

Webmaster Comments 18.02.24

Congratulations to BG Kenneth Hara. He will become the G3 operations officer at U.S. Eighth Army in Korea. It is a dual hat position similar to those held by other Hawaii National Guard officers in recent years. He remains the Deputy Adjutant General and the Commander of the Hawaii Army National Guard.

More in the Star Advertiser article <http://www.staradvertiser.com/2018/02/23/hawaii-news/guard-commander-takes-on-overseas-duties/>

Commissary issues. Retiree News recently posted two articles about the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA).

In the "About DeCA" on their website, the commissary is presented as "a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families. Authorized patrons purchase items that are variably priced plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones."

The DeCA has been under increasing Congressional scrutiny. The Congress wants to reduce subsidies and make commissaries more self-sufficient. In response commissary store brands are becoming a larger portion of the store inventory.

Freedom's Choice is the commissary store brand name for food items and HomeBase for nonfood items such as paper products and other household items. DeCA's store brand inventory also includes TopCare products such as first aid supplies, vitamins, over-the-counter medications and beauty care.

With increasing competition from Costco, Sam's Club and other commercial businesses, DeCA is faced with some major challenges. During last year's Congressional session, there was even talk about combining all commissary and exchange operations (like currently at Fort Shafter). Several Congress members "tested the water" with a "food allowance" in exchange to doing away with commissaries.

Definitely more to come on commissaries....

Janine's retirement. Special Happy Retirement and Congratulations to **MSgt Janine Obando**. Janine joined the Hawaii Air National Guard in late 1980s. She later left Hawaii with her active duty husband. She became a member of several Guard units during his follow-on assignments. After his retirement, they settled in Florida where she became a member of the Florida ANG. During her tenure there, she received a national award for her work in the social actions area. She retired earlier this month in a ceremony hosted by the Commander of the Florida ANG. A great individual.

More photographs needed. Special thanks to the Retiree News followers who sent in photographs for posting. Since the new year, you have seen an increase in the number of "Check Six" postings with old photographs. These photographs are great because they show airmen, equipment and locations in earlier times. They do bring back memories of times past when we were all younger.

If you have any old photographs of Guardmembers, could you scan them to JPEGs and email them to me – retireenews@gmail.com. Your action will be appreciated.