

Life & Leisure



Chris Farley, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific caretaker and U.S. Navy veteran, moves flowers away from a gravesite prior to trimming the grass around it.

Veteran caretakers continue service at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity Hawaii

The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) is the final resting place for many military veterans who served across the globe. The gravesites and memories of these men and women are maintained every day with dignity, compassion and respect by military veteran caretakers to ensure they are honored.

Seventeen veteran caretakers are responsible for the upkeep of 112.5 acres of land that serves as the resting place for 55,000 individuals interred. They also ensure the preservation of the memorials at the Honolulu Memorial's Courts of the Missing. The memorials honor 18,096 veterans who served in World War II, 8,200 who served in the Korean War, and 2,504 who served in the Vietnam War.

Charles Winder, National Memorial of the Pacific (NMCP) caretaker and U.S. Navy and U.S. Army veteran, works meticulously to ensure the work he does at the cemetery is the best he can deliver.

"What we do is very detail-oriented," Winder said. "To us, the small things matter and keeping a nice neat appearance, a professional appearance, is very important because the veterans that made the ultimate sacrifice for us deserve nothing less. We take our mission statement very seriously."

Caretaker responsibilities at the cemetery are diverse, with tasks to provide maintenance, turf management, irrigation and aiding in conducting burials and interments. Winder said the work he does is more than just a job for him.

"It's a very emotional feeling that fills me with pride that I have the privilege to take care of our nation's vets," Winder said. "I get heartfelt 'thanks' on a daily basis so it's a very rewarding job and being a veteran myself, one day I plan to be interred here. What a great feeling to know I will lie next to our nation's heroes and I will be taken care of just as well."

Working with veterans at the NMCP reminds some caretakers of when they served years earlier and acts as a way to be a part of something greater.

"I thought it would be great to work with veterans," said Misty Dods, NMCP caretaker and U.S. Army veteran. "I remember getting issued my uniform and standing in formation in the brigade. It was an awakening for me to know I was going to be a part of something great. It was a proud moment, a tear eyed moment for me, and continues on today."

Chris Farley, NMCP caretaker and U.S. Navy veteran, attributes much of his success to his parents. His father served as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Marines and his mother worked as a registered nurse. Both of Farley's parents are now buried at the NMCP.

"It's nice to be here and to take care of the grounds with this memory right here," Farley said. "My father was a big influence on my life. He was a Marine aviator so I had been around Marine and Navy bases up until then. Of course he motivated me in a few other ways so I joined the Navy. He made me proud being in the service."

Farley said that his daily work reminds him of the impact he and his coworkers have at the cemetery.

"I find myself reading the markers a lot when were doing maintenance," Farley said. "There's a picture in the office that shows a service and the honor guard is handing the flag to a little boy. Obviously he lost his dad, so I try to keep that in mind when I work here every day."

Veterans like Winder, Dods and Farley continue to ensure the memory of the deceased and those who have fallen remain honored. Their work helps ensure that the nation's heroes are respected by 5 million visitors a year that their story lives on.



Misty Dods, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific caretaker and U.S. Army veteran, cuts and clears grass while maintaining the cemetery's grounds.



Chris Farley visits the gravesite of his parents at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.



Chris Farley (left), National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), caretaker and U.S. Navy veteran, and Francis Alger (right), NMCP caretaker and U.S. Army veteran, replace gravesite head stones on Jan. 2.



Chris Farley maintains the cemetery grounds.



Banner year ahead for MWR youth sports at JBPHH

Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

If your child is interested in sports but isn't quite sure what he or she wants to get into, then Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) is the place to be.

Throughout the years, Joint Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation Youth Sports has catered a smorgasbord of activities to encourage children at JBPHH to get active, and this year is no different.

Besides seasonal sports such as baseball, basketball, flag football, volleyball, junior team tennis, track and field and soccer, MWR Youth Sports offers year-round activities that includes First Tee (golf) and gymnastics to go along with camps and clinics.

"It's very exciting," said Jim Cosper, MWR Youth Sports director. "Our numbers are growing, and as new members come on base it's great that we have all of these opportunities for them."

While youth sports already covers the interest of most children on base, Cosper said that he is continually on the lookout for ways to reach more families.

Currently, MWR Youth Sports is holding signups for fastpitch softball for ages 9-12, and Cosper is already thinking of additional offerings for 2016.

"We're trying to get softball started and right now we have an interest list," he said. "We'd also like to get cheer started. Cheer would be great if we could get that off the ground and running. I know other bases have it and we do have a high demand for it also, so we're looking to start that in the fall of next season."

With so many programs available, Cosper said that he couldn't think of a better way to help support troops and their families.

Not only do these programs provide family time for the base's Airmen and Sailors, but it also offers them a chance to give back to their comrades.

"It's very rewarding, but it's not the staff that works here, it's the volunteers that make the program," he said. "With volunteers, parents, the children themselves, it really does help to make it a great program here on joint base. We are very fortunate to have volunteers step up and make this the program that it is."

The amount of volunteers has helped MWR Youth Sports break ground into other ventures to keep meeting the needs of military families.

Recently, youth sports has reached out to kids as young as 3 years old with their Peewee Sports program.

"Peewee has four components," Cosper said. "We have soccer, baseball, basketball and flag football. Peewee would be for motor-skill development and once you hit five, you can progress into team sports."

"It seems every season there is more demand for that age group to get the children more actively involved in athletics. We hope that parents choose to put them on that path. They get to be with children their age and get to have formal instruction on the sport that they would be possibly playing in the future."

As Cosper looks beyond 2015, he said that he wishes that the Army would join the Hawaii Military Youth Athletic Association, where joint base and Marine Corps Base Hawaii have been members for past few years.

An alliance with all of Oahu's military bases, he said, would offer kids more interaction and experience within their sport of choice.

If parents are wondering about enrolling their children, Cosper said stop by the office or call MWR Youth Sports at 473-0789.

"We're not out there looking for the all-stars," he stated. "We want those that have never played the activity and we want to develop those children. If I were to introduce parents and their child to the program, I would say take the leap. We're affordable. Speak to your neighbors. I guarantee they are involved in one way or another. Please join us."

For more information, visit the web at www.greatlife-hawaii.com.



Simple system can give you a total-body workout

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

It is another fresh new year and as in so many previous other times, people are looking for ways to shed the holiday weight with healthy eating and exercise.

While standard ho-hum workouts can be tedious and time intensive, new trends toward total fitness can have you in and out of the gym quickly without sacrificing quality.

Instead of dividing cardio days from resistance training days, systems such as Total Resistance eXercise (TRX) allow you to combine both into one fast and efficient workout.

TRX is held twice weekly, among a plethora of other fitness classes offered, at both Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center and Hickam Fitness Center.

Tina Iha, who leads the class at Hickam every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., said that in her many years of being a certified fitness specialist, TRX is among her favorites because of its productivity and versatility.

"Being in the fitness field for 28 years, I find any time you work with your bodyweight, it's more safe," she said. "You get to tone quicker and lose faster than just working out in the gym."

For those who are unfamiliar with TRX, the system is suspension training that uses your own bodyweight for resistance.

Although the workout is much more gentle on your body than using free weights, Iha said that the system can be tweaked to push elite athletes.

"The nice thing about TRX is that there are always modifications," she pointed out. "You can be a grandma and still do it. There are different levels to TRX."

During each session, Iha eases her class into TRX with a five-minute warmup that leads into the more intense phase of the workout before finishing off the one-hour session with a cooldown.

Since the exercises are dependent upon resistance generated by the angle of your body, each trainee can adjust

each movement according to their own level of fitness.

"The further you lean down, the harder it is," said Pat Goding, a Department of Defense civilian, who was at her first class with Iha but has been training with it for awhile. "If you stand up more, it's going to be a lot easier, so it's really for anybody."

While the resistance may not be enough to build massive muscles, Iha said that the benefits of TRX go beyond weight training alone because of its cardio effect.

And by comparison, TRX can burn more calories than doing traditional cardio movements.

"The difference between getting on the treadmill and coming to TRX is that you're toning your whole body," Iha explained. "You're building muscle mass and cardio at the same time, so your heart rate is higher. During a five-minute warmup, you can burn double the amount (than a treadmill)."

As proof that TRX works, Senior Airman Josh Mann, 647th Force Support Squadron (647 FSS), has been attending the class for about a week and said that he has noticed a big difference in his body.

"I don't even do half the exercises, but I feel like I've got a workout," he said. "I feel like I've lost a lot of weight and some inches off my waist. I haven't done the actual measurements yet, but these pants used to be tight. Now I have to pull them up every couple of minutes."

Another plus of TRX is that because it is so compact, you can take it anywhere you go.



Pat Goding shows good form in her TRX workout with instructor Tina Iha and Senior Airman Josh Mann during a session at Hickam Fitness Center.

"You can travel with it," said Judy Kosaka, DoD civilian. "It doesn't take much room and the range of exercises are endless. You are just limited to your creativity."

Goding said that she takes hers to the beach.

"You can do it anywhere," she said. "You can throw it in your suitcase, you can take it outside, attach it to a tree branch or a fence."

If you haven't tried it or are thinking about just getting back into fitness, then Iha said give TRX a try. It could be just the thing to put you back on the road to a better you.

"It's a great idea," she said. "I definitely recommend it for all ages."

For more information on this and other fitness classes, visit the web at www.greatlifeohawaii.com.



Runners participating in the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Resolution 5K Run take off from the starting line. Prizes were awarded to the top racers in their respective divisions.

Runners start the year 'on the right foot' at Resolution 5K Run

Story and photos by
SrA Christopher Stoltz

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Public Affairs

Nearly 190 men, women and children participated in the Hickam Fitness Center Resolution 5K Run, held Jan. 10 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

Sponsored by JBPHH and the Hickam Fitness Center, the Resolution 5K Run allowed participants to travel approximately 3.1 miles and begin 2015 on a healthier note, as one participant stated.

The race, which began at the Hickam Fitness Center, had runners racing to the Porter Gate, curving near the Historic Hickam Officer's Club, and returning down Signer Boulevard, as they raced toward the finish line, back to the fitness center.

At the end of the race, winners in their respective classes were treated to prizes, including drink containers and backpacks, among other items. Prizes were given to winners in the men's, women's, children's and even stroller divisions.

"We (the fitness center staff) believe the event was an absolute success," said Master Sgt. Steven Brettler, fitness section chief, 647th Force Support Squadron. "We

had a showing of approximately 190 people and the numbers have continually grown in the last few months."

The next opportunity people will have to lace up their running sneakers will be during next month's Valentine's Day 5K, slated for Feb. 14. Brettler said he wishes to see even more participants as the year progresses.

"We feel it is important to have these runs because they help foster esprit de corps amongst the participants," he said. "It is always refreshing to see their faces and expressions as they are crossing the finish line."

For more information, call the Hickam Fitness Center at 448-2214, or visit them at 1120 Vickers Road.



Race participants pass the halfway point Jan. 10 during the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Resolution 5K Run.



Jonathan Napier, first place overall, strolls into the finish line.



Individual runners weren't the only participants found at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Resolution 5K Run held Jan. 10. Parents with strollers were able to compete against other stroller-pushing parents to compete for prizes.



Live the Great Life



Photo Courtesy Ko Olina Ocean Adventures

Tours offered through ITT give customers a chance to get closer to the humpback whales in their natural environment.

MWR offers whale watching in Hawaii

Justin Hirai

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The humpback whales, or *kohola* whales in Hawaiian, have arrived to the warm waters of Hawaii. Their migration to the islands usually spans from November through May, and peak whale watching season is usually January through March.

The humpback is a protected endangered animal, and it is believed that only 30 percent of their original population still remains. Visitors and *kamaaina* alike go on boat tours for a chance to see these gentle giants while they visit the islands.

The Joint Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT) office will offer scheduled whale watching tours every Saturday, beginning Jan. 31 through April 4.

Tours include round-trip transportation from the Hickam ITT office to the Ko Olina Marina, located on the west side of Oahu, and the cruise.

The cost of the tour is \$45 for adults and \$40 for children 0-11 years old. For more information on the whale watching tours, visit www.greatlife.hawaii.com or call any ITT office.

Those who can't attend any of the ITT whale watching tour dates can check with ITT for discounted tickets and specials for other cruises. There are a variety of whale watching cruises throughout the island, and ITT offers specials for some of the top vendors in the state.

MWR ITT Offices phone numbers are:

- Fleet Store: 473-0792
- Hickam: 448-2295
- NEX mall: 422-2757
- Barbers Point: 682-2019
- Wahiawa Annex: 564-4445



MWR Marketing photo

Patrons can hear live music while dining at the deck at Sam Choy's Hapa Bar.

Live music returns to beachside lounge

Reid Tokeshi

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

recently took to the stage on the deck and other musicians are scheduled to fill the calendar.

The venue is tucked back in the base near Hickam Harbor. The addition of live music is the restaurant's way of offering more to the customer. For more information about the current musical lineup, call Sam Choy's at 422-3002.

Returning after a break for the holidays, Sam Choy's Island Seafood and Grille has brought back live music every Thursday and Friday in the Hapa Bar from 5 to 7 p.m. Local artist Tavana

Your Weekly Fun with MWR

Visit www.greatlife.hawaii.com or subscribe to MWR's digital magazine Great Life Hawaii.



"On Location" Photography Workshop conducted by Hickam Arts & Crafts Center staff will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at Lili'uokalani Botanical Garden, 123 N. Kuakini St. Students should consider bringing rain gear, sunscreen, insect repellent and a tripod and should pack a lunch. Tuition is \$25. FMI: 448-9907.

Wood Shop Safety class will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. Upon completion, participants will be issued a safety certification card enabling them to use the shop tools and equipment and to go on to more advanced woodworking classes. The cost is \$20. FMI: 448-9907.

Youth Spring NFL Flag Football Registration period for youth ages 5 to 15 years old opens Jan. 19 and closes Feb. 20. The season runs March through June. The fee is

\$70. Registration is available online at www.greatlife.hawaii.com. FMI: 473-0789.

Youth USATF Track & Field Registration period for youth ages 9 to 18 years old opens Jan. 19 and closes Feb. 20. The season runs March through August. The fee is \$40, which does not include USATF membership. Registration is available online at www.greatlife.hawaii.com. FMI: 473-0789.

Monday Night Kid's Night will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Jan. 19 at Sam Choy's Island Style Seafood Grille. Children ages 12 years and younger can get a free kid's meal with the purchase of an adult entrée. A bounce house will be available for children to play in from 5 to 7 p.m. FMI: 422-3002.

Ford Island Historical Tour will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon Jan. 21. Points of interest on this guided tour include the USS Utah and

USS Oklahoma Memorials, the Navy Club Memorial honoring the USS Arizona, historic Nob Hill officer homes, and bombing and bullet strafing reminders. Round-trip transportation from the Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT)-Hickam office is included. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children ages 3 to 11 years old. FMI: 448-2295.

Kids' Book Club will begin at 2 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Library for youth in fourth and fifth grades. The "Third Wednesday" group will discuss "The Westing Game." FMI: 449-8299.

Paint 'n' Sip will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Historic Hickam Officers' Club. An instructor will lead patrons step-by-step through the featured painting for the session. No experience is necessary. All art supplies are included for \$40. Beverages and food are available for purchase. Advance

registration and a \$20 deposit are required with the balance payable in cash at the door on event night. FMI: 448 9907.

Liberty's Barracks Bash will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 22 at Gabrunas Hall. This free event is for single, active-duty military E1-E6 only. FMI: 473-2583.

Hickam Historical Tour will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jan. 23 with visits to the original World War II Hickam Field buildings. The tour departs from the ITT Hickam office and from Royal Alaka'i Lodge and includes lunch. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$40 for children ages 3 to 11 years old (there is an additional \$10 per person charge for pickup at the Hale Koa hotel). Due to the nature of the tour, it is not recommended for children under 6 years old. FMI: 448-2295.

JANUARY**SUICIDE PREVENTION PRESENTATION**

TODAY — Navy Region Hawaii will hold a suicide prevention presentation from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Jan. 16 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. The guest speaker will be Lt. Col. George Corbari, who fought his own personal battle against suicide. All hands are encouraged to attend. Commands may count this for suicide prevention general military training. FMI: 474-0045.

PASSENGER TERMINAL HOURS CHANGE

NOW — The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Passenger Terminal's hours of operation have changed. The terminal will remain open seven days a week, but it will be closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. daily. Roll calls will be advertised between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. The terminal will open one hour prior to the roll call time to allow passengers to sign up and mark themselves present for the flight. Passengers are able to sign up for travel using the remote sign-up process. All flight information will remain available through social media and the pre-recorded telephoneservices. FMI: https://www.facebook.com/HickamAMC?ref=br_tf or call 449-6833.

HOSC SCHOLARSHIPS

NOW — The Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club is now accepting applications for scholarships. All college-bound military family members are eligible, including high school seniors, current students and spouses. Applications and eligibility information are available online at www.hickamosc.com. Applications need to be postmarked and mailed by March 9. FMI: email hoscscscholarship2015@gmail.com.

ASMC SCHOLARSHIPS

NOW — The Aloha Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) is providing college scholarships this year to Hawaii high school seniors entering a field of study directly related to financial/resource management, such as business administration, economics, accounting and finance. Applications are due March 6. Application and submission requirements are located at the chapter website at <http://chapters.asmc.org/aloah/awards-4/>. FMI: email mary.c.garcia@navy.mil or call 473-8000, ext. 6320.

LONG WEEKEND GETAWAY

SATURDAY — Joint Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) will hold a free long-weekend getaway camp at Bellows Air Force Station with Liberty. Departures will be from the following Liberty centers: Express at 2:30 p.m., Beeman at 3 p.m., Instant at 3:15 p.m. and Makai Recreation at 3:30 p.m. The event is for single, active duty military E-1 to E-6 only. FMI: 473-2583.

MWR NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON

21 — Joint Base MWR will hold a free Newcomers Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Tradewinds Club ballroom. The event will include a buffet lunch, information booths, prizes and giveaways. The event is open to families and will include activities for children. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com.

**WILD (R)**

After years of reckless behavior, a heroin addiction and the destruction of her marriage, Cheryl Strayed makes a rash decision. Haunted by memories of her mother Bobbi and with absolutely no experience, she sets out to hike more than a thousand miles on the Pacific Crest Trail all on her own. This film powerfully reveals her terrors and pleasures — as she forges ahead on a journey that maddens, strengthens and ultimately heals her.

SHARKEY THEATER

TODAY 1/16
7:00 p.m. The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies (PG-13)

SATURDAY 1/17
2:30 p.m. Annie (PG)
5:00 p.m. The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies (PG-13)
7:50 p.m. Wild (R)

SUNDAY 1/18
2:30 p.m. The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies (3D) (PG-13)
5:30 p.m. Exodus: Gods and Kings (PG-13)

THURSDAY 1/22
7:00 p.m. Exodus: Gods and Kings (3D) (PG-13)

21ST CENTURY SAILOR OFFICE

23 — Rear Adm. Richard Snyder, director of the 21st Century Sailor Office, will participate in an all hands call from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Bloch Arena, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. In addition, an all hands call will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Theater.

NEW YEAR'S LOCK-IN

23-24 — The Hickam Teen Center will hold a 2015 New Year's lock-in from 7 p.m. Jan. 23 to 7 a.m. Jan. 24 for teens ages 13 to 18. The cost is \$25 or \$20 with a canned food donation. The event will celebrate National Pie Month and it will include games, snacks and prizes. FMI: 448-0418.

COLOR THE COSMOS DAY

24 — A ribbon cutting will begin at 2 p.m. for the grand opening of Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor's exhibit showcasing student enhanced astrophotography images. The exhibit is part of the Smithsonian affiliate "Youth Capture the Colorful Cosmos" program. FMI: 441-1007 or www.pacificaviationmuseum.org.

FITNESS CHALLENGE 2015

24 — A free Fitness Challenge 2015 will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center. Patrons can sample different genres of classes, including kickboxing, yoga, shimmy fitness and more. The challenge is open to all eligible patrons. FMI: 471-2019.

HART UTILITIES WORK

26 — the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) will begin work on Kamehameha Highway near Makalapa Gate and Radford Drive next to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, which will include single lane closures in the eastbound direction.

Drivers will experience staggered single lane closures along Kamehameha Highway in the eastbound direction for pole and camera installations, and intermittent closures of the right lane exiting Makalapa Gate heading east.

Right turns onto Kamehameha Highway will be controlled from the center lane by Honolulu Police Department officers.

HART began roadwork on the Airport Section Utilities Project along Kamehameha Highway on Jan. 5. Work near Radford Drive includes staggered single lane closures in the westbound direction for potholing and utility probing. Construction work takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Motorists should follow posted speed limits and other signs in the construction areas. FMI: www.honolulutransit.org.

TAX ASSISTANCE CENTER

30 — The Navy Tax Assistance Center will open at the start of the tax season. The self-service model center will be located at the Navy College building, 1260 Pierce St., building 679, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in classroom 11. The tax center will be open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. FMI: ursula.m.smith1@navy.mil or 473-0443.

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY 1/16
6:00 p.m. Wild (R)

SATURDAY 1/17
4:00 p.m. Penguins of Madagascar 3D (PG)
7:00 p.m. Top Five (R)

SUNDAY 1/18
2:00 p.m. The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt. 1 (PG-13)

MONDAY 1/19
2:00 p.m. The Penguins of Madagascar (PG)
Special "matinee showing" receives a free soda (any size) with a purchase of a large popcorn.





Participants attend a previous Discover Your Future in Aviation event. This year's event will take place March 7.

Is your future in aviation?

Story and photos by
Pacific Aviation Museum
Pearl Harbor

Young people interested in aviation as a career, as well as school groups, Scouts, and families can attend Discover Your Future in Aviation from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 7 at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.

This is the sixth year for this special aviation day, which features aircraft flyovers, remote control aircraft demonstrations, hands-on activities, career information, interactive science exhibits and a scavenger hunt. Guests can

climb into the cockpits of some of history's greatest aircraft and take photos in authentic flight gear.

Participants may enter to win aviation prizes and Boy Scouts can fulfill requirements for merit badges.

Admission to Discover Your Future in Aviation is \$6 per person pre-sale online and \$10 per person at the door. Those who wish to attend can purchase tickets online at www.PacificAviationMuseum.org. They can board the free Ford Island shuttle from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

For more information, call 808-441-1007 or email Education@PacificAviationMuseum.org.

Free tax preparation, advice available to military families

Nick Simeone

DoD News, Defense
Media Activity

WASHINGTON (NNS) — With the new year comes the annual dread of tax-filing season and the confusion and stress that can go along with it, especially for military families whose tax returns can be further complicated by frequent relocations, involvement of rental properties and other aspects of military life.

To ease the burden, the Defense Department, through Military OneSource, is teaming again this year with H&R Block to offer no-cost tax preparation to the military community with a promise of guaranteed accuracy, a service that otherwise could cost military families hundreds of dollars or more.

Military OneSource offers no-cost tax consultation and no-cost tax preparation and filing to service and family members, as well as to Reservists regardless of activation status, survivors, and separated service members until 180 days after their retirement, discharge or end-of-tour date, Anthony Jackson, a Military OneSource program analyst, told DoD News.

Because it is online, the service is available to eligible tax-filers regardless of where they are. "They can do one federal and up to three state tax returns — again, at no cost to the service or family member," Jackson said.

This year, he said, the service is adding features to accommodate those with special tax-filing needs. "If your tax situation includes rental property, charitable deductions or mortgage interest, this software can accommodate those particular situations," he explained.

Tax experts also are available by phone at no cost for anyone who may have questions before they get down to using the online tax preparation software.

"You're getting individuals when you're talking tax consultants who are thoroughly educated on the military situation, no matter what it is," Jackson said, including knowledge of special tax exemptions for combat duty and other situations unique to the military.

The tax service being offered by Military OneSource became active this week.

Military OneSource was established by the Defense Department in 2002 to provide comprehensive information on military life free of charge.



During last year's Living History Day event, a re-enactor portraying Gen. Douglas MacArthur made a special visit to the USS Missouri to not only command his crew but also visit with guests.

'Mighty Mo' to host Living History Day Jan. 31

Story and Photos by Battleship Missouri Memorial Association

History will come to life from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Battleship Missouri Memorial during a day of festivities for visitors of all ages in Living History Day.

Guests of the Battleship Missouri Memorial at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will see and experience first-hand a variety of historical exhibits and activities designed to be entertaining and educational. This includes:

- Displays of military vehicles, memorabilia and weaponry.
- Access to tour special areas of the Battleship Missouri,

including the captain's cabin and the radio room.

- Military musical bands.
- Oral history presentations.

• Re-enactors in historical period dress and costumes.

• Static displays from active-duty military units.

• A vintage aircraft flyover.

Admission is free for *kamaaina* (Hawaii residents), members of the armed forces and Mighty Mo members with valid I.D. The event is open to the public. Guests can visit the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center to get tickets on the day of the event.

Complimentary round-trip shuttle service for the event will be offered from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center begin-

ning at 8 a.m. for those without base access.

Since opening in January 1999, the Battleship Missouri Memorial has attracted more than 6 million visitors from around the world with a tour showcasing the USS Missouri's unique place in history. Located a mere ship's length from the USS Arizona Memorial, the Mighty Mo completes a historical visitor experience that begins with the "day of infamy" and sinking of the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 and ends with Imperial Japan's surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945.

For more information, call (toll-free) 1-877-644-4896 or visit USSMissouri.org.



My Favorite Photo...

Capt. Dean Tufts, commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii, took this photo recently of the NAVFAC Hawaii flagpole including the U.S. and POW/MIA flags.

How to submit: send your non-posed photo to editor@hookelenews.com.

NEX focuses on fitness with fair

Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) will hold several upcoming events.

• "A Better You" Fitness Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily now through Jan. 27 at the NEX mall.

NEX has partnered with health and fitness organizations to help patrons with healthy-living resolutions.

Partners include Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, TRICARE, Joint Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness and others.

• Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will begin at 8 a.m. March 28 at the NEX mall food court lanai.

The event will include food and games, glitter tattoos, balloons and other activities. The cost is \$12 for children and \$8 for adults.

The event is open to authorized patrons only. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of March.

For more information, call 423-3287 or email Stephanie.Lau@nexweb.org.