
A SHORT HISTORY OF

Schofield Barracks

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 roughly valued at \$360,000. 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 passed over as a site for a principal military post in 1903 because of the lack of a readily available water source.

The Early Years

Five years later the reservation was chosen for establishment of a major military post. On November 9, 1908, the 1st and 3rd Squadrons of the 5th Cavalry were ordered to Hawaii, greatly increasing the number of Army personnel on the island. On December 4, 1908, Captain Joseph C. Castner, construction quartermaster, arrived on Oahu to begin construction of a temporary cantonment on the Waianae side of the reservation. Captain Castner, with the help of local laborers, constructed tents for the officers and men, followed by temporary wooden barracks.

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 Airfield. 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.

The post was officially named in April, 1909. The name most commonly used around the temporary post was Castner Village, after Captain Castner who was responsible for its construction. People in Honolulu referred to it as the Leilehua Barracks after the Leilehua Plain on which is located. Some of the cavalrymen wanted to name the post after their commander, General Earl D. Thomas.

**ADDRESS OF MAJOR GENERAL
JOHN M. SCHOFIELD
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 tone 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 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."

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, the

1st Infantry Regiment, the 25th Infantry Regiment, and the 4th Cavalry all garrisoned at Schofield.

The Permanent Post

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 for the four regiments already at Schofield.

The configuration of three barracks and one administration building surrounding a central courtyard became known as a "quad." These were self-contained units and 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 that we use now were given 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 and housed 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 complete 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. During the 1970's the barracks were remodeled, changing the open squad bays to semi-private rooms. Today, the historic Quads are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. 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.

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, horseshoe shaped bungalows take advantage of the mild Hawaiian climate and tradewinds. Likewise, the stucco quarters across from "F" Quad were modified from the original design at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, to have pitched roofs which better protect the structures 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 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. The Conroy Bowl was built in 1923, with the addition of a roof over the bleachers in 1932. Originally a boxing bowl, it is now used as a sports facility and as a staging area for troop deployments. The Soldiers' Chapel, originally built in 1920 in the old Castner Village, is now located across from the Conroy bowl and is designated a National Historic Landmark.

Other significant buildings on the post include the Stockade, which closed in 1977; the original Station Hospital, now a health clinic; the Officers' Club; Fire Station; and Division Headquarters. More information on these and other sites on the post can be found in the "Historic Guide, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii" provided at the Tropic Lightning Museum.

Growth of the Post

In April 1917 the United States of America entered the war in Europe. In August 1917 an officer's training school was established on the barracks. 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 left by October 1918.



HAWAIIAN DEPARTMENT INSIGNIA

The War Department endorsement of 2 November, 1921 announced the Hawaiian Department shoulder insignia as:

An octagon of scarlet, the sides tangent to a circle two and one-half inches in diameter, bearing the letter "H" in yellow, including stitching, all elements of the letter being one quarter of an inch wide, the upright elements arcs of a circle with outside diameter of one and three-quarters inches. The eight sides refer to the eight islands in the Hawaiian group. Scarlet and yellow are the old Royal Hawaiian colors."

The insignia is currently used by United States Army Garrison (USAG).

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 are responsible for the great eucalyptus and Norfolk pine trees lining the Post roads. They planted shrubs, seeded lawns, built roads, and landscaped around the existing structures.

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 Regiments and the 3rd Engineers. Schofield Barracks was again fully occupied.

Schofield housed the only complete division in the US Army at that time and was the Army's largest single garrison. Population rose to 14,000 in 1938. Throughout the 30's and '40's, the Hawaiian Department accounted for more than 10% of the Army's forces.

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, war was again declared after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and Wheeler Army Airfield.

While Schofield received some strafing from Japanese planes flying over the Barracks, the most current research indicates that Schofield Barracks 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 has several oral histories 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.

After the attack the Hawaiian Department commander and his naval counter-part were relieved of duty and replaced by a unified command under Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific (CINCPAC). This marked the end of the Hawaiian Department. Within a year, the newly formed 24th and 25th Divisions were sent to fight the war in the Pacific.

The need for soldiers trained to fight under tropical conditions arose at this time. The Jungle Training Center, later called the Ranger Combat Training

School, was begun at Schofield 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. The facilities and training areas were increased and the Olympic size Richardson Pool, intended for use in combat training, was built.

Quiet Years

The war ended on September 2, 1945. However, both the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions remained in Japan with the occupying forces. The population at Schofield shrank to 5000 men. Defense allocations to Hawaii's military district declined. The Army command organization was reduced to U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) in 1947 and Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks were combined as one unit with headquarters at Fort Shafter in 1950.

Population sank to an all-time low of 2,000 in the late 1940's. With the small population, numerous recreational facilities, and well kept landscaping, Schofield had the appearance of a country club.



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.

Things picked up, however, with the start of the Korean War. 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 were formed into the 20th Battalion. Although the quality of training at the HITC was high, it was deemed too expensive to send men to Hawaii. The decision was made to utilize the Center for local

men only. By March, 1952, when the last mainland draftees arrived, 11,000 rifle men had been trained. A total of 22,500 soldiers were trained at the HITC.

Revitalization

When the 25th Infantry Division finally did come home to Schofield Barracks in September, 1954 Hawaii's overall population rose 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. Education and career programs were stressed. Weaponry and military tactics were much advanced.

To accommodate the new soldier and his family, more housing had to be constructed, old buildings were demolished to make way for parking lots. Schools were built on the post, Hale Kula in 1959 and Solomon School in 1969. A new commissary, post exchange, and NCO club were constructed. The museum was first opened in the old skating rink across from the Smith Theater before moving to Carter Hall in 1984.

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. The establishment of quality family housing continues with demolition of outdated apartment blocks and construction of the new housing.

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 and Waiawa training areas, Kahuku and Kawaihoa Training areas are actively used by the 25th Infantry Division today.

After the Korean War, Hawaii again regained a more central position in the United States defense strategy. CINCPAC headquarters are located at Camp Smith on Oahu. USARPAC absorbed USAFFE (U.S. Armed Forces, Far East) functions on July 15, 1957. USARHAW (U.S. Army, Hawaii)/ 25th Infantry Division took over many of the activities relating to Hawaii. Over the years, USARHAW would be separated from the division, renamed, and altered in structure, but in March of 1992 USARHAW and the

25th Infantry Division (now designated as a "Light" infantry division) were once again reunited. The command can be found in Building 580 at Schofield Barracks.

A Destination for All

Throughout the years, Schofield has had many distinguished visitors, both military and civilian. In 1946 General 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." Most recently, the Commander-in-Chief, President Bill Clinton, visited Schofield and Wheeler Airfield for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the end of World War II.

Celebrities such as Shirley Temple, Frank Sinatra, and Angie Dickinson have visited through out the years. Bob Hope brought his USO shows to Schofield in 1950, 1957, and 1971.

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

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 the Helemano Military Reservation. Two brigades of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) 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 dependents live on the premises.

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 located at the end of Macomb Road, Building 361, Carter Hall. We look forward to seeing you.

