

## Hawai'i Military Intelligence Service 1943 – 2023

The 80th anniversary commemorates the 1943 recruitment of more than 700 nisei volunteers from Hawai'i who went on to serve in the Pacific against Imperial Japan in World War II as members of the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service.

### America's Secret Weapon

Colonel Sidney Mashbir, who commanded thousands of nisei at General Douglas MacArthur's Allied Translator and Interpreter Section, said later, "The United States of America owes a debt to these men and to their families which it can never fully repay. ... They were worthy, as individuals and as a group, of the highest praise for their invaluable contributions to the success of Allied arms."

Ultimately, nearly 6,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry would wage war against their parents' homeland in World War II, using their knowledge of the enemy's language and culture to give America a priceless edge that shortened the war and saved countless lives. From Guadalcanal and the Aleutians to Okinawa, the MIS soldiers served in every major battle and campaign of the war against Japan, gleaning vital information from prisoners and documents, flushing caves, fighting as infantrymen.

MIS intelligence specialists were among the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to see combat in World War II. They served in ones and twos, in small teams or detachments. Only the Army would enlist them, but once they proved themselves, the Navy, Marine Corps, air forces and Allied units demanded them, all over the Pacific and China-Burma-India theaters of war, as well as stateside and even Europe. After the war, they were essential in rebuilding Japan as a modern democracy and staunch U.S. ally. The MIS soldiers' feats were classified for years and they usually served on temporary duty, so their work too often went unrecorded. Yet they put to rest any doubts about the loyalty of Japanese Americans.

In 2000, thanks largely to U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka, the World War II service of the MIS nisei linguists was recognized nationally with a Presidential Unit Citation. In 2011, World War II veterans of the MIS joined those of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team to collectively receive the Congressional Gold Medal for their service to the nation.

*by Mark Matsunaga*



Military Intelligence Service Veterans Education Society of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 3021, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96802  
miveteranshawaii.com



# Hawai'i Military Intelligence Service Veterans 80th Anniversary

AUGUST 20, 2023

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII



Military Intelligence Service  
Veterans Education Society of Hawai'i

## Colonel Carol M. Stauffer

Commander, 500th Military Intelligence Brigade, U.S. Army

Colonel Carol Stauffer has been commander of the U.S. Army's 500th Military Intelligence Brigade-Theater since June 2022.

She has served as the senior intelligence officer for an aviation squadron, airborne infantry battalion, and Stryker brigade combat team. Her commands include a tactical intelligence company in Iraq, another in the Republic of Korea, and the 109th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion headquartered at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and assigned to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Other notable assignments include deputy theater analysis and control element chief within the 501st Military Intelligence Brigade Ground Control Component; executive officer for the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division; executive officer to the assistant deputy chief of staff, G-2 within the Department of the Army Headquarters; and military assistant to the chief of staff to the Secretary of Defense.

Colonel Stauffer is a native of Cherokee, Oklahoma. She is an alumna of Oklahoma State University. She received her commission as a U.S. Army Military Intelligence officer in 2002. She is also a graduate of the military intelligence officer basic and captains career courses and Command and General Staff College. She holds a master's of military arts and science from the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies and recently was the U.S. Army's War College Fellow at Stanford University.

## Stourwater Pictures

Stourwater Pictures, which produced "Proof of Loyalty," is based at Bainbridge Island, Washington, and is an award-winning production company that specializes in meticulously crafted historical and social issue documentary films.

The filmmaking team of Lucy Ostrander and Don Sellers each have more than 30 years of documentary film experience. Sellers' study of biology at Cornell University led him to focus on making scientific films. His work has included cinematography and editing for the PBS series "Frontline" and many other nationally broadcast documentaries. Ostrander's portfolio as a producer and director began with her master's thesis at Stanford University, "Witness to a Revolution: The Story of Anna Louise Strong," which earned several awards. Their 2012 feature documentary, "The Revolutionary," was screened theatrically in New York City and was shown worldwide.

"Proof of Loyalty: Kazuo Yamane and the Nisei Soldiers of Hawaii" was shown at the Hawai'i International Film Festival. It has received several honors, including the Audience Choice Award-Documentary at the 2017 Asian American International Film Festival and the Legacy Award at the 2018 DisOrient Asian American Film Festival. It has been shown at numerous film festivals and been broadcast nationally on PBS.



# PROGRAM

- 9:30 A.M. DOORS OPEN AND REGISTRATION
- 10:00 A.M. WELCOME  
MIS PRESIDENT KAREN KIKUKAWA
- FILM INTRODUCTION  
MARK MATSUNAGA
- "PROOF OF LOYALTY: KAZUO YAMANE  
AND THE NISEI SOLDIERS OF HAWAII"  
STOURWATER PRODUCTIONS
- 11:15 A.M. BREAK
- 11:30 A.M. BLESSING  
BISHOP TOSHIYUKI UMITANI  
HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION
- LUNCH
- 12:30 P.M. COLONEL CAROL M. STAUFFER  
COMMANDER  
500TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE  
U.S. ARMY
- 1:00 P.M. BISHOP TOSHIYUKI UMITANI  
MIS PRESIDENT KAREN KIKUKAWA



**MIS**  
U.S. ARMY  
HAWAII  
VETERANS  
1943-2023