



Hawaii Regional CG Retiree Council Newsletter



February 09, 2010

QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 09 FEBRUARY 2011

Our next quarterly meeting is at 1900 on **Wednesday 09 February** at Club 14. Normally the meetings are held the second Wednesday of the second month of each quarter. We usually complete any business within an hour preceded and followed by a social adjustment period. Let us know if you are not a regular attendee but have an idea or two that might make you more inclined to join in.

OUR NEW WESITE

Thanks to E.B. Lawson at D14, EB has put on the D14 website a link for retiree's. It is straight forward and has a link to forward any questions to Rod and Tom. EB has also attached our newsletter to the site so that it can be opened and viewed. Website: <http://www.uscg.mil/d14/cmd/assoc/rc/>
Pass it on to your friends and fellow retirees!

EMAIL

We are going to try and go paperless to save postage and paper. If you know of any retiree with an e-mail list and would like to receive this please have them get a hold of Rod or Tom and we will set you up. If you want to get a message out to everybody on our email list, please send it to Tom or Rod who will, if its "politically correct", relay it to all hands as blind copies. You can call Tom @ 672-9065 (home) or 221-3274 (cell). Please leave a message if I don't pick up.

BINNACLE LIST

We have not been told of any retiree's that have passed away or are ill since our last meeting.

If you know of any local retirees or retiree spouses who are sick or have passed away, please contact: Tommy Dutton Council Co-Chair DuttonM003@Hawaii.RR.Com or Rod Schultz, schultz369@gmail.com

QUESTION ON RETIREE DEATH NOTICES on PSC Website

Our website has been updated to provide a monthly listing of retirees who have crossed the bar. The first list was posted this month. You will find this information on the RAS website, left hand side of the page under TAPS.

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/>

Debbie Farley

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The Social Security Administration has announced [there will be no increase in Social Security benefits payable in January 2011, nor will there be an increase in SSI payments](#). Beneficiaries in other federal programs, including civil service and military retirement, and those drawing veterans' compensation and pensions, also will not receive a COLA in 2011 because their COLAs are tied to Social Security's under current law.

In April 2009, the Congressional Budget Office [projected, that under current law there would be no Social Security COLA for 2010 to 2012](#).

From the PPC Topeka Blogsite: <http://uscgppc.blogspot.com/2011/01/irs-1009r-forms-are-online-for-retirees.html>

IRS 1009r Forms are Online for Retirees and Annuitants

You can use [DA/Global Pay Self Service](#) to view and print your 2010 IRS 1099r form. [Follow the procedure in this guide to access the form](#). Please note pay slips and 1099r forms will open in a NEW WINDOW. Turn off the pop-up blocker in your web browser to view pay slips and 1099r forms. In Internet Explorer, click on TOOLS to access the pop-up blocker options. Review the "[First Time Logon Guide for Retired Pay Self-Service](#)" guide if this is your first time using self

service. Hard copy 1099r forms will be mailed by the end of January. If you retired in 2010, you will also need a W-2 form. 2010 W-2 forms will be mailed by PPC (ses) by the end of January.

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON CRITERIA

R 301814Z DEC 10

FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-12//

TO ALCOAST

BT

UNCLAS //N01650//

ALCOAST 615/10

COMDTNOTE 1650

SUBJ: OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON CRITERIA

A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 291931Z APR 10/ALCOAST 215/10 B. MEDALS AND AWARDS MANUAL, COMDTINST M1650.25 (SERIES) 1. REF (A) ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COAST GUARD OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO ASSIST IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY, SPECIFICALLY FOR THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES:

A. OVERSEAS IS DEFINED AS DUTY OUTSIDE THE FIFTY UNITED STATES AT A SHORE BASED DUTY STATION OR ON-BOARD A CUTTER PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO AN OVERSEAS AREA.

B. U.S. TERRITORIES ARE CONSIDERED OVERSEAS. THEREFORE, MEMBERS THAT HAVE SERVED OR ARE NOW SERVING ON PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION ORDERS TO GUAM, PUERTO RICO, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND AMERICAN SAMOA ARE AUTHORIZED THE OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON.

3. THE RIBBON MAY BE AWARDED RETROACTIVELY TO PERSONNEL WHO ARE CREDITED WITH COMPLETION OF A TOUR OF AT LEAST 12 MONTHS OF OVERSEAS DUTY. INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING AWARDS FOR SERVICE PRIOR TO THE APPROVAL DATE OF THE AWARD, 28 OCT 2009, ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE INITIAL AWARD ONLY. PERSONNEL REQUESTING VERIFICATION OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE DOCUMENTATION TO THEIR UNIT COMMANDER TO SUBSTANTIATE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE AWARD.

4. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO A FUTURE CHANGE TO REF (B).

5. POINT OF CONTACT: MS DENEEN DAY AT EMAIL DENEEN.A.DAY@USCG.MIL OR CWO VICTOR HUGHES AT EMAIL VICTOR.E.HUGHES@USCG.MIL.

6. CURTIS B. ODOM, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, SENDS.

7. INTERNET RELEASE IS AUTHORIZED.

BT

For CG Retirees and Veterans who are eligible for this award, please follow the guidelines under the Board of Corrections for Military Records (BCMR) procedure with supporting documentation to CGHQ. Details can be found through this link: <http://www.uscg.mil/legal/BCMR.asp>

HAWAII RETIREE DATA BASE

Rod Schultz and Tom Dutton have a list of all CG retirees and annuitants residing within the 14th CG District. We are willing to share that list with any of you who ask. Due to privacy considerations the list will include only grade, full name, city, state, zip code and retirement date. If asked we can arrange for a particular individual on the list to contact you with his/her street addresses and phone number.

COAST GUARD PARTICIPATION IN THE ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME (AFRH) SYSTEM

The 2010 Coast Guard Authorization Act was signed by President Obama on October 15, 2010. With the signing of this bill, among other things, comes the authority for the Coast Guard to fully participate in the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) System and a great opportunity to honor our enlisted and warrant officer shipmates by providing those who qualify a safe and affordable retirement residence.

The benefits of the AFRH are extensive. The AFRH facility provides retired enlisted and warrant officer residents with a safe and secure place of residence. Residents enjoy such amenities as three meals a day, 24-hour security, private rooms, and extensive recreation facilities including a professionally equipped fitness center, golf course, bowling lanes, movie theatre, art studio, and wood-working shops. In addition, residents are provided a continuum of quality medical care including outpatient dental and medical services, hospital, accredited assisted and long-term nursing care, and access to licensed specialists in optometry, podiatry, mental health, internal medicine, and diabetic care. The monetary support provided by the Coast Guard and other Armed Forces will make it possible for our shipmates to take advantage of these benefits for a monthly resident fee that is predetermined based on a percentage of his/her total income.

All enlisted, warrant officer and certain commissioned officer (10 or more years of active duty enlisted/warrant service) retirees with 20 or more years of active duty are eligible to become AFRH residents similar to our DoD counterparts if they meet one of the following requirements:

A veteran with 20 or more years of active duty service* and at least 60 years old, or a veteran unable to earn a livelihood** due to a service connected disability, or a veterans unable to earn a livelihood** due to injuries or disease and who served in a war theater or received hostile fire pay, or a female veteran who served prior to 1948.

* Those who have been retired under Chapter 61 (disability) with less than 20 years of active duty are not eligible for AFRH unless they meet the requirement of #2 or #3 above.

** 'Unable to earn a livelihood' generally means that a veteran has been rated 100% disabled or unable to work by the Veteran's Administration.

Non-regular reserve retirees and retired commissioned officers (the latter without 10 or more years of active duty enlisted or warrant service) are not eligible to reside in the AFRH as retirees and thus not subject to the monthly pay deduction when in an active status.

The 50 cent monthly deduction will begin in April 2011. The deduction will be started by the Pay and Personnel Center and will not require any action by the service member.

For additional information regarding the AFRH facilities and services, please visit the Armed Forces Retirement Home website at www.afrh.gov or see the AFRH FAQs located on the MCPO-CG's Corner at www.uscg.mil/mcpocg. For information on tours, or volunteer opportunities, contact volunteer@afrh.gov or call 202-730-3410.

Questions regarding Coast Guard participation in the AFRH System, including questions about the required monthly deduction, may be directed to the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard via the Gold and Silver Badge networks.

With Fewer Resources, Coast Guard Will Be Doing Less, Papp Says

(DEFENSE DAILY 13 JAN 11) Calvin Biesecker

With an aging cutter fleet and even a shore in frastructure that is "woefully falling behind," the Coast Guard will have to do less, Commandant Adm. Bob Papp said yesterday.

Papp would like money to be able to recapitalize the Coast Guard's assets at a higher rate but he understands the difficult budget environment. Still, speaking to the Surface Navy Association in Arlington, Va., Papp said not to expect the service to keep doing more with less.

"The fact of the matter is I'm going to start talking about doing less with less," Papp said. "If we're only going to be resourced to a certain level we need to perform at that level. It's always our obligation as officers to step forward and inform our seniors what can't be done and not to gloss over them and say we can continue to get that job done at the level that we've always done with these minimal resources."

Papp said his top budget priority is "recapitalization of our multi-mission surface fleet." He pointed to ongoing casualty issues with the service's cutter fleet.

He said that 10 of the "major" cutters the Coast Guard sent to Haiti early last year as part of earthquake relief efforts suffered major breakdowns, two of which were forced into port for major repairs and one that had to go into an emergency dry dock availability.

The problem isn't due to ineffective management or oversight but simply the fact that the ships are old and aging, Papp said. For example, the service's 12 378-foot Hamilton-class high endurance cutters have an average age of 40-plus years. The Navy's fleet is about 14 years old, he said.

The Coast Guard is undergoing a major recapitalization effort of its operational assets called Deepwater. The National Security Cutter will eventually replace the high endurance cutters. So far, two NSCs have been built, one is about 75 percent complete and a fourth was just put on contract last month.

But the Coast Guard only plans to build eight NSCs, presuming it continues to get administration and congressional support for the build plan. But eight ships won't replace 12 "very well," Papp said. That's why the service is going to try and rely on new crew rotation that will allow for more time at sea and why the C4ISR systems being installed in the vessels are state-of-the-art, he said.

The Coast Guard will need all eight NSCs if it is to meet its missions, which require four to five of the vessels to be under way at a given time, Papp said.

Despite the budget constraints, Papp also said that it's important for him to "get the best for our people out there. And at the end of the day, at the bottom line, it is the people that get it done."

PHL Navy To Acquire Largest Ship In Inventory

(GMA NEWS (PHILIPPINES) 23 JAN 11)

The Philippine Navy is in the process of acquiring its largest ship: a Hamilton class US Coast Guard cutter.

"We are negotiating for the acquisition of a US Coast Guard cutter. through the FMS or Foreign Military Sales," said Navy chief Rear Admiral Alexander Pama on Sunday.

Other details of the impending acquisition, including the price, are still being discussed, Pama said, adding that "it is in the realm of the possibility" that the ship will be acquired this year.

"Right now, we already reached the stage that we already have an understanding, meaning to say we are about to send a formal letter request," he said.

The Hamilton class cutter was the largest class of vessel in the US Coast Guard until replaced by the National Security Cutter. Pama said the ship, once acquired, will boost the Navy's capability, particularly in the conduct of patrol in the high seas and in search and rescue operations during disasters. It will also be the first kind in the inventory of the Navy whose modernization is being hampered by lack of funds.

The US Coast Guard introduced 12 Hamilton class cutters in the 1960s. From 1980 to 1992, these vessels were modernized under the Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization, including the upgrading of the mounted gun.

Navy spokesman Capt. Giovanni Carlo Bacordo said former Navy chief Rear Admiral Danilo Cortez inspected the cutter ship during a visit to the US last November. Cortez retired early this month and was replaced by Pama.

"I think it's in the finishing stages," said Bacordo of the negotiations to acquire the ship. "We expect this to be in country maybe by first semester of 2011," he added.

Bacordo said the cutter ship will be the largest vessel in the inventory of the Navy since it is about 380 feet in length. The largest surface combatant ship of the Navy at present is the destroyer escort BRP Rajah Humabon, which is about 308 feet in length.

DISCOUNTS AT LOWE'S AND HOME DEPOT

Lowe's and Home Depot are still offering discounts. They have a 10% discount for active duty and retiree's. Dependents are also entitled to this discount. Please be ready to provide your ID card. All you have to do is "ASK".

