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BAYFEST CELEBRATES 20 YEARS WITH ITS WINDWARD OHANA

Marine Corps Base Hawaii – June 23, 2009 – BayFest, Oahu’s premier summer family festival, celebrates 20 years of music and magic, August 14-16 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Originally dubbed as the “Windward Family Festival” in 1990, BayFest began as a community relations event to thank the military for their service, as well as to welcome the local community onto the installation to learn about the lifestyle of being a Marine. With its festival style atmosphere, military static displays, carnival rides and The Mamas & The Papas were the main attractions to this event.

Throughout the years, the local and military communities have come together to celebrate this summer holiday. In 1992, the Windward Family Festival was renamed to BayFest due to the many activities that focused on ocean sports in Kaneohe Bay. The number of water activities has lessened, but the name of BayFest remains a constant over the years.

Today, nationally-recognized bands highlighted the billboard from Lynyrd Skynyrd to Alan Jackson and Three Doors Down. Military static equipment displays, carnival rides and games, sports, contests and food, completed the event schedule, quickly turning BayFest into a community favorite and household name. Continuing from its early days, BayFest still remains a fixture on the calendars of the windward community with those of all ages. Approximately half of all visitors to BayFest do not have a direct affiliation with the military.

Building community relations and honoring Hawaii’s military personnel continues to be at the heart of BayFest as Marine Corps Base Hawaii commemorates the 20th anniversary with the announcement of its biggest headline act in history - The Black Eyed Peas, performing live on the JN Automotive Main Stage, Saturday, August 15, at 8:30 p.m.

Building on past successes, BayFest 2009 will also feature nightly Grucci fireworks, EK Fernandez carnival rides, Coconut Island boat rides, contests and family entertainment. General grounds admission is \$5; children five years and under are free. Gates open at 5 p.m. on August 14 and noon on August 15-16.

BayFest is open to the general public and organized by Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), a Department of Defense quality of life program that supports the morale, welfare and recreation of Hawaii's Marines, Sailors, and their families. For more information, call the BayFest hotline at 254-7679.

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