Retiree News

Serving Hawai'i National Guard Retirees

Issue 107 January 3, 2011

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

★ TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is available to all retired Guard and Reserve members, including those under the age of 60 (Gray Area Retirees).

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP), first authorized by Congress in 1997, offers one of the few affordable, comprehensive dental benefit programs available to the nation's Uniformed Services retirees, including members of the National Guard and Reserve who, regardless of their age, have transferred to Retired Reserve status (as defined under Title 10 of the U.S. Code, Section 10141(b)). The TRDP currently covers over one million Uniformed Services retirees and their family members.

Enrollees may seek care from any licensed dentist within the TRDP service area. Although they have the freedom to see any licensed dentist for their dental care, selecting a participating TRDP network dentist can save time money and paperwork. The participating TRDP network is expansive with over 100,000 offices nationwide.

As the nation's largest voluntary, all-enrollee-paid dental program, the TRDP offers coverage for diagnostic and preventive services, basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery, dental emergencies and a separate dental accident benefit with no waiting period. Additional benefits available after a 12-month waiting period include orthodontics, crowns, bridges, onlays, dental implants and full and partial dentures.

Retirees who enroll in the TRDP within 4 months after their retirement from active duty are eligible to waive the 12-month waiting period by providing appropriate documentation of their retirement effective date along with their application. To qualify for a waiver of the waiting period, retired members of the National Guard/Reserve must enroll within 4 months after receiving confirmation of their transfer to Retired Reserve status and must provide appropriate documentation supporting the date the transfer request was granted.

The TRDP carries a $50 per person annual deductible. The program also includes a family deductible cap of $150 and an annual maximum amount of $1,200 per person, against which preventive and diagnostic services are not counted. In addition to the annual maximum, the TRDP also has a separate dental accident annual maximum of $1,000 per person and a lifetime orthodontic maximum of $1,500 per person.

Eligible retirees and their family members can find answers to their questions about the program, as well as enroll, on the TRDP web site at www.trdp.org. Prospective enrollees can also call Delta Dental's toll-free number for the TRDP, (888) 838-8737, for program details.

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.

★ HNGA Officers and Committee Chairs. **LTC Rusty Spray** is the Hawai'i National Guard Association president. He and his officers, unit representatives, committee chairs and other key members continue to work for current and retired members. Their work with the State legislature has provided for increased benefits for Hawai'i National Guard members. Recent benefit gains include the higher tax exemption (now over $5,000 and indexed to annual pay raises) and the vehicle weight tax waiver.

This HNGA team continues to work hand in hand with the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) on the national level to lobby Congress for benefits, much needed equipment and construction funding. Over the years, benefit gains included unlimited commissary and exchange access, TRICARE coverage and the New GI Bill.

Many Guard officers were life members of HNGA and/or NGAUS before they retired. This life membership continues in to retirement. If you are a life member of NGAUS, you should be receiving the monthly *National Guard* magazine.

Retirees who were not life members before retirement can again become NGAUS members in two ways. Annual dues for retirees are $45.00 a year. A retiree life time membership is $125.00.

Retirees are always welcome. Retired Guard officers can still participate in annual meetings, golfing and other social events. You can also volunteer at these events or serve on committees.

Another important way you can participate is to write letters to Hawaii's Congressional members when grass root support in needed. With the impending budget deficit, the National Guard will be under the microscope for possible cuts in personnel, programs and equipment. There is talk about cutting back of our existing benefits or imposing increased charges or instituting charges for benefits now free.

A list of the officers and committee chairs of the Hawai'i National Guard Association team follows. Contact anyone on the list if you want to rejoin or volunteer. The military email addresses are embedded for almost all those listed.

President	Rusty Spray
Vice President Air	Duke Ota
Vice President Army	Mark Takai
Treasurer	Loren Penney
Membership Secretary	Jason Matsuoka
Corresponding Secretary	Stephanie Lee
Recording Secretary	Regina Berry
Unit Representatives:	
Joint Forces Headquarters	Reynold Hioki
HQ Hawaii Army National Guard	Walter Ross
29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team	Reuben Kim
29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team	Tim Spencer
29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team	Ryandale Fernandez
29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team	Carissa Tobin
103d Troop Command	Rogelio Agcaoili
103d Troop Command	Jennifer Rice
HQ Hawaii Air National Guard	Ryan Iwasaki

154th Operations Group	Dennis Matsuura
154th Maintenance Group	Montatip Morris
154th Mission Support Group	Robert Dongon
201st Combat Communications Group	Martin Moerschell
TAG Delegate	
Past President-Delegate at Large	Gene Feller
Joint Forces Headquarters Delegate	Ben Fuata
Army Company Grade Officer-Delegate	
Air Company Grade Officer-Delegate	
Warrant Officer Rep	Janell Coyaso
Retired Life Member-Delegate	Myron Dobashi
Retiree Rep –Army	John Penebacker
Retiree Rep –Air	Sandra Hoggan
Sponsorship Chairman	Brian Leong
Bylaws Committee Chairman	Robert Lesher
Corporate Sponsorship-Army	
Corporate Sponsorship-Air	Martin Moerschell
Resolutions-Army	Ben Fuata
Resolutions-Air	Ryan Iwasaki
Time and Place Army	Allen Tudella
Time and Place Air	Richard Cline
Awards-Army	Jennifer Rice
Awards-Air	Montatip Morris
Congressional Action Committee Officer	Suzanne Vares-Lum

★ Federal Benefits for Veterans. The 2010 Edition of VA's Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors booklet is available online. The booklet provides the rates for certain federal payments and outlines many programs and services provided by VA and other federal agencies. It also includes toll-free phone numbers, Internet addresses and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser. Go to:

http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp.

★ VA Urges Veterans to Sign Up for Direct Deposits. Washington - The Department of the Treasury announced a new rule that will extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to millions of Americans and phase out paper checks for federal benefits by March 1, 2013. Officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) urge Veterans to sign up for electronic payment of their benefits.

"Receiving VA benefits electronically will increase the security, convenience and reliability of these vital payments," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA encourages Veterans who are now receiving their benefits in paper checks to set up direct deposits before the deadline."

On March 1, 2013, VA will stop issuing paper checks. People who do not have electronic payments for their federal benefits by that time will receive their funds via a pre-paid debit card. Called the Direct Express card, it is issued by Comerica Bank as the financial agent of the U.S. Treasury.

Another deadline affects people receiving VA's compensation or pensions for the first time after May 1, 2011. Those people will automatically receive the benefits electronically.

Anyone already receiving federal benefit payments electronically will be unaffected by the changes. To learn more about the federal government's switch to direct deposit – or to change VA benefits to direct deposit -- visit www.GoDirect.org. Information about the federal government's "Go Direct" campaign is also available at 1-800-333-1795.

Along with payments for VA benefit, the change will also affect recipients of payments from Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board, or Office of Personnel Management.

For more information about VA benefits and programs, go to www.va.gov or call toll free 1-800-827-1000.

★ 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

★ As many already know, **Brig Gen Stanley Osserman** is an avid water sportsman – building his own boat, and winning fishing tournaments. He is an outstanding cook as the HQ Hawai'i Air National Guard staff members know. When he worked at HQ HIANG, he was a "dawn patrol" regular at Diamond Head and other surfing spots with his home made paipo board.

He recently sent me an email that said in part,

> If you want to check out my "secret life", I did an interview for the My Paipo Board website. There are even some old photos of me at Banzai Pipeline.

Go to:
http://www.mypaipoboards.org/interviews/StanOsserman/StanOsserman_2010-1211.shtml

★ 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 undated photo shows some of the HQ Hawai'i Air National Guard staff. From left to right: **Edward Richardson**, when he served as Commander, HIANG, prior to becoming the Adjutant General. The late **Charles Tasaka** was a chief master sergeant who took care of personnel issues at the Headquarters. Charlie later transferred to the Hawai'i Army National Guard. Everyone remembers Charlie's laugh. The late **Raymond Moriguchi** served as the Executive Support Staff Officer (ESSO) and retired as a colonel. His sometime gruff exterior was a cover for his heart of gold. The late **Richard Fukui** was the senior HIANG recruiter. Richard always drove a large "lead sled" vehicle. Not many knew he was a great musician who performed professionally earlier in his life.

★ 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….



Libert E. Yap, 82, of Kailua, passed away on December 10, 2010. A retired Hawai'i Air National Guard chief master sergeant, died in Kailua. He was born in Pauwela, Maui. He is survived by wife Roselani; sons Patrick "Ronnie," David and John; daughters Lorna Bick, Janice Napolis, Debra Taniguchi and Michelle Yap; brother Henry; sisters Margaret Louis, Catherine Casaquit, Charlotte Leong and Henrietta "Dutchie" Simmons; 14 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

★ **Update**: Hawai'i National Guard General Officer Promotions. In the last issue, *Retiree News* reported that four Hawaii Army National Guard colonels were awaiting Senate confirmation of their promotion certificates to general. Senate confirmation did take place prior to the Congressional Christmas recess. In addition, a Hawaii Air National Guard officer, Col Michael Compton received his promotion certificate. These officers will pin on their new rank when they are assigned to a general billet. Congratulations again to these officers.

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

Col Michael Compton, Commander of the 109th Air Operations Group, will receive his promotion certificate to brigadier general.
Send congratulatory email: michael.compton@hickam.af.mil

COL Arthur "Joe" Logan, Chief of Staff of the Joint Forces Headquarters, will receive his promotion certificate to brigadier general.
Send congratulatory email: 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 email: 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 email: marty.wong@us.army.mil

★ 154 FSS Remodeling Affects Car Decal Issue. The 154th Force Support Squadron will be remodeling its facility in January. **Lenore Lee** sent the following email covering the temporary work around procedure for getting car decals.

> I was told by **SMSgt Robert Joy** that remodel to FSS will take place on 11 to 21 January 2011. Can you please e-mail all the retiree that I will be not issuing decal at FSS during the 11 to 21 January 2011. I will also be taking off from work to attend the Sony Open from 10 to 14 January 2011. I will be back to work on 18 January 2011. Have them call my office at 448-7260; someone will have to escort them into the compound and issue decals from my office. Again decals will be issued from my office during 11 to 21 January 2011. Call first and make arrangement to have someone met you at Gate 14 only. Phone number is 448-7260 or 448-7261.
>
> Have a safe New Year!!!

★ HIANGSAFA Benefit Cookbook. The HIANG Spouse and Family Association plan to publish a benefit cookbook and are in the process of collecting recipes. **Mrs. Kimberly Kim**, the association president sent the following email with more information.

> Dear HIANGSAFA members and friends,
>
> We are in the process of collecting recipes for our HIANGSAFA/Family Readiness Cookbook. You may submit as many recipes as you wish. Please ensure you have your first and last name, and section your recipe will belong too, i.e., pupus, deserts, beef, chicken, etc. Deadline for recipes to be submitted is April 30, 2011.
>
> In addition, if you have a child who is 12 and under, we will be having a drawing contest. Criteria for this drawing contest will be sent out shortly. All recipes will be accepted through this email, 154wgsls@gmail.com. Recipes from everyone, family and friends are all accepted and very much appreciated.

★ 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.

Mark Johnson
Glenn Castro
Clyde Maeda
Michael Nakahara
Carmen Waiwaiole
Bert Hamakado (update)
Francis Stone
Dwayne Lim

★ 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*.

★ TAG Transfer of Authority Ceremony. **Governor Neil Abercrombie** will host an Adjutant General Transfer of Authority Ceremony. **Maj Gen Darryll Wong** will assume the authority as the Adjutant General from **MG Robert Lee**.

When: Sunday, January 9, 2011

Where: Building 1898, Kalaeloa
29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquarters facility

Time: 1400

★ 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."