

Soldiers Honored at 8th Military Police Watchdog Memorial

By Private First Class Marcus Fichtl

Eleven fallen Soldiers were honored during a ceremony held at the new Watchdog Memorial Grove, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on 4 June 2010. The Soldiers, who died as a result of the 8th Military Police Brigade's deployment to Iraq, included—

- Staff Sergeant Jonathan W. Dean, 561st Military Police Company.
- First Lieutenant William E. Emmert, 269th Military Police Company.
- Staff Sergeant Rafael A. Futrell, 13th Military Police Detachment.
- Air Force First Lieutenant Joseph Helton, 732d Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.
- Specialist Thomas F. Lyons, 545th Military Police Company.
- Sergeant Raul Moncada, 563d Military Police Company.
- Corporal Gary L. Moore, 978th Military Police Company.
- Specialist Zachary T. Myers, 545th Military Police Company.
- Specialist Matthew M. Pollini, 772d Military Police Company.
- Sergeant Jeffrey A. Reed, 411th Military Police Company.
- Staff Sergeant Shannon M. Smith, 545th Military Police Company.

The Soldier's Cross—an instantly recognizable symbol of honor and respect for a fallen Soldier (made up of combat boots, a rifle with a bayonet, and a helmet)—served as the keystone of the memorial ceremony. Eleven dog tags were placed upon the cross.

Sergeant Clark C. Bartholomew, 8th Military Police Brigade Operations Section, laid the dog tags of his close personal friend, Sergeant Moncada, on the monument. "Sergeant Moncada was the ultimate friend, the ultimate Soldier, the ultimate [noncommissioned officer], and a huge family man," Bartholomew said. "The emotions that one goes through during an event like this make it an extremely hard experience, but ultimately, a rewarding one; you don't forget a fellow Soldier."

Military police units and private citizens donated time, labor, and money for the construction of the Watchdog Memorial; and engineers from the 643d Engineer Company spent months building it. The day before the memorial ceremony, engineers and military police completed the memorial by placing the Soldier's Cross directly onto a granite base.

"I never cease to be amazed at our Soldiers' and families' commitment to duty and each other," said Colonel Byron A. Freeman, commander of the 8th Military Police Brigade. "But, rather than dwell on the loss of these Soldiers, I choose to remember and celebrate who they were as men, as brothers, as husbands, and as fathers."

Eleven names are also etched into the granite at Watchdog Memorial Grove. None of them will be forgotten.

Private First Class Fichtl is a public affairs specialist with the Public Affairs Office, 8th Military Police Brigade. He is a senior economics student at the University of Colorado at Boulder.