



Memorial Monument Dedication



April 1, 1999
10:30 AM

National Memorial Cemetery
of the Pacific
Honolulu, Hawaii



Memorial Monument Dedication

Program

Call To Order

Richard Haglund

President, 96th Infantry Division Association, Co. E, 381st Infantry

Post the Colors

U. S. Army Color Guard, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division

National Anthem

25th Infantry Division Band, U.S. Army

CWO2 Gary Dorrell, Director

Pledge of Allegiance

Richard McCarthy

Co. B, 383rd Infantry

Invocation

Chaplain (Major) Stephen Walsh

2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division

Introduction and Greetings

G. E. Castagnetti

Director, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Keynote Address

Lieutenant General E. P. Smith

Commanding General, U.S. Army, Pacific

Dedication Remarks

Brigadier General David Irvine

Deputy Commanding General, 96th Regional Support Command

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

25th Infantry Division Band

The 96th Division in World War II

Donald Dencker

Co. L, 382nd Infantry

Unveiling of the Monument and Placing of Wreaths

Erma Helsel, Widow of John Crabb, Co. L, 383rd Infantry

Lawrence Ulrich, Co. M, 383rd Infantry

Rifle Salute

Firing Detail, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division

Taps

Bugler, 25th Infantry Division Band

Retire the Colors

U.S. Army Color Guard

Benediction

Chaplain (Major) Stephen Walsh

“U.S. Army Song”

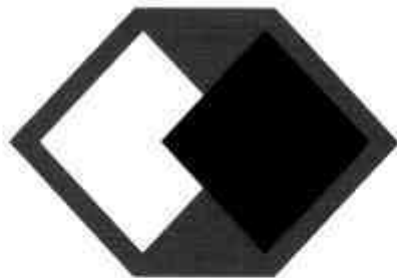
25th Infantry Division Band

Dismissal

Richard Haglund

Post Program Music: “The Stars and Stripes Forever”

25th Infantry Division Band



The 96th Infantry Division

**U. S. Army
World War II**

The 96th Infantry Division was activated on August 15, 1942 at Camp Adair, Oregon, under the command of Major General James L. Bradley. The Division trained at Camp Adair, Fort Lewis, Washington, Bend, Oregon Maneuver Area, Camp White, Oregon, and Camp San Luis Obispo, California. The Division then departed San Francisco on July 25, 1944 for Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The Division sailed from Hawaii for the October 5, 1944 landing on Yap Island. The Yap operation was cancelled en route and the 96th Infantry Division then led the return to the Phillipines, landing on Leyte Island October 20, 1944.

The 96th Division then seized Leyte beaches on landing, Hill 120 and Catmon Hill. Moving inland, they defeated major Japanese resistance at Tabontabon and took all assigned objectives. The Division was instrumental in crushing the attack of the 2nd Parachute Brigade on Central Leyte Valley airfields. The Division then completed the Leyte mop-up and prepared to depart for the Ryukyus Campaign.

The 96th Infantry Division landed on Okinawa on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945. The Division continued ceaseless attacks against heavily defended Japanese positions including Kakazu and Tombstone Ridges. Against intense resistance, they captured Tanabaru and Maeda escarpments. In May, 1945, the Division captured the Dick Hill mass and Conical Hill, breaking the right flank of the main line of Japanese resistance. The Division then moved south, seizing the final line of Japanese resistance on the Yuza-Yacju escarpments and completing mop-up of enemy resistance on June 30, 1945.

In late July of 1945, the 96th Infantry Division sailed from Okinawa to Mindoro Island in the Phillipines to prepare for the planned invasion of Japan. The Division ultimately returned to the United States in January, 1946 and the "Deadeye" Division was officially disbanded on February 3, 1946 at Camp Anza, California.

During its lifetime, the 96th Infantry Division killed 30,000 Japanese troops while suffering almost 13,000 casualties, a very heavy price borne by those we honor here today, 54 years after the landing on Okinawa.