



Military Intelligence Service Veterans Club of Hawaii

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# MIS VETERANS

## National Museum of the U.S. Army Will Include Nisei

by Mark Matsunaga

The Army plans to open a huge new National Museum of the United States Army near Washington, D.C., in 2019 that will include recognition of World War II AJA soldiers of the Military Intelligence Service, 100th Infantry Battalion, and 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Work on the three-story, 185,000-square-foot facility is underway on 83 acres at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, about 20 minutes by car from the capital. See <https://armyhistory.org/>. (The museum's acronym, NMUSA, is pronounced "nah-MOOSE-ah.")

Information about the project was presented by officials of the National Veterans Network and the Army at a July 26 briefing, at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Clubhouse. About 70 people attended, including World War II MIS veterans Herbert Yanamura and Ted Tsukiyama.



Speakers were retired General Eric Shinseki, a board member for the Army Historical Foundation, which is raising \$200 million for the museum; National Veterans Network Executive Director Christine Sato-Yamazaki; NMUSA director Tammy Call, and Dr. Charles Cureton, chief curator for the Army's Center for Military History.

Call presented a brief video about the museum narrated by actor Joe Mantegna and described the layout of the museum. Call discussed how the nisei soldiers will initially be featured in three locations within the museum. One location is a set of 10 pylons, each telling the story of an AJA soldier. Dick Hamada, who served with the Office of Strategic Services in Burma and China, represents Hawaii MIS soldiers. Another nisei special exhibit will highlight the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the veterans of the MIS, 100th, and 442nd in 2011.

### War-time Artifacts Needed

**That exhibit will have additional display space for artifacts the museum hopes to obtain from the AJA community.**

**Text and photos are not enough, Cureton said. He and Call came to Hawaii to personally ask the AJA community for artifacts. Right now, Cureton said, "We have more items from the American Revolution than we have from the nisei community."**

**What they want are personally meaningful, historically significant objects of known provenance—origins. An example, Cureton said, might be a wristwatch worn by a 442nd nisei during the rescue of the Lost Battalion in France.**

**Sato-Yamazaki said MIS-related artifacts might be a Japanese-English dictionary used by an AJA soldier during the war, or a Japanese map captured on the battlefield. Artifacts will be submitted through a process that starts with the NVN. If you have an item to donate, the first step would be to photograph it and then an email with the photo, the veteran's name and unit, and the artifact's history, to [<christine@csy-assoc.com>](mailto:christine@csy-assoc.com) or [<info@nationalveteransnetwork.com>](mailto:info@nationalveteransnetwork.com).**

**NVN will facilitate the process and submit the offers to Army officials for selection and final approval by the Army curator. Those donors whose artifacts are selected will be asked to provide further information, including an appraisal.**

**For an artifact to be considered for the special nisei exhibit, it must be submitted for review by September 30, 2017. Only a few artifacts will be shown initially, but the museum hopes to build its collection for future exhibits and so artifacts can be rotated regularly. To help tell the MIS story, NVN is specifically asking for captured Japanese documents, maps, letters, notebooks, and diaries that an MIS nisei translated or Japanese-English dictionaries that were used during the war. Other artifacts are welcome.**

**The museum needs items to be donated, rather than loaned, Cureton said. Donors will be acknowledged, he said, and the museum will have the facilities and ability to preserve artifacts for generations to come.**

Sato-Yamazaki said NVN, a consortium of 20 to 22 organizations committed to telling the AJA soldiers' story, worked with veterans organizations nationwide to select the 10 AJAs featured in the pylons exhibit. She said NVN is also working on the content of the nisei special exhibit and is working on a timeline of 12 to 18 months. "We cannot do it without your help," she told the Honolulu audience.

Shinseki, the Kauai native who always credits the World War II nisei who made it possible for him to rise to Army chief of staff, said he too often encounters people who don't know about the World War II service of the AJAs.

He said the Smithsonian Institution, where the AJAs' Congressional Gold Medal has been on temporary display, draws 4 million visitors a year, and NMUSA wants to attract 1 million visitors in its first year. "This museum is going to open with or without us in 2019," he said. "This may be the last, best opportunity for us" to tell the story of the nisei soldiers.

## Joint Memorial Service

**Sunday, September 24  
9:00 a.m. (tentative)  
National Memorial  
Cemetery of the Pacific  
at Punchbowl**

The Joint Memorial Service is organized annually by the Nisei Veterans Legacy to honor the fallen members of all four segregated U.S. units in World War II made up primarily of Americans of Japanese ancestry: the 100th Infantry Battalion, Military Intelligence Service, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

The service is open to the public. Veterans of the units, spouses, widows, and family members are encouraged to attend.

Details will be announced by the Nisei Veterans Legacy [<nvlchawaii.org>](http://nvlchawaii.org).

## Bonenkai See page 3

Sunday, October 29  
Natsunoya Tea House  
11 a.m.



## Nisei Veterans Legacy Exhibit Opens in Japan

A photographic exhibit on the history of Japanese in Hawaii, with a focus on the service of the nisei in World War II, opened in June at the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum in Yokohama. The exhibit will run until early September, before it moves on to Tokyo, Fukushima, and Hiroshima.

The exhibit was produced by the Nisei Veteran Legacy, in collaboration with the Japan America Society of Hawaii and Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. The effort also received support from Michiko Shigeeda, spouse of former Consul General of Japan Toyoei Shigeeda, and Bishop Ryokan Ara of the Tendai Education Foundation.

The exhibit opened to an overflow crowd of more than 200. Kuulei Mamo Park's band from Honolulu played Hawaiian music and was accompanied by a hula halau from Japan. Park's father is a veteran of the 100th Infantry Battalion.

MIS Veteran Club President George Arine delivered the opening remarks in Japanese

on behalf of the NVL and club. He then participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Byrnes Yamashita, NVL director and exhibit coordinator, and Yumiko Asakuma, director general of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Yokohama International Center, and museum curator. Asakuma's agency is similar to the United States Agency for International Development. The exhibit will be donated to the organization, which plans to show it at other locations in Japan. The exhibit also features a video on the MIS in an adjoining room.

Arine said of the event, "It was just a wonderful and powerful centerpiece of nikkei history in Hawaii, which included the courageous feats of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team,

and the Military Intelligence Service. The exhibit opened the eyes of the Japanese public to the nikkei legacy with more cities vying to have the exhibit shown in their locales. The exhibit made me proud of my Japanese heritage from our humble beginnings as kanyaku imin to the present day strength of the nikkei in Hawaii."

**ABOVE:** The theme of the exhibit is the history of the Japanese in Hawaii, with a focus on the accomplishments of the nisei veterans during the war. Photo by Philbert Ono.

**BELOW:** MIS Veterans Club President George Arine, Yumiko Asakuma of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and Byrnes Yamashita of the Nisei Veterans Legacy, performed the ribbon-cutting to open the exhibit. Photo by Philbert Ono.



**In Memoriam**  
Mitsuo Oshikata



MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii's

# Bonenkai 2017

Sunday, October 29

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Natsunoya Tea House

1935 Makanani Drive (Alewa Heights)

Valet parking from 10:30 a.m.

## Submit Your RESERVATIONS by Oct 13, Friday

Return this form to:  
MIS Veterans Club  
P.O. Box 3021  
Honolulu, HI 96802

Make checks payable to:  
MIS Veterans Club  
Submit by:  
Friday, October 14

Inquiries:  
Sherman M. Takao  
Phone: (808) 284-8652  
misveteranshawaii@gmail.com

UTAGAWA TOYOHARU

## WHY, YES, COUNT ME IN!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**COST:**

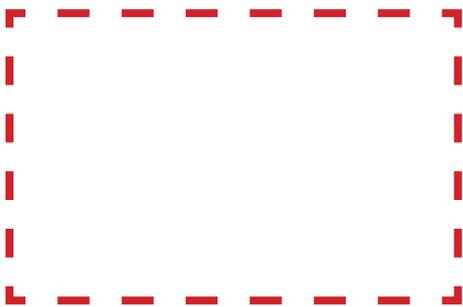
\$10.00 per person for World War II veterans and MIS widows; \$30.00 other guests

Number Attending	Total Cost
_____ X \$10 per veteran or widow =	\$ _____
_____ X \$30 other guests =	\$ _____
	<b>Enclosed:</b> \$ _____



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## Help Keep the MIS Legacy Alive

Here are a few ways you can keep the MIS legacy alive.

### **Join the MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii and get involved.**

Veterans and their descendants are eligible for membership. Fill out an application provided in the "Join Us" page at <<http://www.misveteranshawaii.com>>. The club does not have a paid staff, nor resources to conduct detailed research. Participation in club events, however, might steer you to people and source material.

### **Learn your family's story.**

You videotaped your kid's graduation and your grandchild's birthday. You can record your veteran's recollections. At least write key facts down and save your notes. Record the dates and locations of photos and especially the names of people in photos.

### **Save wartime letters, documents, photographs, and memorabilia.**

Each of them is irreplaceable. Efforts are under way to develop permanent storage for these priceless items, by the MIS Veterans Club and the Nisei Veterans Legacy. Meanwhile, store them in acid-free containers and away from direct sunlight or extreme temperatures and humidity. However, if you don't have storage space or are desperate to discard items, please contact us for advice or assistance.

### **Do some homework.**

The MIS story is not a simple one because the number of wartime assignments they had were as diverse as the soldiers

themselves, and their achievements were cloaked in secrecy. But you can begin with something as effortless as a Google search; enter the veteran's name along with a keyword like "Army," "World War II," or "military intelligence service," and see what comes up. Several books have been written about the MIS, many more about the war. Reading can give you a better understanding of what your veteran did during the war. Maybe you can write a book someday, because much remains unrecorded for history.

### **Set the record straight.**

For more than twenty years, a number of independent researchers have been compiling a database containing the service information of MISers who served in World War II, the Battle of Okinawa, and the occupation. Unfortunately, due to the secrecy of the assignments of the MIS personnel, about 2,000 Hawaii MIS veterans have incomplete records. This does not do justice to their service.

For the sake of all of your families, your historical legacy, and for the education and appreciation of future generations, volunteers are being recruited to help in this research, which will be conducted entirely in Honolulu. Training will be provided; hours are flexible (weekdays, business hours) and record-copying expenses furnished. Service learning credit may be awarded to qualifying students.

Please contact Drusilla Tanaka, (808) 235-1343 or (808) 372-4840, or e-mail at <[drusillatanaka@gmail.com](mailto:drusillatanaka@gmail.com)> to participate.

## Your MIS Membership Status

We are providing your MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii membership status in the box above.

Your membership dues help the club publish this newsletter, maintain our website, and organize our various activities, including the Shinnenkai, Bonenkai, and other events.

If you haven't paid your annual dues, please send a check for \$20.00, made payable to "MIS Veterans Club" to us at:

MIS Veterans Club  
P.O. Box 3021  
Honolulu, HI 96802

Questions:  
[misveteranshawaii@gmail.com](mailto:misveteranshawaii@gmail.com)