

NEWS RELEASES

Request Publication after Oct 16

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR FIRST PRESIDIO MIS CLASS

For a dozen registrants, the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion from October 29 to November 1 will be a real golden anniversary. These are the students and teachers who were part of the first Army Japanese language school, when it opened on November 1, 1941, at Crissy Field, Presidio of San Francisco.

Registrations for the four-day reunion, which will be held in San Francisco for two days before moving to Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, reveal that ten of the pre-Pearl Harbor members and two of the four teachers will attend. Also, four surviving spouses of that historic class will join the various Reunion activities.

The 1941 members are as follows: Gary T. Kadani, San Francisco; Arthur M. Kaneko (Sophie), Wheaton, Maryland; Joe Y. Masuda (Sophie), Los Angeles; Masao Matsumoto (Charlotte), Wayzata, Minnesota; Tateshi Miyazaki (Fumi), St. Anthony, Idaho; Mac N. Nagata (Kiyomi), Fresno; Thomas T. Sakamoto (Sadie), Saratoga, Masaji G. Uratsu (Hiroko), San Rafael; and Steve S. Yamamoto, Riverside.

The instructors are Tetsuo Imagawa (Jane), Seaside; Shigeya Kihara (Aya), Monterey; and Marty Oshida (widow of Aki Oshida). Kazuko Nishita, Berkeley; Esther Tanizawa, El Cerrito; and Teruma Sato, Lakewood, Colorado, the spouses of the late Morio Nishita, James Tanizawa and Ichiro Nishida, respectively, will also take part in the memorial activities. Regrettably, Jim M. Matsumura of Monterey Park who had registered earlier has cancelled participation due to health problems.

Registration Chairman Walter Tanaka of San Jose reported a capacity crowd for both MIS dinners, the mixer and the DLI dinner in Monterey with over 600 participating in all functions. Almost a hundred will come from Hawaii, while the Pacific Northwest and Southern California will bring more than 50. Colorado, Maryland, Virginia, Illinois, New York, Utah and Minnesota will also be well represented.

Oct 3, 1991

NOTED OREGON JUDGE TO OPEN MIS DINNER IN SAN FRANCISCO

Judge Robert Y. Thornton, a former Attorney General of Oregon for 16 years and a senior judge in the State of Oregon will make the opening remarks at the MIS Dinner on October 29 at the Miyako Hotel in San Francisco. He will be followed by the keynote speaker, Congressman Robert Matsui.

The honorable judge's contacts with the Niseis go back to May 1941 when he was assigned to the regimental S-2, at Camp Roberts, California where many Niseis were being trained. After Pearl Harbor, he was sent to Camp Richardson, Alaska, just before the Japanese seizure of Attu and Kiska.

Recognizing the need, he began self-study of the Japanese language until the arrival of the first MIS team from the Presidio of San Francisco to Richardson. He then learned more about the language and the customs from the Nisei linguists before he applied for and was accepted as a student at Camp Savage. Upon graduating from the MISLS at Fort Snelling, he was assigned to various linguistic positions including civil censorship. Later, his unit at Camp Stoneman provided specialized intelligence training to MIS men scheduled to go overseas.

His close association with Nisei during the wartime years led to his continued interest in U.S.-Japan relations in the postwar years. For this, he received the Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Emperor in 1976.

Recently, he has co-authored a book "Preventing Crime in America and Japan", with Katsuya Endo, soon to be published by M.E. Sharpe Publishing Co. of New York.

The venerable Judge Thornton was the keynote speaker at the 25th MIS Reunion held in San Francisco in 1966.

August 1, 1991

COL SAKAKIDA TO KEYNOTE MONTEREY MIS 50th REUNION DINNER

For the first time in person, the unheralded story of an outstanding Nisei intelligence agent, Richard Sakakida, will be heard at the MIS 50th Reunion Dinner, on Oct 31, Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Monterey.

Nine months before Pearl Harbor, two bilingual Nisei, Sakakida and Arthur Komori, were recruited in Hawaii by a Nisei officer for duty with the Corps of Intelligence Police (CIP), later renamed as the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC).

Sakakida and Komori, now a retired lawyer in Hawaii, were hastily trained and sent to the Philippines, posing as crewmen. Then operating under guidance of CIP, based on an American military base, they registered in small Japanese-operated hotels.

Sakakida acted like a draft dodger, a plausible story since several thousand Nisei were already in the U.S. Army before Pearl Harbor. Sakakida posed as a sales rep for Sears Roebuck while Komori found a job as an English teacher at the Japanese Cultural Hall. Each passed the information they collected about the Japanese community to their handlers by prearranged methods.

After the Japanese invasion, the Filipino police arrested them as Japanese collaborators; but, they were rescued from prison by CIP before the Japanese reached Manila. They were sent to Corregidor to handle the linguistic work for Gen MacArthur's headquarters.

As surrender became imminent, with mounting losses from combat, malnutrition and disease, both men were ordered to leave Corregidor, but Sakakida offered his space to another Nisei linguist. Komori reached Australia and wrote a guideline on interrogation of POWs. He next worked at ATIS under Col Sydney Mashbir.

Captured on Corregidor with Gen Wainwright, Sakakida was variously tortured for six months before imprisonment in Manila. He escaped execution, mainly because his mother had cancelled his dual citizenship before the war. The sequel as to what happened to Richard Sakakida from 1943 to August 1945 will be unfolded on October 31 and should prove doubly interesting to everyone.

TO: Tom Sakamoto
From: B. Sakai

CEREMONIES AND GALA DINNERS IN MONTEREY FOR MIS REUNION

The second portion of the four-day MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion from Oct 29 to Nov 1, will start on Oct 31, with a leisurely motor drive from San Francisco to Monterey by bus or by autos. Bus travellers will have "obento" lunches en route.

From 2 p.m., a brief program will be held at Nakamura Hall, at the Defense Language Institute (DLI), earlier known as the Army Language School, when MISLS was transferred in 1946 from Fort Snelling, Minn. to Presidio of Monterey.

Under chairmanship of Tom Sakamoto, a model of the first MIS Language School, the Crissy Field hangar at the Presidio of San Francisco, is to be presented to Colonel Fischer, current Commandant of DLI, by Gene Uratsu, member of the first class fifty years ago. Brief remarks by Colonel Fischer and by Tom Kawaguchi, of the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), which created the model, will be followed by guided tours of three buildings, the Nakamura, the Hachiya and the Mizutari Halls, all named in memory of MIS KIAs. The Nakamura Hall will have on display an exhibit of 40 pertinent photos selected from NJAHS files by Roy Takai, Gene Uratsu and Tom Sakamoto, to provide an environment for veterans to recall wartime events.

The venue will change in the evening to Hyatt Regency Hotel, with no host cocktails from 6 p.m. and dinner from 7 p.m. Peter Nakahara will emcee the program, tentatively scheduled as follows:

Call to Order:	Peter Nakahara
Presentation of Colors	Monterey Peninsula Memorial Post 1629
Pledge of Allegiance	Spady Koyama, Col. Ret
Invocation	Rev. Hei Takarabe
Introduction of Guests	Peter Nakahara

Greetings, MIS Norcal Pres.	Harry K. Fukuhara, Col Ret
Response	Wally Amioka, MIS Hawaii Pres.
Anniv. Remarks	Hon. Norman Mineta,
Introduction of Speaker	Mr. Walt Reghr
Guest Speaker	Richard Sakakita, Col. Ret.
Closing Remarks	Reunion Steering Committee Chairman Tom Sakamoto, Col. Ret.
Benediction	Rev. Michihiro Honda
Retiring of Colors	Memorial Post 1629
Raffle Announcements	Tom Sasaki & Warren Eijima
Entertainment	Goro Yamamoto

The program for the second day, Nov 1, marking the 50th Anniversary of DLI as well as the fiftieth year since the first Japanese language class was started by the U.S. Army in 1941, will be completely arranged organized by the school. After a free morning for a tour around Monterey, the DLI program will start from 2 p.m. at Nakamura Hall. Mr. Shig Kihara, a teacher of the first class will be the keynote speaker and will be followed by a wreath laying ceremony.

For the evening, DLI will send invitations to all MISLS reunion participants for a no host cocktail and formal dinner. The speaker will be a prominent military person (general), who is or has been until recently on active duty.

Tom
 This is the draft of next release. Check all details on names. What do you think of putting the rank in? To show ^{to public} that many MB attained high ranks. Or do you think that Amioka, Sasaki and Eijima may feel left out.

REGISTRATION RISING FOR MIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Reservations are flowing in from the East Coast, Midwest, Northwest, West Coast, Hawaii and Japan, according to Walter Tanaka, registration chairman for the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion, scheduled from October 29 to November 1 this year.

To ensure adequate time to prepare for an event-packed four-day convention, the registration deadline has been advanced to August 1. Key changes have been made to the program for the benefit of ladies, adventurers, golfers and everyone, as follows:

Ladies: Sign up for bridge will be taken at the Registration Desk. The sessions will be held in the Hospitality Room during the October 30 panel session. Shopping, sightseeing and optional tours will be available.

Luck-seekers: A one-day, overnight and two-night Reno Trip extension from November 2 to 4 can be booked with Lucky Tours, at moderate rates with substantial rebates.

Golfers: Tournament Chairmen Gunji Moriuchi and Nobu Azebu have arranged two days of golf. The first day on October 30 at Harding Park Municipal Golf Course, San Francisco is limited to 44, at \$30.00 per person (half cart included). The second day at Bayonet Golf Course, Ft. Ord, Monterey is limited to 60, at \$20 for military/retired and \$60 for nonmilitary (half cart included).

Everyone: An informal mixer night on October 30 at \$15 per person, with deficits covered by convention income.

Chairman Tom Sakamoto revealed that the sponsorships for the Commemorative Booklets have grown to more ^{than} 500 so that the full publication costs can be covered, even as the editing and designing are moving towards the final stages. He added that the donations for raffle tickets can be expected to support all administrative, printing, postal and miscellaneous costs, with registration fees covering hospitality & other costs.

December 13, 1990
Stockton, Calif

MIS COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET BEING PLANNED

A second draft of the MIS commemorative booklet is now being reviewed by the Steering Committee of the MIS 50th Anniversary Committee, according to Clifford Uyeda and Barry Saiki, coeditors. Other members of the editorial staff include Richard K. Hayashi, as chief reseacher of MIS history, and Roy Takai, as pictorial supervisor.

The aim of the booklet will be to present a broad overview of the activities engaged in by MIS personnel before, during and after World War II, to include the Occupation of Japan and Korea. The publication is to serve as a valuable memento for all those interested in the legacy established by the Nisei soldiers, mainly in the Pacific theater.

As more comments and interviews are collected and as additional information are gathered from MIS members about the various commands they operated under, a third draft will be compiled for further evaluation by the end of January.

A final draft is scheduled to be turned over to the publishers by early June, so that minor revisions may be incorporated during that month.

The general public is only dimly aware of the many diverse activities undertaken by MIS soldiers in wartime and the Occupation, according to the editors. The commemorative booklet will provide both a pictorial coverage of MI in action as well as a concise description of MI in various commands under wartime and peacetime situations.

In support of the funding, all persons who contribute a minimum of \$25 or more as donors for the publication will be listed as a sponsor and will receive a copy of the finished booklet. The checks for sponsorship of the commemorative booklet, with name and other identifying data in less than thirty spaces, should be forwarded to Warren Eijima, P.O. Box 2350, San Jose, CA, 95109-2350, before May 31, 1991.

Late 1990

MIS TO HOLD 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION IN 1991

Preliminary plans for the MIS 50th anniversary reunion were announced by Tom Sakamoto, chairman of MISNORCAL (Military Intelligence Service Northern California) Steering Committee on September 29, subsequent to a series of meetings held by his committee.

The committee has already named the co-chairmen, pending acceptances by some nominees, of the various contemplated activities to be held during the four-day program in San Francisco and Monterey.

The convention will start in San Francisco with registration and a buffet reception at the Miyako Hotel on October 29, 1991. Although this reunion is more than a year hence, special hotel rates are being negotiated with the Miyako Hotel and Kyoto Inn in San Francisco and the Hyatt Regency and the Ramada Inn in Monterey. Confirmed rates, suitable for all participants, will be announced later by the registration committee. Interest has been expressed by MIS members from throughout the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska, and by Canadian MI components.

The second day will feature panel sessions, open to the public and the media, under the overall theme of "MIS 50th Anniversary - Nisei Soldier". The morning session will introduce panelists who had participated in various zones of operation during the World War, while the afternoon session will highlight MIS's role in the postwar Occupation.

Both panel sessions and the pictorial display, to be exhibited at the site will be cosponsored by MIS and NJAHS (National Japanese American Historical Society), using selected photos from the society's library.

Plans also include sightseeing tours for wives and family members in both San Francisco and Monterey.

Busses will transport conventioners from San Francisco to Monterey on the morning of October 31, well in time for the afternoon wreath-laying ceremony and get-reacquainted hour. An interesting speaker has already been selected and confirmed for the MIS Reunion Dinner at the Hyatt Regency to be chaired by Harry Iida.

For November 1, the 50th anniversary day, the program will be planned by the Defense Language Institute and will feature a dinner, with keynote speaker and honorary guests.

Sakamoto, who retired as colonel in 1967, was a member of the first Japanese language class in November 1941 at the Presidio of San Francisco and encouraged participation by all MIS veterans, saying "This could well be the last time that such a large number of veterans can be expected to meet since our ranks are thinning out year after year".

Current members of the Steering Committee include the following: Henry Goshō, Richard Hayashi, Harry Iida, Tom Kawaguchi, Shjg Kihara, Joe Kurata, Skeets Oji, Barry Saiki, Tom Sasaki, Roy Takai, Walt Tanaka, Shiro Tokuno, Gene Uratsu, Clifford Uyeda (NJAHS) and Noby Yoshimura.