



# News Release

U.S. Army Garrison, Pohakuloa

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Big Island community joins PTA in celebrating U.S. Army's 234<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
5K Fun Run/Walk

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Runners and walkers, from as far north as Honakaa and military veterans and supporters from as far south as Kau, came to Queen Liliuokalani Park, Hilo and joined Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) command and civilian employees in celebrating the U.S. Army's 234<sup>th</sup> birthday with a 5K Fun Run/Walk, June 13.

"It is our way to celebrate and recognize the long historical existence of our Nation's Army, and also a way to share Pohakuloa's involvement in support of the Big Island's 'Buying Local First' campaign effort," said Command Sgt. Maj. Lynice Thorpe, garrison command sergeant major of PTA and installation's senior enlisted noncommissioned officer.

Under cloud cover, more than 60 highly motivated runners and walkers, as young as nine years-old and as old as 74-years of age, took to the streets of Hilo, from the park, through Hilo Bayfront, and back to the park.

Soldiers from the Oahu-based 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Support Company led their unit in a formation run from start to finish soon after Lt. Col. Warline Richardson, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Pohakuloa, gave a short motivational speech and encouraged runners and walkers alike to do their best.

Soon the sweat-clad, adrenaline-pumped runners and walkers reached the finish line.

Minutes later, runners, walkers, and supporters were treated to a post-run cake to celebrate the U.S. Army's 234<sup>th</sup> birthday, and were provided giveaways of coffee mugs, key chains, baseball caps, shirts and backpacks. Each participant was given a run/walk package, which consisted of an Army Strong T-shirt and water bottle.

The Army's birthday celebration was culminated with a barbecue brunch led by Pohakuloa's Range Operations team.

Decky Lopez, range operations supervisor, and Mitch Ryder, range technician, worked the grill as they provided hunger-eager stomachs of PTA staff, Soldiers, and guests with charcoal-cooked hotdogs, hamburgers, chicken, and side dish of potato and macaroni salads.

The clouds would soon break off to show a blue sky, and make this a day to remember how thankful we should be of the existence of outstanding professional Soldiers and civilians of a great organization, the U.S. Army.