



Media Release

Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii
(808)656-3157/542-9489
“Malama na Koa”

Release number: 2009-05-08
May 29, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wheeler Soldiers Die in Aviation Accident

WAHIAWA (WHEELER ARMY AIRFIELD), Hawaii—Two Soldiers died Wednesday as a result of a helicopter accident on the runway at Wheeler Army Airfield.

Dead are:

Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Bryce Millward, 28, of Chubbuck, Idaho, who was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Millward joined the Army in June 2006 and was assigned to Hawaii in July 2008.

Chief Warrant Officer Stanley Blane Hepfner, 29, of Hubbard, Ohio, who was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Hepfner enlisted in Army as an infantryman in June 1998, and was commissioned as a Warrant Officer in December 2002. He had been stationed at Wheeler Army Airfield since December 2008.

While enlisted, Hepfner participated in peacekeeping operations as an infantryman in both Kosovo and Egypt, and later served a combat tour in Iraq as an OH-58D aviator.

Both Soldiers completed flight training at Fort Rucker, Ala., in the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter.

“We will continue to keep the family members of Chief Warrant Officers Hepfner and Millward, along with the members of 2-6 Cavalry, in our thoughts and prayers”, said Col. Michael D. Lundy, commander, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. “Both officers were among the very best and will always be remembered for their professionalism, selfless service and expertise as Army aviators.”

The cause of the accident is under investigation. An investigation team from the Combat Readiness Center, Fort Rucker, Ala., arrived today to conduct the investigation.

For more information the media may contact U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, public affairs office at (808) 656-3157 or (808) 656-3160.