



# Media Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Army Soldiers to Engage in Thanksgiving Day Culinary Battle**

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii**– Soldiers on Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield are “putting on the ritz” for nearly 500 Soldiers and their families Thanksgiving Day.

U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii Soldiers are honing their culinary skills in preparation for a Thanksgiving Day competition, hoping to win the “US Army Garrison, Best Decorated Dining Facility, Thanksgiving Day 2008” trophy.

Proving that they can do more than just cook meat and potatoes in battlefield conditions, these Soldiers will demonstrate their skills by creating delectable cuisine worthy of being served in America’s finest restaurants. The competition will help decide which chefs will represent Hawaii at the Army’s national competition at Fort Lee, Va., next year.

The food service specialists have gotten creative decorating cakes and preparing baked goods, candy confections, and chocolate sculptures in anticipation of the competition. “This is the one day a year that the Soldiers will use the dining facility as a venue to showcase their individual and collective culinary training,” said Master Sgt. Kal Shibata, food operations management sergeant for the 8<sup>th</sup> Theater Sustainment Command (TSC). “Soldiers are encouraged to put the full extent of their cleverness and ingenuity into their meal preparation.”

However, the food on the plate is only half of the equation, according to Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Clinton Francis, chief food operations management sergeant, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii. Francis emphasized that dining presentation is just as important as meal preparation, especially since each competing dining facility will also be judged on appearance and how well it meets the Thanksgiving theme.

Judging this year’s competition is Brig. Gen. Mark MacCarley, deputy commanding general, 8th TSC; Debra Zedalis, director, Installation Management Command-Pacific Region; and Col. Matthew Margotta, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii.

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**MEDIA NOTE:** *Media wishing to view the Thanksgiving Day meal preparation, judging competition, or simply to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with Soldiers and their families, should contact Loran D. Doane, Media Relations Chief, at 656-3157 or 542-9489.*