



Media Release

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

Release number: 2009-06-05
June 11, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Welcomes New Commander

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Soldiers, family members, and government civilians, along with local civic and Native Hawaiian leaders, will gather on Sills Field, Monday, to bid “a hui hou” to Col. Matthew T. Margotta, current commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI), and to welcome the incoming commander, Col. Douglas S. Mulbury.

Margotta has commanded USAG-HI since June 27, 2007, and is noted for his initiatives in building strong partnerships and programs between the Army, and the state’s local communities and Native Hawaiian groups.

Margotta established the first-ever Native Hawaiian Advisory Council, composed of leading business, civic and community leaders, in an effort to help the Army better understand issues important to Native Hawaiians. He was also responsible for the drafting and signing of the Army Native Hawaiian Covenant, a written commitment by the U.S. Army to work together with Native Hawaiians for the mutual interests, understanding and advancements of both sides for the common good of all.

Under his leadership, the garrison has received numerous accolades for its initiatives in taking care of Soldiers and their families. Several of these efforts have served as models for the Army at large: the USAG-HI’s Soldier and Family Assistance Center for wounded warriors and their families; the Blue Star Card, a discount and activity card for families of the deployed; and the “Train as you Ride” motorcycle safety course. The garrison has also been recognized numerous times by both the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the garrison’s outstanding environmental programs.

“When I came into command, here, my primary goal was to do everything I could to improve the quality of life for our Soldiers and their families,” Margotta said. “I’ve been on the other side of the fence. I understand what it’s like to be deployed, to come home, and then to deploy again. Each time enduring more family separation and the anxiety of wondering who is taking care of my family when I’m gone.”

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Margotta urged garrison staff to sustain their passion for helping others in providing the services and support for the care and welfare of the Army's Soldiers and their communities.

"Never lose sight of the fact and that our Soldiers and their families are living through tough times now," Margotta said. "Our nation has asked them to sacrifice a lot over the last eight years. The least we can do is to provide them with the highest quality of services and support with the resources we have."

Early next month, Margotta will step into his new role as both Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff for the Warrior and Family Support Center (WFSC) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Margotta's replacement, Col. Mulbury has more than 25 years of experience in the Army and is no newcomer to Hawaii. The New York native and Cornell University graduate has been stationed at Schofield Barracks previously with the 25th Infantry Division.

Mulbury recently returned from Iraq following a 15-month deployment where he served as the 25th Infantry Division's G-3 (Chief of Operations) and the G3 of Multi-National Division North during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He had served previously in Iraq as a battalion commander with the 10th Mountain Division. Mulbury has taught Behavioral Science and Leadership at the United States Military Academy at West Point as an assistant professor, taught Military Science at Syracuse University as a professor, and served as Chief of Tactics, United States Army Infantry School. He holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Southern California, an Master of Arts from the University of Hartford, and an Master of Science from the United States Army War College.

Those wishing to attend the Change of Command ceremony should enter through Schofield Barracks' Lyman Gate, off Kunia Road.

Drivers should allow for extra time at Lyman Gate due to new security measures in effect. Vehicles without a current military decal (DD Form 2220) or Army installation pass will be issued a temporary pass at the Lyman Gate Visitor Control.

Drivers must also provide a current driver's license, vehicle registration, safety inspection, proof of insurance, and valid photo identification for each occupant, in order to access the installation.

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MEDIA NOTE: Media wishing to attend should R.S.V.P. no later than 5:30 p.m., Sunday, June 13, and should meet Army escorts at Schofield Barracks' Lyman Gate at 9:15 a.m., Monday, June 14. For further information, please contact Loran Doane, Media Relations chief, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs at (808) 656-3157 or cell (317)-847-2222.