
Schofield Barracks

A Historic Treasure



MG JOHN M. SCHOFIELD

**ADDRESS TO THE U.S.
CORPS OF CADETS**

August 11, 1879

The discipline which makes the soldiers of a free country reliable in battle is not to be gained by harsh or tyrannical treatment.

On the contrary, such treatment is far more likely to destroy than to make an army.

It is possible to impart instruction and give commands in such manner and in such tone of voice as to inspire in the soldier no feeling but an intense desire to obey.

While the opposite manner and one of voice cannot fail to excite strong resentment and a desire to disobey.

The one mode or the other of dealing with subordinates springs from a corresponding spirit in the breast of the commander.

He who feels the respect which is due to others cannot fail to inspire in them regard for himself, while he who feels and hence manifests disrespect toward others, especially his inferiors, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself.

The site which was to become Schofield Barracks was ceded to the U.S. Government on July 26, 1899, less than a year after Hawaii was annexed to the United States. The Waianae-Uka military reservation was part of the former Hawaiian Crown Lands and consisted of 14,400 acres. These acres, located between the two major mountain ranges on Oahu, provided central access to both the North Shore of Oahu and the Pearl Harbor Naval base and City of Honolulu to the south. While the area's strategic defense value was recognized, it was initially passed over as a site for a principal military post because of the lack of a readily available water source.

The Birth of an Army Post

On December 4, 1908, Captain Joseph C. Castner, construction quartermaster, arrived on Oahu to begin construction of a temporary cantonment on the Waianae-Uka military reservation. Captain Castner, with the help of local laborers, constructed tents for the officers and men, followed by temporary wooden barracks. Thus the humble beginnings of what would become a major military post.

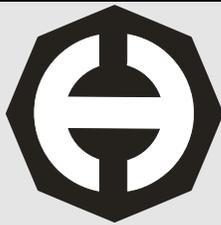
The cantonment was informally known as Castner Village among military personnel. People in Honolulu referred to it as the Leilehua Barracks after the Leilehua Plain on which is located. Some of the cavalymen wanted to name the post after their commander, General Earl D. Thomas. In April, 1909, the War Department chose instead to name the post after the late General John M. Schofield, former Commanding General of the U.S. Army, who had originally called attention to Hawaii's strategic value.

In 1872 Major General John M. Schofield visited the Hawaiian Islands to ascertain the defense capabilities of the various ports. In his confidential report to the Secretary of War, Schofield advocated securing the exclusive use of Pearl Harbor through a reciprocity treaty with the then Kingdom of Hawaii. In 1893 after the overthrow of the monarchy, it was Schofield who encouraged annexation of Hawaii. He said, "if we do not hold these islands ourselves we cannot expect the neutrals in war to prevent other belligerents from occupying them; nor can the inhabitants themselves prevent such occupation."



1923, Building Ku Tree Dam

Lack of a reliable water source was the reason Schofield Barracks was not built until 1909. Ku Tree helped alleviate the water shortage.



HAWAIIAN DEPARTMENT INSIGNIA

War Department endorsement of 2 November, 1921 announced the Hawaiian Department shoulder insignia as: An octagon of scarlet, sides tangent to a circle and bearing the letter "H" in yellow as seen above. The eight sides refer to the eight islands in the Hawaiian group. Scarlet and yellow are the old Royal Hawaiian colors.

The insignia was used by U.S. Army Hawaii (USARHAW) until its reorganization in 2007, now USAG-HI, the organization has adopted a new insignia below.



In 1910 the United States Army District of Hawaii was formed under the command of Colonel Walter Schuyler at Schofield Barracks. It originally fell under the jurisdiction of the Department of California, then became a department in the newly organized Western Division. The number of troops continued to increase, and in 1913 the Hawaiian Department was formed as an independent command under the War Department. Schofield Barracks' population numbered about six thousand men by 1914, with the 1st Field Artillery, 1st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Regiment, and 4th Cavalry all garrisoned at Schofield.

The problem of supplying water to the burgeoning post was addressed in 1912, with the construction of a reservoir and water pipes to supply the reservation. In 1925, Ku Tree Dam was constructed in one of the gulches on the East Range and doubled the water supply. Finally, in 1936, a 1500 foot long diagonal shaft was dug outside the gate at Wheeler Air Field. In 1938 installation of the underground engine room, electric pumps, and piping needed to bring water to the community was completed. Schofield still relies on this artesian well today.

A National Historic Jewel

In late 1911 the Secretary of War approved recommendations for a seven-regiment post. This would rival Fort Russell in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the Army's largest existing post at the time. Permanent facilities were urgently needed.

The configuration of three barracks and one administration building surrounding a central courtyard became known as a "quad." The quads at first took their names from the troops residing in them, for example, the 35th Infantry Barracks or the 4th Cavalry Barracks. The alphabetical designations currently used were assigned at a later date.

The first two barracks buildings (Buildings 156 and 158, now part of "B" Quad), were completed in 1914 and housed the 4th Cavalry. The four sections of "C" Quad were completed in 1915 and 1916 to house the 1st Infantry. "A" Quad was not constructed until 1987 and is of a different design from the older Quads.

Construction came to a halt with the declaration of war on April 6, 1917. After the Armistice in November 1918 work resumed, and the field artillery area barracks were completed in 1919 ("I" Quad) and 1923 ("J" Quad). These quads contained only three buildings instead of the customary four of the infantry quads. "E" Quad was completed in 1920, and "D" Quad was completed in 1921.

Quarters for the officers and their families were constructed at the same time as the barracks. Their design was adapted to Hawaii's sub-tropical climate. The wooden, U-shaped bungalows take advantage of the cooling tradewinds. Likewise, the stucco quarters were modified from the original design to have pitched roofs which better protect against the frequent Hawaiian rains. Construction in the 1930's reflected a style called Art Deco, characterized by its rounded edges and geometric orientation. Macomb and Funston gates were built during this time, as well as the Smith Theater. "K" Quad, built in the late 1930's, also utilizes this style of architecture.

There are many other distinctive and beautiful buildings at Schofield Barracks. Carter Hall was built as the post library in 1915. It now houses the 25th Infantry Division's Tropic Lightning Museum. More information on these buildings can be found in the "Historic Guide, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii" provided at the Tropic Lightning Museum. In 1998, the Schofield Barracks Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Hawaii's Second City

In April 1917 the United States of America entered the war in Europe. In August 1917 an officer's training school was established at Schofield. Out of 100 students, 68 were local residents of Oahu of Hawaiian, Chinese, and Japanese extraction. Three other training camps followed in 1918. Soon, all of Schofield Barracks was called to war. The 1st and 9th Field Artilleries were the first to go in December 1917. The 1st Infantry, 32nd Infantry, 25th Infantry, and the 4th Cavalry had all gone by October 1918.

The Hawaiian National Guard was mustered into federal service and assigned to Schofield Barracks for training and as post caretakers. The newly formed 1st and 2nd Hawaiian Infantry Regiments were fully manned at 1,400 men each. With the signing of the Armistice in November 1918, strenuous training of these regiments was no longer essential. The energies of the Hawaiian Infantry regiments were turned to beautifying of the post. They planted shrubs, seeded lawns, built roads, and landscaped around the existing structures. The great eucalyptus and Norfolk pine trees lining the Post roads are part of this body of work.

The 17th Cavalry arrived in August 1919 and the Hawaiian Infantry Regiments were demobilized. Brigadier General Joseph E. Kuhn arrived in 1920 with the 35th and 44th Infantry Regiments. They were followed in 1921 by the 8th, 11th, and 13th Field Artillery



1935 Macomb Gate



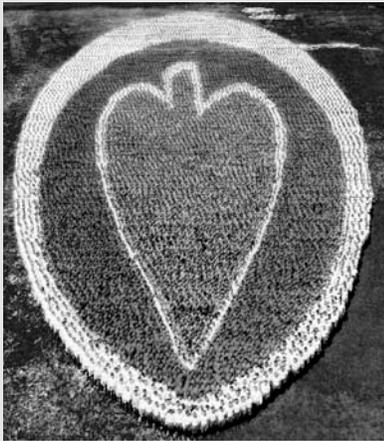
c.1980 Post Stockade

The Historic District includes the quads and housing along Waianae Avenue as well as the Post Theater, Soldiers' Chapel, Conroy Bowl, and the several other buildings. The Stockade is also on the National Register.



1935 I quad

Plans for restoration and renovation of the Quads in the near future include an increase of living space for the individual soldier as well as private bathrooms.



1932 Living Insignia, Hawaiian Division

HAWAIIAN DIVISION INSIGNIA

The War Department endorsement on 9 September, 1921 announced the Hawaiian Division shoulder Insignia as:

“Green taro leaf, stem up, piped with yellow, upon a red circular background, piped in black. Taro is the Polynesian name for any one of several tropical plants of the arum family. The edible corm, naturally acrid, is made wholesome by heating or boiling. When pounded into a paste, the resulting food is known as poi. The leaves and leafstalks are used for greens. Yellow and red are the ancient colors of the Hawaiian Islands. The black piping is placed around the edge of the red field to strengthen the design and to separate the red from the olive drab of the uniform.

The 24th Infantry Division retained this insignia after its October 1, 1941 formation.

Regiments and the 3rd Engineers. After a brief pause for WWI, Schofield Barracks had reached its 7 regiment promise.

In 1921, this became the Hawaiian Division. Schofield housed the only complete division in the US Army and the Army’s largest single garrison. Population rose to 14,000 in 1938, making it the second largest city in Hawaii. The Hawaiian Department accounted for more than 10% of the Army’s forces during the 30’s and ‘40’s.

Day of Infamy

On October 1, 1941, the transition by the War Department from the square division to the triangular division allowed for the formation of two new divisions to replace the Hawaiian Division. The 19th and 21st Infantry Regiments formed the 24th Infantry Division, while the 35th and 27th Infantry regiments formed the 25th Infantry Division. Only ten weeks after the restructuring, the Japanese flew over Schofield on a Sunday morning and dropped their bombs on Wheeler Army Airfield. War was declared again.

While Schofield received some strafing from Japanese planes flying over the Barracks, Schofield was not the focus of the Japanese attack. Their target was nearby Wheeler Army Airfield and the planes located there. Surviving Japanese pilots who participated in the attack also confirm that attack formations did not fly through Kolekole Pass. The Tropic Lightning Museum keeps accounts and memoirs of soldiers and dependents who were at Schofield during the attack and the days following. These vivid accounts bring to life the uncertainty, fear, and bravery of these individuals and are on display in the museum galleries.

A Host to Millions

Within a year, the newly formed 24th and 25th Divisions were sent to fight the war in the Pacific. Schofield did not remain a ghost town, though. The need for soldiers trained to fight under tropical conditions arose and the Jungle Training Center, later called the Ranger Combat Training School, was formed in late 1942. Almost one million men went through the training center at Schofield before being sent overseas, and many soldiers were housed on Schofield. Facilities and training areas were increased and the Olympic size Richardson Pool was built for combat training.

Instead of returning to Schofield at the end of the war, the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions remained in Japan with the occupying forces. Population sank to an all-time low of 2,000 in the late

1940's. With the small population, numerous recreational facilities built during the Jungle Training years, and well-kept landscaping, Schofield had the appearance of a country club.

Things picked up, however, with the start of the Korean War in June, 1950. The Hawaii Infantry Training Center (HITC) was opened on March 14, 1951 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Walter Higgins, Jr. The first group of 1,659 trainees was formed into the 20th Battalion. By its closing in 1953 a total of 22,500 soldiers had been trained at the HITC.

Revitalization

When the 25th Infantry Division finally did return in September, 1954, it increased Hawaii's overall population by 5%. Military expenditures in the state increased and the unemployment rate fell.

The type of soldier who returned in 1954 was very different from the men who had left in 1941. The typical NCO was married and raising a family. Soldiers had more individual freedoms and were better paid. They had their own automobiles and were interested in education and career programs. Schofield Barracks adapted to its new tenants.

To accommodate the new soldier and his family, the Capehart Housing Act allowed for the construction of 1,600 housing units from 1955 to 1962 on old training areas along the road to Kolekole Pass. Older buildings were demolished to make way for parking lots. Schools were built on the post, Hale Kula in 1959 and Solomon Elementary in 1969. A new commissary, post exchange, and NCO club were constructed.

Tactical equipment shops, tank maintenance facilities, brigade headquarters were all needed for the returning troops. With the construction of housing on the old training fields and in light of the greater range and fire power of the new weaponry, larger training areas were needed. Pohakuloa on the island of Hawaii, Makua Valley, Helemano, Kahuku and Kawaioloa Most of these training areas are still actively used by the 25th Infantry Division today.

Home and Host to the Famous

Throughout the years, Schofield has had many distinguished visitors, both military and civilian. Major (later General) George Patton lived and worked at Schofield in the 1930s. In 1946 General



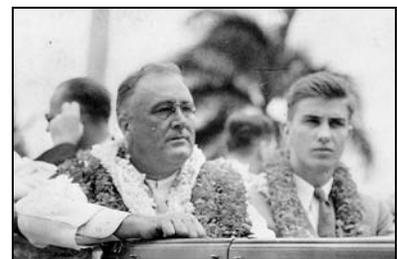
December 7, 1941

Due to lack of space, a tent barracks was placed between the hangars at Wheeler. The Japanese scored a direct hit, killing scores of soldiers.



1952

Although the quality of training at the HITC was high, it was deemed too expensive to send soldiers to Hawaii. The decision was made to utilize the Center for local men only. The last mainland draftees arrived on March 1952.



1934

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first president to visit Schofield Barracks.

Dwight D. Eisenhower toured Schofield and said at that time that “the post was the most important single base the United States has in the world.” In 1995 the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the end of WWII was held at Wheeler Army Airfield with President Bill Clinton, Commander in Chief, in attendance.

Celebrities such as Bette Davis, Bing Crosby, and Angie Dickinson have visited through out the years. Bob Hope brought his USO shows to Schofield in 1950, 1957, and 1971. Elvis rocked the Bowl (Conroy Boxing Bowl!) in 1957.

Author James Jones was stationed for two years at Schofield with the 27th Infantry. His observations of Army life and the December 7, 1941 attack were later the basis for the book “From Here to Eternity.” The 1953 movie version starring Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, and Burt Lancaster was filmed at “C” Quad on Schofield Barracks.

A Destination For All

Over the years Honolulu has moved out towards Schofield. What was once a dawn to dusk trip over dusty, rutted, dirt roads now takes 30 minutes on the H-2 freeway constructed in 1977. The towns of Wahiawa and Mililani have grown up to the edges of Schofield’s boundaries, bringing along with them businesses and recreational facilities available to the soldiers and their families.

Today, the Schofield Barracks Area includes Wheeler Army Airfield and Helemano Military Reservation and consists of 16,602 acres. Two brigades of the 25th Infantry Division and the many other important units necessary to support them are housed here. There are approximately 14,000 military personnel as well as 2,000 civilian employees who work and train at Schofield. 21,100 soldiers and their dependents live on the premises.

Schofield continues to grow and expand. A new brigade complex was completed in 2002 and the establishment of quality family housing continues with demolition of outdated apartment blocks and construction of the new housing.

Schofield Barracks is open to the public. All are welcome to tour the Post and drive up to Kolekole Pass where it is permissible to park on the Army’s side of the pass and walk up to see the view. Please come and visit the 25th Infantry Division’s Tropic Lightning Museum. We look forward to seeing you.



1935 Shirley Temple wearing a 27th Infantry Band hat.



Visit us!

Bldg. 361, Waianae Ave.
Schofield Barracks
On the corner of
Waianae and Flagler,
At the end of Macomb Rd.

Contact Info

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