

LIBERTY CALL



Above: Vocalist MU3 April Wright sings "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" during the Pacific Fleet Band's portion of the Twilight Tattoo.

Right: The Pacific Fleet Band gives a rousing rendition of "Anchors Aweigh" during the 3rd annual Twilight Tattoo on the Fort DeRussy Parade Grounds in Waikiki March 27. The band joined five other military bands in a mass grand finale to end the evening of military music. The Pacific Fleet Band was the only band during the evening to use a vocalist. "We do have a few arrangements around that we use for her and I like to showcase her as much as possible," Lt. Ralph Barrett, director of the band, said.



With the sound of bagpipes wafting throughout a beautiful Waikiki evening, the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii put on a stunning show as they marched across the Fort DeRussy Parade Grounds.

Pacific Fleet Band performs in mass band twilight tattoo

Story and photos by
JO1(SW/FMF) S.A. Thornbloom

PACIFIC FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS

It wasn't a Rolling Stones concert nor was it a convention of skin artists. But there were lots of chicken skin and goose pimples being raised when six military bands got together recently for a melodic military performance before more than 500 on the Fort DeRussy Parade Grounds in Waikiki.

"This definitely sent chills up my spine," said Roy Kouski, a World War II veteran on vacation from Illinois. "It was an amazing performance and really made me proud to be an American seeing all these military bands."

Kouski, 72, said the 3rd Annual Twilight Tattoo across from the Hale Koa Hotel reminded him of many military ceremonies in World War II when he was stationed with the Army's 101st Airborne in Europe.

"Every time there was a ceremony during the war the band would be there," he said. "And when the war ended in 1945, bands were definitely playing."

The 25th Infantry Division (Light) and U.S. Army, Hawaii hosted the Tattoo. It included the 25th

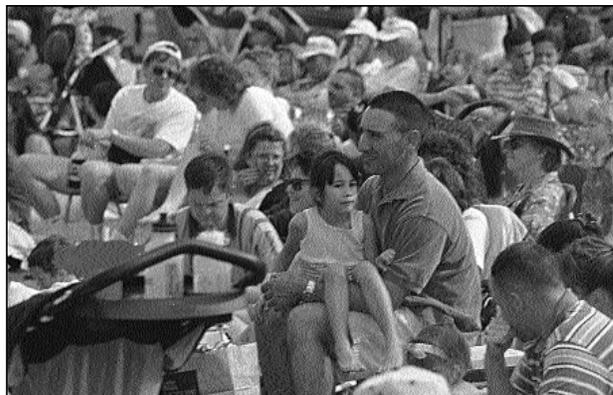
Infantry's "Tropic Lightning" Band, the Royal Hawaiian Band, the Pacific Fleet Band, the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii, the Marine Forces Pacific Band and the Royal Canadian Band. Each band gave a separate performance before the crowd and came together for a mass finale.

"We are proud members of the community and this ohana (family) that is Hawaii," said Maj. Gen. James T. Hill, commanding general of the 25th Infantry and U.S. Army Hawaii.

"We are proud to share the richness of our heritage. That is what this Tattoo is about. That's what this green space (Fort DeRussy Parade Grounds) in the middle of Waikiki that we share with everyone around the world represents. We are proud to be here and proud to be a part of all that is Hawaii."

The traditions of the military tattoo go far back into history. The word tattoo is derived from the Dutch word "Tap-toe" which literally means, "turn off the taps" and signals the time to prepare to close the taverns. The signal, which indicated that soldiers should return to their quarters and the beer in the taverns should be turned off, was transmitted by a drumbeat each evening. Eventually, this developed into a ceremonial performance of military music by

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More than 500 people stopped to watch and listen to the Twilight Tattoo. Many listened from the balconies of the Hale Koa Hotel across the street from the parade grounds.