

# WEARE MCBH NEWSLETTER

Keeping our Marines and Neighbors Informed...

Vol. 1, Issue 4, July 2023

<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/>

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## MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

### Reefense Project Commences Off MCBH's Coast

Story by Cpl. Chandler Stacy



MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Beneath the waves of our planet's oceans are expansive natural structures that are both beautiful and necessary: coral reefs. The "rainforests of the sea" are vital to the health of global ecosystems whose fragility puts

at risk nearly 25% of all ocean life, also including food, protection, and resources for about half a billion people. All coral reefs are unique to include those found in and around the waters off the coast of Marine Corps Base Hawaii. In particular, these reefs are home to approximately 7,000 known species of marine plants and animals, 1,250 of which are unique inhabitants of Hawaiian coral reefs.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Reefense project aims to develop self-healing, hybrid biological and engineered reef-mimicking structures to mitigate coastal flooding, erosion and storm

damage while helping promote reef organism settlement growth and enabling the system to self-heal and keep pace with sea level rises over time. The Reefense project will improve the resiliency of coral reefs and help mitigate the effects of disease, temperature change and other environmental stressors.

In coordination with Marine Corps Base Hawaii, DARPA is also partnering with the University of Hawaii and U.S. Geological Survey St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center to tackle this complex, five-year project.

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### Down Range with MCBH's Gunner

Story by Lance Cpl. Clayton Baker

PU'ULOLO RANGE TRAINING FACILITY – The U.S. Marine Corps has long upheld the principle of "Every Marine a rifleman," ensuring that marksmanship training remains a cornerstone of a Marine's operational readiness. Critical to this endeavor for Hawaii Marines is Pu'uloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), a training complex that has remained under the stewardship of Marine Corps Base Hawaii since 1934. This commitment reflects the vital mission of providing middle-Pacific based, sustainable and secure training and operational support, facilities and services to enable the Marine Corps to

be a stand-in and joint operating force in readiness. The PRTF stands as the exclusive range in Hawaii where approximately 7,000 active-duty Marines per year can conduct their annual rifle qualification (ARQ).



PRTF offers a versatile training environment with six different ranges catering to a variety of needs, from short-distance pistol training to long-distance rifle engagements. The ranges are designed for firearms chambered in 5.56 caliber and below, ensuring compatibility with a variety of weapons commonly used by military and law enforcement personnel. Ranges Charlie through Foxtrot are specifically designated for pistol training, providing shooters with the opportunity to earn the combat pistol program qualification.

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### MCBH Hosts Joint EOD Symposium

Story by Cpl. Cody Purcell

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – To preserve valuable lessons learned from across the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) enterprise and foster increased collaboration among EOD teams, Marine Corps Base Hawaii hosted the annual Joint EOD Symposium this month. Led by U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Joseph Hockett, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal occupational field manager and action officer for the joint EOD program, the symposium

aimed to enhance interoperability and strengthen relationships within the joint EOD program.

The symposium was launched by the joint program board, aiming to leverage the valuable experiences gained from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, where EOD teams often faced challenging scenarios requiring seamless collaboration. Its primary goal was to capture and share the overarching objective of capitalizing on

lessons learned and strengthening the joint EOD community as it moves forward with modernization efforts.

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### THE HAWAII MARINE



#### MCBH's News Segment

The Hawaii Marine is a monthly news segment from MCBH highlighting events and training that have occurred aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii in the last month. Tune in each month to get a look at what your Marines are up to and how the installation is working to support the Marine Corps and our community.

[Click here or scan the QR code to watch the newest Hawaii Marine](#)

### PUBLIC ADVISORIES



#### Public Notices and Updates

MCBH publishes notices and updates in the form of Public Advisories to inform base residents and neighbors in the surrounding community of upcoming events, changes in base services, irregular training impacts, and any other information you need to know as you go about your day. Public Advisories are meant to keep you informed and aware of any changes that could affect you.

[Click here or scan the QR code to view MCBH Public Advisories](#)



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## MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



Marine Corps Base Hawaii leadership hikes with Rep. Lisa Marten, Hawaii House District 51, during a visit to the bordering fence line of Marine Corps Training Area Bellows and Kailua, Hawaii, June 20, 2023, to address concerns from the local community in relation to future training and construction efforts. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Brandon Aultman)

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U.S. Marines with 3rd Radio Battalion clear invasive vegetation during a clean-up at Kapapapu Point Park, June 2, 2023. The clean-up celebrated and recognized all the work that has been accomplished by 3rd Radio Battalion in partnership with HOH808 and various volunteers at Nu'upia Ponds within the last 18 months. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Clayton Baker) [More Imagery](#)

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## 3d MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

<https://www.3rdmardiv.marines.mil/Units/3d-mlr/>



### 3d Marine Littoral Regiment Change of Command

**Story by 1st Lt. Annie Pentaleri**  
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — U.S. Marine Corps Col. Timothy S. Brady Jr relinquished command of 3d Marine Littoral Regiment to Col. John G. Lehane during a change of command ceremony, June 15, 2023. Col. Brady took command of 3d Marines in June 2021 and served as the

commanding officer during the redesignation of 3d Marines to 3d Marine Littoral Regiment on March 3, 2022. Maj. Gen. Jay M. Barger, Commanding General of 3d Marine Division presided over the ceremony.



Under Col. Brady's command, 3d Marine Littoral Regiment participated in over 10 exercises, including both Balikatan 22 and 23, where 3d MLR trained alongside the Philippine Marine Corps to improve joint interoperability. Additionally, 3d MLR participated in Marine Littoral Regiment Training Exercise throughout southern California and Arizona. During the exercise, 3d MLR and all of its subordinate units integrated into

a Marine Air Ground Task Force and operated as a Stand-in Force.



3d Marine Littoral Regiment is a purpose-built unit that is part of a Stand-in Force and is designed to enable the Marine Corps' service strategy of Force Design 2030 as described in the Commandant's Planning Guidance. For more information on Force Design 2030 and 3d Marine Littoral Regiment, please visit [Force Design 2030 \(marines.mil\)](https://www.marines.mil/Force-Design-2030)

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### 3d MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Hunter Ross, an infantry Marine with 3d Littoral Combat Team, 3d Marine Littoral Regiment, 3d Marine Division, posts security with an M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle during a patrol at Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, June 9, 2023. 3d LCT conducted a nine-day field exercise to improve core competencies, discipline and continuing actions across the battalion. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Grace Gerlach) [More Imagery](#)

## MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

<https://www.1stmaw.marines.mil/Subordinate-Units/Marine-Aircraft-Group-24/>



### VMU-3 Takes Off – MQ-9A Certified Safe for Flight

**Press Release by 2nd Lt. Hannah Venables**



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION KANE OHE BAY, Hawaii — Today Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 (VMU-3) safely and successfully tested and flew its first MQ-9A remotely piloted aircraft. The squadron is now certified to independently operate the MQ-9A. VMU-3 received its first two MQ-9A remotely piloted aircraft at the end of April 2023. Since then, VMU-3 has worked tirelessly to assemble and prepare the aircraft for the rigorous Naval Air Systems Command safety certification process.

Certification (SFFOC) is the final crucial milestone in VMU-3's transition from the RQ-21A to the MQ-9A. The SFFOC process ensures the squadron has essential qualified personnel, sound infrastructure and administrative, safety, operational and maintenance programs in place to safely employ the remotely piloted aircraft.

"VMU-3 is excited to field such an impressive capability that we have all been diligently preparing for well over a year," said a VMU-3 squadron representative. The arrival of the new aircraft postures VMU-3 to better support a wide range of operations in the Indo-Pacific region. "Each section that makes up the VMU-3 squadron have all had an integral part in making this happen. It is truly a full force effort from our entire team," the squadron representative added. The squadron will now focus on developing tactics, techniques

and procedures for employing the aircraft to support the joint force, allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region.



The squadron is expecting to showcase the MQ-9A later this summer. The event will feature a ready-to-fly MQ-9A and commemorate the squadron. For more information about VMU-3 or the MQ-9 please contact Marine Aircraft Group 24 Communication Strategy and Operations, <https://www.1stmaw.marines.mil/Subordinate-Units/Marine-Aircraft-Group-24/>

[More imagery](#)

### MAG-24 DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



A Tractor Rubber-Tired Articulated Steering Multi-Purpose vehicle assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 174, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, clears debris during a counter-mobility exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, June 27, 2023. Counter-mobility operations increase the level of force protection against enemy ground forces and facilitate the ability to defend Tactical Landing Zones and Expeditionary Airfields. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Hunter Jones) [More Imagery](#)

The Safe-For-Flight Operations