



Media Release

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

Release number: 2009-11-01
November 4, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25th ID Headquarters Returns Home

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — The 25th Infantry Division (ID) Headquarters is scheduled to return to Schofield Barracks, Thursday morning.

The homecoming marks the return of the last group of Soldiers from the 25th ID Headquarters, which assumed command of the Multi-National Division North (MDN-North) in December 2008.

During their tenure in Iraq, the 25th ID led a full spectrum of operations in MND-North, including the implementation of the U.S./Iraq security pact, which paves the way for a planned withdrawal of American troops from Iraq by December 2011. The significance of this agreement allowed the 25th ID to spearhead the transition of responsibility from American security forces to Iraqi forces, building stronger alliances with Iraq’s leadership and citizens.

“Our Soldiers have had the unique opportunity to be in Iraq during a time of significant change,” said Lt. Col. Gregory Bunn, 25th ID Rear Detachment Commander. “The Soldiers of Task Force Lightning witnessed first hand the repositioning of US Forces outside of the cities and villages and the transition of municipal security to Iraqi Security Forces. This significant event took place on June 30, and is a significant milestone in the responsible reduction of US Forces in Iraq”.

The division completed 230 projects and initiated 140 more. The Soldiers’ efforts provided Iraq with better power distribution and infrastructure; 67 new and renovated educational facilities; transportation projects to improve road and rail systems; and the revitalization of market areas to stimulate economic growth.

“The return of the Division Headquarters and staff, commanded by Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr., marks a major milestone in the 25th ID’s proud history,” said Bunn. “We’ll be able to reflect on all of these accomplishments as we officially thank the Soldiers of this great Division for a job well done during the formal welcome home at the 25th Infantry Division Redeployment Ceremony on Nov. 19.”

Thursday’s homecoming event will take place at Wheeler Army Airfield and is scheduled for 9:55 a.m. Family and friends wishing to welcome the Soldiers home are encouraged to check the 25th ID Web site, www.25idl.army.mil, for the latest ceremony updates.

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CEREMONY 2-2-2

Individuals with military identification cards and installation vehicle decals may enter Wheeler through Kawamura and Kunia Gates. Individuals without military identification are required to report to Lyman Gate at Schofield Barracks to obtain a visitor's pass. Please allow additional travel time in the event that there is a backlog for access passes, and be prepared to show valid photo identification, automobile registration and proof of insurance. Driving directions will be provided at the gate entrances.

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MEDIA NOTE: Media wishing to attend should R.S.V.P. by 8 a.m., Thursday, to Loran Doane, USAG-HI Media Relations chief at 656-3157 (office) or 317-847-2222 (cell). Media should meet Army escorts at Schofield Barrack's Lyman Gate at 9:15 a.m., Thursday.