

November 18, 2013

Keeper of the Register
National Park Service
Washington, DC

I am writing to support the nomination of the Ewa Battlefield to the National Historic Register. My involvement in the effort to save Ewa Field/MCAS Ewa began a few years ago while a Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post Commander in Hawaii. Multiple Past Commanders of the VFW Department of Hawaii (state level organization) have participated in commemoration events at Ewa Field and nearby Fort Barrette. Participation in these events introduced me to Ewa history and led to my involvement with the Naval Air Museum Barbers Point (NAMBP). Part of the NAMBP mission statement includes preservation of the history of MCAS Ewa Field. Although I have moved away from Hawaii, I remain actively involved as a member of the Board of Directors of NAMBP and as its Historic Preservation Officer.

The initial attack on Ewa Field occurred slightly before the attacks at nearby Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field. Ewa Field was along the flight path of aircraft attacking those targets and the Japanese wanted to ensure Marine aircraft would not disrupt their attacks. Ewa Field and the surrounding area seem to have subsequently received extra attention from the attacking Japanese aircraft on December 7, 1941 due to being located under a rendezvous point. Japanese aircraft formed up near Ewa Field after their Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field attacks, prior to returning to their carriers. Those with remaining munitions often expended them on military and civilian targets in Ewa. Four U.S. Marines were killed at Ewa Field and others were wounded. One U.S. Army soldier was killed by strafing aircraft at Fort Barrette. Four U.S. Navy aircraft from the USS Enterprise (CV-6) were shot down by Japanese aircraft in the skies over Ewa and just off shore. And there were two civilian deaths from strafing in the nearby Ewa Plantation Village. Thus the attack was not just on Ewa Field, but was spread over the Ewa plain. The entire area deserves recognition as Ewa Battlefield, a significant part of the overall Japanese air attack on Oahu, and should be included in the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Ferris
5351 Kings Drive
Gloucester, VA 23061