

WEARE MCBH NEWSLETTER

Keeping our Marines and Neighbors Informed...

Vol. 1, Issue 8, November 2023

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

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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

Band of Brothers: Grantsville, Maryland Native Saves Fellow Service Member

Story by Cpl. Chandler Stacy

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – It was a clear June night and Cpl. Ethan Merrill, a crash fire rescue firefighter stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and native of Grantsville, Maryland, felt the wind in his face as he cruised down Kalanianaʻole Highway on his Kawasaki Ninja 636 motorcycle. Riding with friends, and fellow service members, was always a carefree adventure to him. Suddenly, tragedy struck.

“One of my friends I was riding with went around a turn and hit the guardrail and flew down a 40-foot cliff,” said Merrill, recalling the

incident. “My body will take over before my brain does. Every time we do drills or training, it helps me picture what could happen, and help be better prepared for it.”



Seeing his friend in need, Merrill didn't give a second thought. With his first-aid kit in hand, he trusted his instincts

in rushing to the aid of his friend.

“I immediately jumped into action, pulled out my first-aid kit, and went down the cliff after him,” said Merrill, “I got down to him and started assessing him, muscle memory kicked in and I just did my job.”

With a swift assessment of the situation, Merrill quickly put his training to use, delivering first-aid he learned during Tactical Combat Casualty Care training.

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MCBH and Paepae o He'eia Nu'upia Ponds WMA First Community Workday

Story by 1st Lt. Hailey Harms

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) co-hosted a first of its kind community workday, Oct. 7, 2023, to rehabilitate the ecosystem of the Nu'upia ponds wildlife management area (WMA) and enhance accessibility to important archaeological sites in the area.

The workday was the first to occur under the terms of a May 2023 Nu'upia WMA co-stewardship Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MCBH and local nonprofit organization, Peapae o He'eia. The day saw 19 volunteers

converge on the Nu'upia WMA to clean up the wetlands, ponds and beaches of the area.

“I am actually tearing up knowing that I can come back to a place that my ancestors once were,” said singer and songwriter Mailani Maka'inai, who took part in the workday. “Seeing families be together helping clean up this area, bringing my children and husband to this area means a great deal. This continues on the practices of not just Hawaiian culture but the human culture of taking care of the land.”



Commencing at 8 a.m. volunteers and attendees set about to remove the invasive species, pickleweed, off the pond wall. The removal enhanced preservation of the pond while also allowing greater understanding of the archaeological sites within the wall.

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Pulling Wedgies: Tagging Wedge-Tailed Shearwater Fledglings Ahead of Fallout Season

Story by Gunnery Sgt. Orlando Perez

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – The Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management

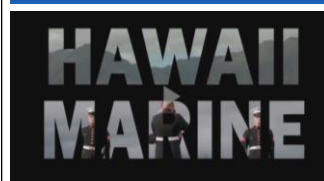


Area of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, comprised of shoreline/beaches, ponds, wetlands, and native vegetated areas, provides sanctuary for several federally protected species. One of which, has expanded its colony since its early discovery in 1994 – the Wedge-tailed Shearwater. This has been possible due to collaborative and continuous environmental initiatives, habitat preservation/restoration and the species management.

On October 27, 2023, Environmentalists, natural resource specialists, and volunteers from University of Hawaii, Hawaii Wildlife Center, and MCBH's Environmental Compliance and Protection Division gathered on the shoreline of Fort Hase beach to “band,” or tag, Wedge-Tailed Shearwater fledglings, commonly referred to as “wedgies,” ahead of fallout season.

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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



A Special Olympics athlete, with the Windward Warriors Team, competes in the bowling division of the 2023 Special Olympics Holiday Classic State Games Qualifier on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Oct. 8, 2023. Special Olympics Hawaii provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Hunter Jones) [More Imagery](#)



A Marine Corps Junior ROTC cadet with Kapolei High School dons an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) 10 bomb suit during a visit to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Oct. 30, 2023. The cadets received presentations from subject matter experts on EOD capabilities and marksmanship while gaining hands-on experience. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Julian Elliott-Drouin) [More Imagery](#)

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3d MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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

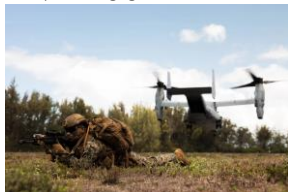


3d MLR Paves the Way with Force Design 2030 Capabilities

Story by 1st Lt. Anne Pentaleri

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – In the summer of 2020, Gen. David H. Berger, ret., introduced the Marine Corps to Force Design 2030, a 10-year plan to prepare the force to operate inside actively contested maritime spaces in support of fleet operations. The concept directed the transformation of traditional naval and expeditionary formations, facilitating the Marine Corps' return to its amphibious roots. III Marine Expeditionary Force, headquartered in Okinawa, Japan, was identified as the ideal Fleet Marine Force for Force Design 2030's modernization efforts to take place. One such effort was the creation of the Marine Littoral Regiment, a naval formation capable of conducting several mission-sets that support and enable the joint force across multiple domains. The MLR would be able to execute stand in force operations and provide 3d Marine Division and III MEF with a mobile,

low-signature, and persistent presence inside the adversary's Weapons Engagement Zone.



In March of 2022, a redesignation ceremony presided over by Commanding Officer Col. Timothy S. Brady, Jr., on Marine Corps Base Hawaii marked the transition of 3d Marines, a traditional infantry regiment, to 3d Marine Littoral Regiment – the first of its kind. Over the next year, 3d MLR would adopt three subordinate battalions – 3d Littoral Combat Team, 3d Littoral Logistics Battalion, and 3d Littoral Anti-Air Battalion. The unit's unique construct was designed with potential adversaries in mind. 3d Littoral Combat Team –

redesignated from 1st Battalion, 3d Marines – adopted Force Design 2030's restructuring of the infantry battalion. More lightweight and maneuverable than the legacy model, 3d LCT adopted lessons learned from Infantry Battalion Experimentation 2030 and employs three rifle companies, a headquarters company, and a medium-range missile battery. 3d Littoral Logistics Battalion – redesignated from Combat Logistics Battalion 3 under 3d Marine Logistics Group – is organized and trained to provide 3d MLR with tactical logistics and explosive ordnance disposal support. The reactivation of 3d Littoral Anti-Air Battalion was a historic milestone, as the unit inherited the lineage of 3d Light Anti-Aircraft Battalion – a decorated unit with history dating back to World War II.

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3d MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marines with 3d Marine Littoral Regiment, 3d Marine Division, conduct a 15-kilometer sustainment hike at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Oct. 13, 2023. Unit hikes serve as one of many methods for Marines to maintain conditioning and sustain combat readiness. (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/>



Marines Participate in the Waimea Fall Festival

Story by Lance Cpl. Logan Beene

WAIMEA, Hawaii – U.S. Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 268, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, participated in the fourth annual Waimea Fall Festival. Their main attraction was a static display of the MV-22B Osprey, but their mission extended far beyond showcasing their aircraft – it emphasized building connections with the surrounding community.



After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Waimea Fall Festival returned on October 14, 2023, at the Spencer K. Schutte Waimea District Park. Families gathered at the event to eat

various cuisines from local vendors, enjoy live music performances and play games with the chance to win and bring home prizes. They also got the opportunity to see a U.S. Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopter with an AN/APG-78 Longbow fire-control radar (FCR) system, HH-60M medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) Black Hawk helicopter, a U.S. Marine Corps Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), 7-ton Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR), and of course, tours of the MV-22B Osprey.

The VMM-268 Marines landed at the park's football field at dawn and remained at the festival until late in the afternoon. During the festival, VMM-268 Marines offered eventgoers an opportunity to walk through the aircraft, sit in the cockpit and interact with the controls. The Marines remained ready and eager to answer any questions.

VMM-268's booth maintained the longest line of families during the entirety of the event, a testament to how they were able to offer an entertaining and educational experience for all.

"Being part of the Waimea Fall Festival was an incredible experience for all of us. We had the privilege of not only showing our aircraft but also connecting with the community. The smiles on the faces of the kids and their parents as they explored the aircraft and engaged with us were truly heartwarming. We believe we left a lasting impact on all those who visited our booth, and that, for us, is the most rewarding part of our service. It's moments like these that remind us why we wear our uniform with pride," said Cpl. Brennen Davidson, one of VMM-268's crew members who volunteered at the event.

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MAG-24 DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 174 (MWSS-174), Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, refuel F-35s with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 211 (VMFA-211), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing during a forward arming and refueling point exercise (FARP) as part of Force Design Integration Exercise (FDIE) at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Sept. 27, 2023. A FARP is used to extend the capabilities of rotary or fixed-wing aircraft to allow rearming and refueling without having to fall back to a forward operating base. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Logan Beene) [More Imagery](#)