisions would be made later, likely with Defense Department input.

Under the plan, discretionary spending, including defense, would be capped at 2008 levels for two years and then be allowed to increase by no more than half the rate of inflation. The Obama administration had planned a modest increase of 1 percent over inflation for the next five years, so the proposal would result in real but undefined cuts.

Military retired pay and health care are targets for future cuts under the revised plan.

It recommends a federal task force look at reforming government retirement, possibly making retirees wait until age 62 before receiving their first cost-of-living adjustment. Earlier draft recommendations would have made retirees wait until age 60 before they received any retired pay.

Similarly, the new report recommends a review of federal health care spending, including the military's TRICARE, with the potential for raising TRICARE premiums in the future. (*Emphasis added*)

A "firewall" would be created to prevent defense spending from being diverted to domestic programs. War spending would not be subject to the caps, but an annual limit would be established on contingency funds. The commission will vote on the recommendations, on Friday. It takes the approval of at least 14 of the 18 commissioners for the recommendations to go forward.

Former Senator Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., a commission co-chair, said he didn't know the outcome. "Whether we get two votes or 18, this baby is not going away," he said, predicting that when Congress tries to cut federal spending next year "this cadaver will rise from the crypt."

"There is no turning back now," said Erskine Bowles, the former Carter White House chief of staff who is the other commission co-chair.

On Monday, President Obama announced a proposed two-year salary freeze for federal workers, excluding uniformed service members. The report recommends a three-year federal wage freeze that also excludes the uniformed service members. The pay freeze also would apply to Congress.

The revised report omits previous recommendations to cut military force structure, but it recommends a 10 percent cut in the federal work force that includes Defense Department civilians. These reductions would be made by attrition.

Time magazine had interesting comments about the commission report in an article and graphic in the December 13, 2010 issue. Go to:

http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,2034358,00.html

http://www.time.com/time/interactive/0,31813,2034457,00.html

★ Air Force Survey Addresses Quality-of-Life Needs. San Antonio (AFRNS) -- The 2010 Caring for People Survey gives total force Airmen, civilians, retirees and family members an opportunity to voice their concerns on how the Air Force can better address their quality-of-life needs.

For the first time, this year's survey includes civilians, spouses and retirees to ensure the needs of the total Air Force community are captured, officials said.

With Airmen deploying in support of global contingency operations for two decades, developing and caring for Airmen and their families continues to be a high priority for Air Force leaders. "We need to provide for the physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual well-being of our Airmen and their families," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley during remarks at an Air Force Sergeants Association convention in August. "The needs of Airmen and their families, however changing they may be, are enduring, and we must continue to understand their needs and support."

The last survey was administered in 2008 and helped leaders identify four broad categories of services important to Airmen and their families: health and wellness, Airmen and family support, education and development, and housing and communities.

Insights from the survey and subsequent focus groups spurred the development of several initiatives for each category:

- Six bases are currently testing a new dining concept as part of the Food Transformation Initiative, which improves the quality and availability of food for Airmen.

- $140 million has been allocated to improve fitness facilities.

- Officials have programmed more than $250 million for dormitory improvements, and 23,000 privatized homes have been built or renovated.

- More than $10 million has been allocated to create an Air Force Single Airmen program.

The 2010 Caring for People Survey will continue to build upon the relevance of the 2008 survey so Air Force officials can capture trended data to allow for more robust analysis, said Curt Cornelssen, the chief of future operations for Air Force Services at the Pentagon. "In this climate of tighter budget constraints, it is imperative that we develop the best picture of what our Air Force community wants and needs, so we can prudently focus our resources," he said. "The last survey only had a 21-percent response rate, so we're hoping to far surpass that this year.

2010 Caring for People Survey (DAFA1S10-085)

"Taking care of our Airmen and families is one of the Air Force's top priorities. To help us provide the optimum mix of services and quality of life service programs for our Airmen, Families, and the Air Force Community, we request your participation in the 2010 Air Force Caring for People Survey." - **General Norton A. Schwartz**

The survey is anonymous and is being conducted by an independent civilian company on behalf of the Air Force. Please be candid in your responses so we can take the actions that will best support you and your family. Input from spouses is very important to the Air Force so please send offer your spouse an opportunity can complete the survey as well.

To begin the survey, please click on the following URL:
http://www.cfigroup.com/cfpsurvey

If you have difficulties opening this link, please contact CFI Group at: QoLsurvey1@cfigroup.com.

Please direct all other inquiries to the Caring for People Survey office at: 2010caring.forpeoplesurvey@pentagon.af.mil.

Thank you for providing your honest feedback!

★ 2010 tax form, pay statement availability schedule. Cleveland (AFRNS) – Air Force retirees with a Defense Finance and Accounting Service online myPay account can now download their annual account statements. Annuitant statements will be available online December 15.

There is no cost-of-living adjustment increase for military retirees or annuitants in 2011. COLA increases are determined each year based on the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers. The Department of Labor calculates the change in the CPI for goods and services from the third quarter average of the previous year to the third quarter average for the current year.

Although Congress and the Administration decide how much to increase federal pay, because military retirees and annuitants do not receive pay increases but cost-of-living adjustments, they rely on the final CPI results.

Internal Revenue Service 1099R forms for retirees and annuitants will be posted online December 14 and December 15, respectively.

Retirees who rely on the U.S. Postal Service for DFAS correspondence should begin receiving their account statements and 1099R forms December 16. Mailing will continue through December 31.

For annuitants, account statements and 1099R forms begin mailing December 19 through the end of the month.

Statements and forms are mailed to the address on file with DFAS.

Retirees and annuitants with questions about account statements or tax forms should call the DFAS Contact Center at 800-321-1080. (Courtesy of DFAS)

Related Link: DFAS tax information

★ The Total Force Service Center delivers personnel services to Active Duty Air Force, Air National Guard, Reserve, civilian and retiree populations through the Air Force's personnel services centers. TFSC Customer Service experts are available 24/7 to address all your personnel questions: 1-800-525-0102 or (210) 565-5000

★ Should I salute or place my hand over my heart? Congress recent passed a law to allow veterans to salute the flag. Many veterans were confused as to whether they were required to salute. The following article is from the September 2010 issue of *Afterburner*, the retiree newsletter published by the Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs office.

> Public Law 110-181 states "all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.
>
> All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, of is applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart,

Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

To clarify, retiree may salute or place their hand over their heart to render respect to the American flag.

★ Benefit Websites:

Press CTRL and Click on underlined title to go to the respective website. The information on these websites is 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	TriWest Healthcare Alliance
Veterans Affairs	VA 2011 Benefits Summary

RETIREE UPDATES

★ One of the people who have been on the *Retiree News* "Wanted List" for the longest time has surfaced. **Tom Gresch** sent in his email address. A year or two ago, **MSgt Mona Fujimoto** provided me an updated list of former and retired 204th Airlift Squadron members. She also had a list of people who she thought might be interested in *Retiree News* but didn't have their email addresses. Tom Gresch was one of them.

Last week, an email from Tom popped into the Retiree News inbox. In our subsequent email exchange, he provided the following update.

I was not "officially" a member of the Hawai'i ANG, but I always was treated like I was and as a result I always felt like I was a "real" member. I came to Hickam in January 1993 from Anchorage where I was the Commander of the 176th Composite Group (now 176th Wing). I was assigned to the Pacific Air Forces Headquarters as a 265 officer with the title of ANG Advisor to the PACAF Commander.

I was current in the C-130H and wanted to continue flying with the HIANG if at all possible. I visited with **Col Mike Tice**, **Lt Col Pete Pawling** and **Lt Col Ed Miyahira** and they told me that they thought it would be fine if it was approved by **Maj Gen Edward Richardson**. Gen Richardson said it would be okay and I was welcomed into what would become the 204th Airlift Squadron.

I flew with a great group of Guardsmen during my 3½ years at Hickam. My first flight was on February 7, 1993 with **Pat Oka** and my final flight with the 204 AS was on May 1, 1996. I flew with **Stan "Ulu" Snow** to Johnston Island and returned to Hickam. On May 16, the 204th threw a retirement party for me at Wah Kung. Yes, I was always welcomed by the members of the Hawai'i ANG. I officially retired July 1, 1996.

I departed Hawai'i at the end of May 1996 and moved back to Otis Orchards, Washington (as far East as you can drive on I-90 and still be in Washington). I remained retired until the fall of 1997 when the itch to fly again overcame me and I became employed as a pilot for ATA (American Trans Air). I flew for ATA until my 60th birthday in 2004 and then re-entered retirement.

My second attempt at retirement is working much better than the first. My wife Karen and I now spend our time between Eastern Washington and Southwestern Montana, either golfing or fly fishing. We have six grandchildren and their activities fill out the rest of our daily schedules.

Mahalo to the Hawai'i Air National Guard for a wonderful 3½ years.

Tom Gresch, Colonel, Retired

★ **Craig Harimoto** sent in a referral - **Thomas Suyemoto**, another HIARNG retiree. In our email exchange, Tom reported that he served with the 29th Infantry Brigade and his last assignment was with the Hawai'i Military Academy, where he retired as the Command Sergeant Major. Craig mentioned they bowl in the same league. Thanks for the referral.

Craig retired the other year after spending his entire HIANG career in the 154th Maintenance Group. In his email, Craig reported, "I guess you probably know but my wife and I are living in Las Vegas for a little over a year now and lovin' it. Our neighbors are so nice and it's great not having to work anymore. We just had breakfast with **Yvette** and **Ronnie Miraflor** this morning since they're passing through on the way to Hawai'i." Great hearing from Craig.

★ Ran into **Carl Tonaki** at the Warriors-UNLV football game. Carl retired from the 169th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron last year. He is fully retired and enjoying his retirement – just another smiling retiree. Didn't ask he and his wife are still jogging the streets of Mililani.

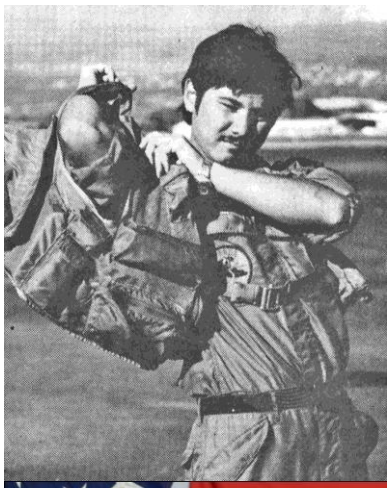
★ **Noburo Kon** sent in his email address. He served in the Hawai'i Army National Guard, both in the 29th Infantry Brigade (Separate) and the 103d Troop Command. He retired in 1993 as the Deputy G1. Great to add another HIARNG retiree.

★ *Retiree News* received an email update from **Gary Cera**, who served in the maintenance function at the 154th Wing for many years, and retired several years ago. Great update from Gary.

Since my retirement, I've been keeping busy with my car and home projects that seem to be endless. Caring for my grandkids between projects and taking short breaks traveling to Vegas to relax twice a year. And yes, I'm fully retired and at this point too busy to take on voluntary work.

★ **Kent Billings**, **Ed Cruickshank**, **Fred Fogel**, **Leroy Perry**, **Jim Reis**, and **Ray Starling** were some of the retirees who attended the 2010 National Guard Birthday Celebration. Retirees Command Sergeant Major Reis and Command Chief Billings looked great in their uniforms. It was a great evening. Hope to see more retirees at next year's celebration.

★ Checking Out Old Photos. This issue's photo first appeared in a 1978 *pupukahi*, the State Department of Defense's newsletter. The photo shows the then **1LT Gary Hara**, donning his flight gear on the Hilo tarmac.





He received his commission from the Hawai'i Army National Guard Officer Candidate School, Hawai'i Military Academy in 1972. He has served in numerous positions of increased authority and responsibility, including:

- Commander, Troop E (Air), 19th Cavalry

- Commander, 1st Battalion (Attack Helicopter), 193rd Aviation Battalion

- State Army Aviation Officer (SAAO), HIARNG

- Commander, 103d Troop Command

- Chief of Staff, Hawai'i Army National Guard

- Chief, Reserve Component Division, Multi-National Corps-Iraq

- Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Hawai'i

Brigadier General Gary M. Hara now serves as the Commander, Land Component Command for the Hawai'i National Guard.

He is responsible for the training, operational readiness, administration, logistical, and strategic planning for the Joint Task Force, and ensures the Joint Task Force is capable of responding to all State and Federal missions relating to homeland defense, homeland security, and natural disasters.

★ Received an email from **MSgt Myles Shiroma** of the 291st Combat Communications Squadron updating his email address. Myles retires from the HIANG on February 1, 2011 and is already on terminal leave. He has served in the squadron front office for many years, supporting several commanders along the way. Happy Retirement Myles.

★ Two pillars of the state maintenance office at the 154th Wing, **Glenn Castro** and **Carmen Waiwaiole** are retiring at the end of this month. Both have been part of the team that worked to keep the Hickam facilities clean and operational.

★ Ran into **Rick Richardson** and his wife **Celia** having dinner with **Tai Hong** and his wife **Pat** at a local bistro. Everyone looked great and was enjoying their dinners. At another table in the same bistro were **Richard Young** and his family celebrating with a holiday dinner. Richard is another smiling retiree.

★ 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….

Charles "Charlie" Mahelona Jr., 74, of Papaikou, Hawai'i, passed away on November 13, 2010. A retired roofer and an Army and Hawai'i Army National Guard veteran. He was born in Pepeekeo, Hawai'i. He is survived by hanai son Jeremy Rafael, stepsons Henry K. and Philip Rafael, stepdaughters Luana Kealaiki and Marcella Rafael, hanai sister Aiona Kalahiki, 15 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Cornell Itsuo Shimamoto, 56, of Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, passed away on November 23, 2010. A drywall construction worker, owner of a recycling business and National Guard veteran. He was born in Kealakekua, Hawai'i. He is survived by son Michael; daughter Alison; brothers George, Robert and Perry; and sisters Miyoko Mitsunaga, Rose Watanabe, Betsy Olores, Mae Dailey and Lillian Abe.

John C. Ward, 64, of Mililani, passed away on November 24, 2010. A retired Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard civil service employee and an Army and Hawai'i Army National Guard veteran, who served in Vietnam. He was born in Honolulu. He is survived by son Clayton K.; daughter Lianne Ignacio; sisters Belle Johnson, Cathy Ward-Rodrigues, Claire Brunn, Patricia Ward and Barbara Voss; and three grandchildren.

> In his email about SGT Ward's passing, **SFC Mel Tokuda** said, "Sergeant Ward was one of the great "makule Soldiers" of 227th and served until mandatory retirement age of 60 from the Hawai'i Army National Guard. Sergeant Ward was a combat Vietnam Veteran serving with the 'Big Red One.'"

Francis Kuakini "Smitty" Smith, 55, of Waipahu, passed away on November 29, 2010. A Hawai'i Army National Guard retiree and a city road maintenance division employee, died at home. He was born in Honolulu. He is survived by wife April H.; daughter Dawnne T.K.; brother George K.; and sisters Virginia Apaisa, Rolanda DeLude, Daveana "Anna" Medeiros and Rosette Smith.

Alexander Nagamine, 24, of Honolulu, passed away on December 4, 2010. A Cintas Uniform Co. warehouse manager and a Hawai'i Army National Guard member, died in Honolulu. He was born in Honolulu. He is survived by wife Kristin, daughter Katelyn, father Roy, mother Sa Galeai, brother Eli Fautua, sister Britannia Fautua and grandparent Helen.

Dale Kiyoshi Mishima, 63, of Hilo, passed away on December 9, 2010. A Waiakea Intermediate School cook, an Army veteran and Hawai'i Air National Guard member, died in Hilo Medical Center. He was born in Hilo. He is survived by daughter Kelsie M. Sueno; mother Elaine K.; and sisters Maureen Yamashita, Karen Hara, Charlene Hirano and Diane Nakasue.

Libert Yap, 82, passed away on December 10, 2010. A retired Chief Master Sergeant, he served as the NCOIC of the 154th Supply Squadron, retiring in the July1984. His son, **John Yap**, is a long time member of the State maintenance crew at the 154th Wing.

> Per **Henry Machado**, who emailed this information, the Chief's services are pending and probably will not be held until early January.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

★ Save the Date: Transfer of Authority Ceremony. **Governor Neil Abercrombie** will host a Transfer of Authority Ceremony in early January. **Maj Gen Darryll Wong** will assume the authority as the Adjutant General from **MG Robert Lee**.

The ceremony will be on Sunday, January 9, 2011 at Building 1898, the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquarters facility at Kalaeloa. The event will start at 1400. More details to come.

★ HIARNG General Officer Promotions. At the National Guard Birthday Celebration, the Adjutant General, **MG Robert G.F. Lee** announced that he received word from the National Guard Bureau about the promotion certificates for four Hawai'i Army National Guard officers. The officer's still face Senate confirmation which should take place later this month or in January. These officers will pin on their new rank when they are assigned to a general billet. BG Lee indicated that COL Wong will be the first promoted because she currently occupies a brigadier general billet. Congratulations to all!

BG Gary Hara, Commander of the Hawai'i Army National Guard, will receive his promotion certificate to major general.
Send congratulatory e-mail: gary.hara@us.army.mil

COL Arthur "Joe" Logan, Chief of Staff of the Joint Forces Headquarters, will receive his promotion certificate to brigadier general.
Send congratulatory e-mail: joe.logan@us.army.mil

COL Keith Tamashiro, Commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, will receive his promotion certificate to brigadier general.
Send congratulatory e-mail: keith.tamashiro@us.army.mil

COL Martha Wong, the Deputy J4 Logistics at Pacific Command, will receive her promotion certificate to brigadier general.
Send congratulatory e-mail: marty.wong@us.army.mil

★ Guardmember Selected as DAGS Deputy Director. Governor Neil Abercrombie has named **Ryan Okahara** as the Deputy Director of the Department of Accounting and General Services. He is a Traditional member of the Hawaii Air National Guard and serves as the Commander of the 154th Mission Support Group. Congratulations to Ryan.

Send congratulatory email: ryan.okahara@hickam.af.mil

★ FBI lauds Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy. Congratulations to Director **Rick Campbell** and his entire staff for doing a truly outstanding job at Youth Challenge Academy. The Youth Challenge Program and other youth programs are part of the State Department of Defense. The following is the Star Advertiser article about their FBI award, the 2010 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

> The FBI on Friday honored a Kapolei-based program dedicated to putting the lives of high school dropouts back on track.
>
> The Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy, the local chapter of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, was awarded the 2010 FBI Director's Community

Leadership Award. The award recognizes the achievements of individuals and organizations who make extraordinary contributions to crime and violence prevention, as well as education, in our communities.

The Hawai'i academy works to intervene and reclaim the lives of high school dropouts, providing graduates skills they need to succeed. Since it began in 1994, more than 2,578 cadets have graduated from the program. More than 2,200 have earned their high school degrees.

On average, the program reaches about 400 teens a year, through two sessions of 200 graduates.

Each of the FBI's 56 field offices selects one award winner each year.

Send congratulatory e-mail: rcampbell@hingyca.org

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

Promoted to Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt / E-9):

Paul K. Kamakawiawoole, 154th Maintenance Operations Flight
Send congratulatory e-mail: paul.kamakawiawoole@hickam.af.mil

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

Ramon M. Quizon, 154th Wing
Send congratulatory e-mail: ramon.quizon@hickam.af.mil

Mark M. K. Taketa, 291st Combat Communications Squadron
Send congratulatory e-mail: mark.taketa@hickam.af.mil

Promoted to Master Sergeant (MSgt / E-7)

Nolan J. Zoller, 203rd Air Refueling Squadron
Send congratulatory e-mail: nolan.zoller@hickam.af.mil

● HIARNG Officer Promotions. The Hawai'i Army National Guard G1 Branch staff provided the names of the following officers promoted in November 2010. Congratulations to all!

CPT Christine Leimbach, Hq, Hq Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion
Send congratulatory e-mail: christine.a.leimbach@us.army.mil

MAJ David Hatcher, Hq, Hq Battery, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery
Send congratulatory e-mail: david.michael.reid@us.army.mil

★ 154 SFS Assumption of Command Ceremony. The Commander of the 154th Mission Support Group, **Col Ryan Okahara** presided over the 154th Security Forces Squadron Assumption of Command Ceremony during the December UTA weekend. The new squadron commander is **Capt Nicholas Mitsunaga**.

Send congratulatory e-mail: nicholas.mitsunaga@hickam.af.mil

★ DOD Releases 'Don't Ask' Repeal Implementation Plan. There has been extensive coverage of the Comprehensive Review Working Group's recommendations for

implementing a possible repeal of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law. The implementation plan accompanied the working group's report also released, but focuses on presenting a phased course of action for military services to follow should Congress repeal the law that bans gays from serving openly in the military. Links to the both the Working Group's report and the implementation plan follow.

Special Report: Don't Ask, Don't Tell
http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/0610_gatesdadt/DADTReport_FINAL_20101130(secure-hires).pdf

Working Group's Support Plan for Repeal Implementation
http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/0610_gatesdadt/DADTReport-SPI_FINAL_20101130(secure-hires).pdf

★ Organizational News Links:

Press CTRL 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. Others on the list are former or retired members we want to contact. Please forward their new e-mail address to retireenews@hawaiiantel.net if you can share them. Thanks for your support.

Jason Nakamura
Tammy Szabo
Mark Waddell
Norman Chang
Chris Wilson
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@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.

Noburo Kon
Thomas Gresch
Thomas Suyemoto
Myles Shiroma (update)

Gary Teed (update) **Ian Tsuchiya**

★ 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*.

★ 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."