

## Airline deal getting 'close'

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"We're getting close (on finalizing an agreement)," said Bowmaker. "We received a good reception from the government and the taskforce."

According to Aviation Taskforce Chairman Carlos Domnick, Our Airlines has asked the taskforce and the government to start promoting the service in anticipation of the inaugural flight.

Federated States of Micronesia Congressman Peter Christian was also involved in the meetings this week and according to Domnick, the FSM representatives expressed their support for the service.

"Once we open Majuro there will be relevance to FSM," said Bowmaker. Domnick adds that the aim is to have the Our Airline service and United Airline's inbound flight from FSM piggyback on each other so that FSM passengers can arrive on United, transit in Majuro overnight and catch the south-bound Our Airline flight.

In Nitijela Wednesday, Acting President Tony deBrum (pictured) said he was "happy" to inform the Nitijela that the government and Our Airline have a tentative agreement, which is pending Cabinet's review and approval from the respective government offices to see the deal through.



It is understood, but unconfirmed, that part of the deal Our Airline is hoping to negotiate with the RMI is for service between the Tarawa, Kiribati and Nadi, Fiji. Recently the RMI government met with the Fiji government to discuss the route and the possibility of a code-share between Our Airline and Air Marshall Islands, which has landing rights in Fiji, to service this route into Nadi. During those same meetings the Fiji government also suggested the possibility of an Air Pacific service between Fiji and Majuro.

Our Airline has a 130-passenger capacity and once services begin the expected route will be Brisbane, Nauru, Tarawa, Majuro, Nauru, Brisbane with a bi-weekly Majuro, Nauru, Nadi, Brisbane service.

## Kosrae soldier dies in Afghanistan

A Kosrae serving in the US Army died earlier this month in Afghanistan, according to media reports.

Army Spc. Sapuro B. Nena is the 44th person from the Micronesia re-

gion to die in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to Pacific Daily News, Guam leads the death toll from the Micronesia area with 21, the Northern Marianas are next with nine deaths,

followed by the Federated States of Micronesia with eight, Palau with five and RMI with one.

No details were available on the circumstances of Nena's death.



WAM trainees Juniko Jeik, Rina Haini, and Bonitha Ned described the construction of miniature canoes to Laura Elementary School students at the Marshall Islands Resort Monday.

## Check out what's on during Culture Week

The Marshall Islands Resort and the old weather station have been popping with Culture Week activities.

Weavers, net menders and canoe builders have been stationed around the lagoon side of the hotel, demonstrating their talents and talking to students, teachers and other visitors.

At the weather station, Waan Aelon in Majel staff have been providing canoe rides to people interested to have a great ride. These events culminate with Friday's official ceremony for Culture Week, and all-day activities Friday and Saturday.

Organizing Committee Chairman Alson Kelen said he was delighted with the student turnout Tuesday and Wednesday at the Resort. "We've had more than 100 students tour both days," he said. "It's been really successful."

Culture week culminates this weekend for an opening ceremony of the big event at the former weather station area in Delap.

- Friday:**
- 10am – 12pm Opening Ceremony
  - 1pm – 5pm Manit-Day Festivities
  - Reading of winning essays, traditional games, dancing and songs.
  - Food demonstrations by

groups from other countries.

**Saturday:**

- Community traditional games.
- Community dances and songs.
- Displays by the Ami-mono groups, community groups, and MWSC.
- Food demonstrations by multi-national groups.
- Canoe Races.
- Official Closing Ceremony.

## Tourist ministers fly in

A tourism ministers meeting is scheduled for Majuro from October 9 to 12. The South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) is supporting the meeting. The mission of SPTO

is to 'market and develop tourism in the South Pacific.' Members include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon

Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the People's Republic of China. The Marshall Islands is hosting this year's meeting that is being organized in conjunction with the SPTO.

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## APA delays regular Saturday departure

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ment but then rapidly dropped, indicating continuing problems in the fuel line. Officials continued to work on the problem Wednesday.

On Tuesday, United flew its regular flight from Honolulu to Majuro but reportedly did not board any Majuro-bound passengers because they needed to carry additional fuel to reach Kwajalein without being able to refuel in Majuro.

"APA delayed our Saturday morning departure from Honolulu 24 hours and ultimately operated via Kwajalein versus Majuro today (Monday) because of the fuel problem," said APA official Robert Walker who is based in Honolulu. Walker said APA was juggling its flights to Majuro to accommodate the problem.

A Post Office official said an APA flight was expected to arrive from Guam Wednesday night.