

FIRED UP!

Aviation Ordnance Airman Lawrence Taylor spins fire during a fire jam in Honolulu.

Story and photos by
MCSA Rose Forest

Navy Public Affairs Support Element Det. Hawaii

In the amphitheater of Honolulu's Kakaako Waterfront Park, fire cuts through the darkness painting circles and arches before twisting away again. At first glance, this is rather alarming, but when the fire lights up the performer who masterfully dances with it, the look on his face is complete control.

This is Honolulu's famous fire jam. Founded more than nine years ago, it has grown to be a city-sanctioned event that is known far outside the borders of Oahu.

"We have people come to watch us perform from all over the world," said Jerimiah Simpson, one of the members of the fire jam organization. "People will come to visit and hear about us and come out for a night. Most people haven't seen anything like this before, especially not for free."

One of these fire dancers is Aviation Ordnance Airman Lawrence Taylor. Taylor is attached to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Sailor said he loves his job, and dancing with fire. Taylor said he is one of several Sailors stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam who are performers at the fire jam.

"I guess the Navy and fire don't usually go together," said Taylor. "But with all the safety precautions we take I feel comfortable, and it's a way to express myself. This is my outlet and I love it."

Taylor lights his staff, takes the stage, and begins — spinning fire in wide circles before dragging it along the ground, creating a line of flame on the concrete.

"You find such a different kind of focus doing this," Taylor said. "Everything turns into a blur but the fire, what you are doing, is in perfect focus."

Often, there is live music or a DJ and young children gather to watch the performers dance with a very dangerous partner.

"Yes, fire can be dangerous, there is no doubt about it," said Simpson. "But safety has been our number one concern from the beginning. We have fire blankets and fire extinguishers in the hands of people who know how to use them, and we rotate out so no one gets tired."

In the nine years since its inception, a community has grown around this performance art.

"You definitely see a community here," said Micah Thrasher, performer, "not only in the dancers but in the people who come out week after week to see us perform. You get to meet some really cool people."

For those interested in these performances, they occur every Thursday from about 7:45 to 9:45 p.m. in Kakaako Waterfront Park in the amphitheater.

(Left) Jerimiah Simpson, one of the founding members of fire jam, spins fire.

Aviation Ordnance Airman Lawrence Taylor is up close and personal at fire jam.

John "Dragon" Lim, performer, "breathes" fire.

Burn off the holiday calories with cycle fitness

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

If you're looking for a way to torch some excess weight and get yourself in shape, then put your pedal to the metal and burn calories with cycles fitness classes from your partners in health at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center and Hickam Fitness Center.

The class, conducted by instructor Jeanne Newberry, keeps your body engaged with the right touch of coaching and upbeat music that makes you want to keep those wheels turning.

"Generally, what I try to do is make it so that all fitness levels can come," Newberry said. "My Tuesday, Thursday classes at Hickam, I've got a lot of retired people. We got people that road cycle and people that come for the first time. And we try to make the music good."

The pace of the class is varied and Newberry keeps in tune to the beats, but reminds cyclists to go at their own speed and push only as hard as their condition allows them to go.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tonya Williams, a recent

arrival to the islands, said that she has taken cycling classes in many different places during her military career.

While it was her first class at JPBHH, she said she enjoyed the pace and that Newberry was as good as any instructor she has encountered.

"It was a good class and I got a good workout," Williams said. "It was intense and I enjoyed it. Time passes so fast."

Williams added that cycling has been a great way for her to keep in shape and also avoid the nagging injuries that plagues many other types of fitness regimens.

"You have variety and it's also low impact," she pointed out. "And it still burns a lot of calories."

Newberry stated that one of the biggest benefits of cycling is that it burns calories like nothing else that she has tried.

Although each individual is different, she said that it's not uncommon for her to burn up to 800 calories per each one-hour session.

"It's hard to say because I burn calories differently than somebody that does this four times per week or somebody that does it two

times per week," she said. "I usually burn around 800 – sometimes more, sometimes less. It's really effective cardio. Get it in an hour, you're done and it's a big calorie burn as opposed to being on the treadmill."

In a typical class, Newberry said that attendees could expect to cycle from 17-20 miles.

The excellent cardio workout, Newberry said, is a great addition to help anyone reach his or her fitness goals.

"If you're lifting weights three times per week, you have to balance it out with cardio," she stated. "This burns more than running."

Although Newberry is a strong advocate of cycle fit, she said she understands that people have different needs and wants.

If you're about to embark on a fitness program, Newberry said that you should do what you like to do. That way, you're more likely to continue doing it.

"It depends on the person," she acknowledged. "Everything is different. I tell my people you have to find something that you enjoy. If you come in here and force yourself to ride a bike, you're not going to stick with it. I've got people



Cycle Fit instructor Jeanne Newberry leads a recent class of spinning enthusiasts at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center. Newberry said the class is a great way to burn calories and could be used to round out your fitness program.

that have been doing it here on the base longer than I've been teaching."

For times and dates of each cycle fit class, call Hickam Fitness Center at 448-2214

and JBPBH Fitness Center at 471-2019, or visit the web at www.greatlifeohawaii.com.

Naval Health Promotion team provides instruction

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii's (NHCH) Health Promotion team provides instruction on topics such as quitting smoking, healthier food choices, heart health, managing cholesterol and blood pressure and metabolic testing.

NHCH tobacco cessation classes are held in four sessions a month. Classes are from 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Kaneohe Branch clinic and Wednesdays at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

The tobacco cessation class includes reinforced behavioral and cognitive

skills. Medications are available. The classes are open to all active duty service members, retired military and family members.

In addition, the NHCH Health Promotion team will hold commissary walkthroughs to guide patrons toward healthier choices every fourth Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the Pearl Harbor Commissary and every fourth Wednesday of the month at the Kaneohe Commissary. Patrons are asked to sign up before the walkthroughs.

A healthy heart class will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. every third Thursday of the month at the JBPBH Fitness Center, classroom two. The

class instructors will teach the TLC (therapeutic lifestyle change) way to manage high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

The Health Promotion team can also do metabolic testing. The test identifies participants' target caloric zones for weight loss. Patients are required to attend the Nutrition 101 class prior to testing.

When preparing for the metabolic test, patients must have no food or beverages (except water) for four hours before the test. They must have no physical activity for four hours and no tobacco use the day of testing.

For more information, call 471-2280.

Museum to hold Tuskegee Airmen hangar talk

A hangar talk titled "Tuskegee Airmen Then and Now" will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor theater.

Tuskegee Airman Philip Baham, Dr. Dorothy Goldsborough and a panel of experts will discuss stories and the legacy of the

first African-American military aviators who served during World War II.

The event is free with regular museum admission and free to museum members. For more information, call 441-1000 or visit www.pacificaviationmuseum.org.



NFL all-stars spread message of fitness on JBPHH

Story and photos by Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

The NFL Pro Bowl returned to the Aloha State in perhaps the largest gathering of pro football all-stars assembled in one spot.

While many think that the players are just here to compete in the annual event, the athletes also participate in quite a few community outreach events throughout the islands and here on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

On Jan. 22, nearly 20 of the game's most accomplished players volunteered their time to bring the message of fitness to a selected group of middle school children at Ward Field on JBPHH.

Spreading the message of the league's fitness program called NFL Play 60, players such as Andrew Luck, Cam Newton and Darrelle Revis joined with community volunteers in a mini-football camp that got the children up and moving.

In addition, several NFL cheerleaders were also on hand to lead a group of kids through a few of their routines.

Play 60 was initiated by the NFL in 2009 and is prominent during the league's most important events that includes the Pro Bowl, Super Bowl and the draft, and is supported by many NFL players and coaches year round.

Luck, who is a strong advocate of Play 60, admitted that in this day of modern technology, it's really important to encourage kids to get out and play for at least



Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton demonstrates how to run a drill at a mini-football camp for NFL Play 60 at Ward Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

60 minutes each day. "One, it's healthy for you," Luck said. "It's good to be outside and is there any better state to be outside than Hawaii? And two, it's fun. I know my favorite memories as a kid were outside with

my siblings, friends or waiting for my dad to come home from work to throw the football around or kick a soccer ball or shoot hoops or whatever it was. I always enjoyed that rather than sitting inside."

Lt. Col. Andy Cruz, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces (HQ PACAF), was on hand to watch his 12-year-old son Brandon participate in the various drill stations spread over Ward Field. Cruz, who also coaches youth

sports, said that he understands the need to keep his children active and always encourages his son to go outside and play.

"It's making sure he's active with different sports," Cruz said. "And he plays outside with the neighborhood kids; that's important."

While Cruz said that he doesn't have a problem with getting Brandon to be active, he appreciated the fact that so many elite athletes of the NFL are spreading the message of fitness.

"We really appreciate them coming out supporting the military," Cruz acknowledged. "The last two years I've been coming out, and it's just really great and nice for them to come out. I get excited too because I really like sports."

Luck said that if any parent might be wondering how to get and keep their children moving, he advises them to pick out an activity that they can do with their kids.

The all-star quarterback indicated that if it wasn't for the loving efforts of his father, he doesn't know where he would be today.

"Do it with them," he said. "My sisters, brother and I used to wait for my dad to come home from work and no matter what, he would play with us. Whether it was five or 10 minutes outside, he would throw a baseball or organize a game of Horse. He was always available no matter how stressful the day was (for him). Looking back, I really appreciate it."



Carolina Panthers tackle Jordan Gross conducts a flag-pulling drill at the recent NFL Play 60 event at Ward Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

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www.hookelenews.com or www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii

Local flag football league welcomes base military

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Mike Todd, a military veteran and current Department of Defense civilian at Joint Intelligence Operation Center, agrees with many of Hawaii's military personnel that flag football should be held all year long.

Todd, who regularly participates in Morale, Welfare and Recreation's intramural sports on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, said that while he enjoys the variety of sports held on base by MWR, he recognizes that many of Sailor and Airmen have football on their minds.

"Guys want to play football all year round," Todd said. "If they want it, why can't they get it?"

With the thought of football going on for 12 months, instead of just a season, Todd plucked down his own hard-earned cash and bought a league of his own.

On Jan. 25, Hawaii's Finest Flag Football (HFFF) kicks off with a full slate of the games at 10 Acres Field in Mililani.

Todd said that he expects around 30 teams for the coming season and that the player-friendly league is open to civilians and all members of the armed forces.

"What makes us different is that this is a true players' league," Todd pointed out. "If they (players) have good ideas, they bring it to me and I incor-



Mike Todd, owner and commissioner of Hawaii's Finest Flag Football, shakes hands with Cy Collen, after Collen signed up a team to participate in the coming HFFF season. The HFFF is open to both civilians and all members of the armed forces. The season kicks off on Jan. 25 at 10 Acres Field in Mililani.

porate them. The league is for the players by the players."

On his website, www.hawaii'sfinestflagfootba.com, Todd states that the league is the most structured adult flag football league in the islands.

"We got OIA (Oahu Interscholastic Association) refs, we'll have tents provided for your shade, we bring water, we have scoreboards, we keep stats and we've got the fields," he said. Todd said that he would also

offer incentives for teams that play in the HFFF.

Champions of the season will earn free enrollment, while second-place finishers will get \$150 off with third- and fourth-place squads also getting a dis-

count. "And finally, we won't do trophies. We do title belts."

The league, Todd said, is also a very good way to bridge cultural differences between military and local communities.

"What I'm trying to do is bring the military guys together with the local boys," stated Todd, who is a longtime resident of the islands.

Cy Collen, who will be going to the officer's training school for the Hawaii Air National Guard in the summer, signed up a mixed team of military and civilian players to participate in the upcoming season.

Collen, who is currently an eighth-grade teacher at St. Joseph School in Waipahu, said that he has been a part of the league for four years and loves the format.

"I like the competition, and the rules is a lot different than a couple of other leagues that I've played in," he said. "The other leagues is like if it's a set rule, that's it. Here we have a say in it."

Although this will be Todd's first season as owner and league commissioner, he is already thinking about ways to expand the league.

Getting the men's season off the ground is job one right now, but he is also thinking of getting the women on board with a season of their own.

"I love the game," he said. "I want to make sure that everyone has something."



Live the Great Life

ITT's whale watching cruise returns



MWR Marketing photo

Patrons glimpse a whale from the catamaran while whale watching with ITT.

Reid Tokeshi

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Every winter, humpback whales migrate thousands of miles from the northern waters of Alaska to Hawaii. The warm water surrounding the islands is the preferred spot for the whales to give birth and nurse their young.

This annual migration provides an opportunity to see these giant sea mammals in their natural environment. Whale watch cruises are popular activities at this time, and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT) offers a tour of a relaxing cruise while patrons search for humpbacks.

Long drives and parking

are not a problem on ITT's tour. Patrons can park at the Hickam ITT office where they will be driven in air-conditioned transportation to the Ko Olina Marina and board a catamaran. Then they can try to spot the whales as they break the ocean surface.

If they are lucky, participants in the tour may see a whale perform a slap of their tail or fin, or a mother whale with young.

The sight many people hope to see is the breach, in which the whale actually jumps partially out of the water, landing with a huge splash.

ITT's Whale Watching Cruise is offered every Saturday and Sunday, departing the base at noon, now through April 6.

The price is \$45 for adults and \$40 for children age 11 and younger. Peak season is now through March.

For more information, visit any ITT office or call 448-2295.



MWR Marketing photo

MWR patrons listen to tour guide Jesse Higa at the flagpole inside the traffic circle on the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Personal stories bring Hickam Historical Tour to life

Reid Tokeshi

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Hickam Historical Tour includes views of decades-old buildings that still bear the marks of bullets, historical sites and memorials.

Tour guide Jessie Higa discusses the personal side of Hickam's history, includ-

ing World War II. She shares anecdotal stories and first-person accounts from the memories of those who lived through the events.

Mark Saruwatari, tour director, said that the personal accounts are what make this tour unique. Saruwatari added that unlike other excursions offered around the island, this tour "is the only one of its kind. There is no other tour for Hickam."

The tour includes information about the unique botanical and architectural landscape of Hickam, which is why it is also known as the "Garden City."

The Hickam Historical Tour departs at 9:30 a.m. every Friday from the Hickam ITT office. The price is \$45 for adults and \$40 for children ages 3 to 11 and includes lunch. For more information, call the ITT office at 448-2295.

Your Weekly Fun with MWR

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



Phat Friday with DJ Magic and DJ G-Flava will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight tonight at JR Rockers Sports Café. Patrons can listen to music by the USAF's own DJ Magic and DJ G-Flava. FMI: 448-2271.

Texas Hold'em will begin at 5:45 p.m. with check-in and play beginning at 6:15 p.m. tonight at Tradewinds Enlisted Club, Oahu Room. This is a members-only event. Reservations are recommended. FMI: 448-2271.

Chinese New Year Celebration 2014: Year of the Horse Tour 2: Chinatown Food & Historic Tour will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45

p.m. Saturday, departing from Information, Tickets and Travel-Hickam. The event includes a visit to the Hawaii Heritage Center for a briefing and sampling traditional treats, a guided tour at a street festival and Chinese-style dim sum lunch. FMI: 448-2295.

Beginners Golf Clinic will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday at Mamala Bay Golf Course. Patrons can learn how to play the game of golf. FMI: 449-2304 or 449 2305.

Chinese New Year Celebration 2014: Year of the Horse - Tour 3: Chinese New Year Parade and Dinner will be held from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday departing from

Information, Tickets and Travel-Hickam. The event includes a visit to the Hawaii Heritage Center for a briefing and sampling traditional treats, a street festival and parade and Chinese-style dinner. FMI: 448-2295.

Family/Group Sailing Instruction will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday at Rainbow Bay Marina. The activity is open to participants who are age 10 and older. FMI: 473-0279.

Liberty Ukulele Lessons with Uncle Roy will begin at 11 a.m. Jan. 27 at the Beeman Center. This free event is open to active duty single service Airmen/Sailors only. Participants can register at www.greatlifehawaii.com. FMI: 473-2583.

Woolly Wednesdays, a weekly drop-in knit and crochet group, will be held from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. Participants of all skill levels are welcome. A ball winder and swift will be available for use. FMI: 448-9907.

Liberty Eat the Street will be held Jan. 31 with pickups from the following Liberty locations: Liberty Express at 3:30 p.m., Beeman Center at 4 p.m., Instant Liberty at 4:15 and Makai at 4:30 p.m. This free event is open to active-duty single service Airmen/Sailors only. Participants are encouraged to bring money. They can register at www.greatlifehawaii.com. FMI: 473-2583.

Valentine Origami will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 Feb. 1 and 8 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. Participants can learn to make origami valentines for their friends and sweetheart. These sessions are open to youth age 7 and older. FMI: 448-9907.

Women's Surf Class will begin at 9 a.m. Feb. 1 at Outdoor Recreation-Hickam Harbor. Participants need to sign up by Jan. 29. They can learn the history of surfing, wave science, etiquette and technique. Participants must be able to swim without a lifejacket. FMI: 449-5215.

Morale Welfare & Recreation

WOOD SHOP SAFETY CLASS

The Hickam Arts & Crafts Center will host a wood shop safety class from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25. This class emphasizes the proper and safe use of tools and equipment in the wood hobby shop. Upon completion, participants will be issued a safety certification card enabling them to use the shop tools and equipment. Preregistration is required. FMI: 448-9907.

YOUTH GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Registration for youth girls fastpitch softball runs now through Feb. 7. The season runs from March through June. Registration is open to youths ages 9-12. FMI: 473-0789.

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD

There will be a stand-up paddleboarding trip to the North Shore beginning at 9 a.m. Feb. 1. Departures are from the Outdoor Adventure Center-Fleet Store. Transportation, instruction and equipment are provided. Participants must be able to swim without a lifejacket. The deadline to register is Jan. 30. FMI: 473-1198.

VALENTINE ORIGAMI

The Hickam Arts & Crafts Center will hold Valentine's Day origami classes from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 1 and Feb. 8. Classes are open to ages 7 and up. FMI: 448-9907.

MWR SUPER GARAGE SALE

The MWR Super Garage Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 15 at Richardson Field. Admission is free for shoppers. FMI: 473-0792.

PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS

Now through March 28, private swim lessons are being offered in 30-minute sessions for individuals and for groups of up to three students (must all be at same level). Registration is at Hickam Pool 2 during normal open hours. FMI: 260-9736.

RESUME WRITING WORKSHOP

Writing Your Best Resume workshop will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 4 at Military and Family Support Center-Pearl Harbor. This workshop provides knowledge and skills training on how to write an effective private sector resume. Participants can register at www.greatlifeohawaii.com. FMI: 474-1999.

BOOT CAMP FOR NEW DADS

A Boot Camp For New Dads will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at Halsey Terrace Community Center. Holding, feeding, diaper-changing and working with mom are all new experiences for first-time fathers-to-be ("rookies"). Dads with 2-4 month old babies ("vets") help the "rookies" with hands-on experience. This "dads only" three and one-half hour workshop is "coached" by dads. Participants can register at www.greatlifeohawaii.com. FMI: 474-1999.



FROZEN (PG)

Anna, a fearless optimist, sets off on an epic journey - teaming up with rugged mountain man Kristoff and his loyal reindeer Sven to find her sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom of Arendelle in eternal winter. Encountering Everest-like conditions, mystical trolls and a hilarious snowman named Olaf, Anna and Kristoff battle the elements in a race to save the kingdom.

SHARKEY THEATER

TODAY 1/24

7:00 PM Grudge Match (PG-13)

SATURDAY 1/25

2:30 PM (3D) Walking with Dinosaurs (PG)

4:50 PM Philomena (PG-13)

7:00 PM (3D) 47 Ronin (PG-13)

SUNDAY 1/26

2:30 PM Walking with Dinosaurs (PG)

4:30 pm (3D) The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13)

7:20 pm American Hustle (R)

THURSDAY 1/30

7:00 PM (3D) The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13)

Community Calendar

JANUARY

SATURDAY — The NFL Pro-Bowl will hold a free "ohana" day from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Aloha Stadium. The event is a family-friendly day of activities, which is open to the public. FMI: www.greatlifeohawaii.com.

SATURDAY — A Pouhala Marsh work day will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The marsh, off Waipahu Depot Road, is a wetland habitat for Hawaii's endangered water birds. Participants should be prepared to get wet and muddy and bring an extra set of clothes. FMI: volunteer@hawaiiinaturecenter.org or 955-0100, ext. 118.

SUNDAY — The Liberty Pro Bowl Tailgate Party and Game at Aloha Stadium will be held with pickups from the following Liberty locations: Express at 10:45 p.m., Beeman at 11:30 a.m., Instant at 11:45 a.m. and Makai at 12 p.m. This free Liberty event is open to active-duty single service Airmen and Sailors only. Participants can register at www.greatlifeohawaii.com. FMI: 473-2583.

31 — The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Tax Assistance Center will open at Navy College, first floor, classroom 11, 1260 Pierce St. (building 679). No appointments are accepted, walk-ins only. Certified tax volunteers can assist with questions as participants use this year's self-service program. The center will be open until April 20. FMI: 473-4717.

FEBRUARY

1 — The 22nd annual Navy Seabee Run 5.5/10 K will be held beginning at 7 a.m. at Ford Island. The registration closing date is Jan. 26. Awards will be given to the top three male and female finishers in each division. FMI: www.active.com.

1 — A Living History Day will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. Guests can meet pioneers and heroes from Pacific aviation history, interact with living historians in period attire, and hear the stories of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and early aviation in the Pacific. The events are free with museum admission and free to museum members. Living History Day activities will also take place on the Battleship Missouri Memorial. FMI: 441-1000 or www.pacificaviationmuseum.org.

Movie Showtimes

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY 1/24

6:00 PM The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG13)

SATURDAY 1/25

4:00 PM Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG13)

7:00 PM American Hustle (R)

SUNDAY 1/26

2:00 PM Frozen (PG)

THURSDAY 1/30

7:00 PM Saving Mr Banks (PG13)



Restoration adds luster to Battleship Missouri experience

Battleship Missouri Memorial Association

Guests touring the Battleship Missouri Memorial now have a greater appreciation of how officers of the retired USS Missouri lived while serving at sea, following a \$57,000 restoration of their former staterooms.

Known as "Officers Country" and located adjacent to the battleship's wardroom where many historical exhibits are displayed, the 13 staterooms have been restored to immaculate "inspection-ready" condition.

The staterooms now appear as they did for the USS Missouri's final mis-

sion on Dec. 7, 1991, when the "Mighty Mo" was berthed in Pearl Harbor near the USS Arizona Memorial for the 50th anniversary ceremony commemorating the attack by Imperial Japan that thrust the United States into World War II. The USS Missouri was then retired and decommissioned for the final time on March 31, 1992.

"We're constantly working to improve the visitor experience aboard the Missouri and the restoration of 'Officers Country' exemplifies our dedication to preserve the memory of this majestic battleship and honor our armed forces," said Michael A. Carr, presi-

dent and chief operating officer of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

"As proud as we are of the refurbishment, we want guests to see and understand how officers lived when leading our naval forces into battle around the world."

Funded by the USS Missouri Memorial Association, caretaker of the Battleship Missouri Memorial, the restoration provides guests with a real-life sense as to how the USS Missouri's officers lived and worked while in their staterooms.

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



Photo by Dwight Okumoto

The USS Missouri's executive officer was second-in-command and the size of the stateroom conveyed the importance of the duties involved in running the battleship. It is one of 13 "Officers Country" staterooms that have been restored to inspection-ready condition.



Photo by Dwight Okumoto

The sleeping quarters for the USS Missouri's executive officer adjoins the main area of the stateroom. Visitors now get a close up view of the entire stateroom.

Humpback whale ocean count scheduled to begin

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

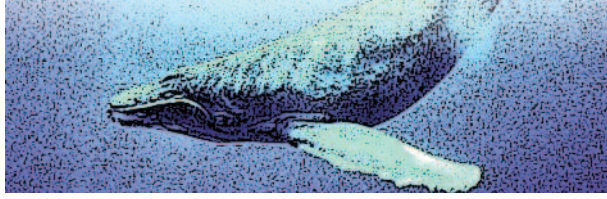
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary will conduct the first event of the annual Sanctuary Ocean Count project this Saturday. Volunteer registration is now closed for the January count. Volunteers can still register for the Feb. 22 and March 29 count.

The shore-based humpback whale survey is conducted at more than 60 sites around Oahu, Kauai and the

Big Island on the last Saturday of January, February, and March.

The sanctuary ocean count is one of several projects coordinated by Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary that encourages government and citizens to work together in protecting humpback whales.

For more information about how to register for the February and March counts, visit the website <http://hawaiiumpbackwhale.noaa.gov> or <http://sanctuaryoceancount.org>.



Blood drive schedule updated

January is National Blood Donor Month, and Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center has updated its schedule of upcoming blood drives as part of the Armed Services Blood Donor Program (ASBP). Blood collected during the drives will support both Tripler's needs and weekly shipments to Afghanistan.

Currently scheduled

drives include:

- Jan. 30 and Feb. 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
- Feb. 18, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., NEX, Tripler Army Medical Center.

For more information, call 433-6699 or 433-6148 or email michelle.lele@amedd.army.mil or visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil.



Story Ideas?

Contact Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements.

473-2890 / editor@hookelenews.com

