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Sikorsky H-34 *Choctaw* Helicopter Arrives Today At Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor

Honolulu, HI – Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor becomes home roost for the Sikorsky H-34 Helicopter (USN Bureau No. 148963) adding another aviation “hero” to its expanding collection of vintage and high performance aircraft. The *Choctaw* arrived at the Museum on Historic Ford Island via Pasha Transport. It is one of the most recognizable military helicopters in history.

The *Choctaw* is a piston-engine helicopter, capable of carrying 16 combat-equipped troops. It was originally designed for naval service in the anti-submarine warfare role. In addition to serving in combat, the *Choctaw* has been used to rescue flood victims, recover astronauts, fight fires, and even carry U.S. presidents. *Choctaw* is the U.S. Army name for the versatile helicopter; it was also called *Seabat* and *Seahorse* by other services.

“The Sikorsky H-34 helicopter played a vital role in our military throughout our history, and we feel honored to showcase it to the public,” said Museum Executive Director, Kenneth DeHoff.

The Museum's H-34 was one of only 14 the U.S. Navy passed on to the U.S. Air Force. It arrives from Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, Georgia. The *Choctaw* is the 44th aircraft to join the Museum's impressive collection, and is on permanent loan from the U.S. Air Force.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that accepts donations of historic aircraft and aviation memorabilia. Donated artifacts are professionally cared for and enjoyed by millions of visitors from around the world. The Museum also invites monetary donations for its Restoration and Education programs.

The Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Christmas, New Year's, and Thanksgiving Days, and is accessible by shuttle from the USS Arizona Memorial/Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. Daily, visitors from around the world view the 45+ aircraft in the Museum's two WWII hangars, the Ford Island Control Tower, plus historic Luke Field/Ford Island Runway, enjoy hands-on technology experiences including combat flight simulators, hear moving stories told by aviation docents, and see historic films and video displays.

The Museum Store and Laniakea Café restaurant are unique in their offerings and their 1940s ambiance. Phone (808) 441-1000 or visit www.PacificAviationMuseum.org for tickets and more information. Located at 319 Lexington Boulevard, Historic Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor has been named "one of the top 10 aviation attractions" nationally by TripAdvisor and is a Smithsonian affiliate museum.

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