

WEARE MCBH NEWSLETTER

Keeping our Marines and Neighbors Informed...

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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth Visits Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Story by 1stLt. John O'Hara

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth visited Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, where base leadership and unit commanders welcomed him upon arrival. Hegseth engaged with Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers from MCBH, including 3d Marine Littoral Regiment, Marine Corps Air Station - Kaneohe Bay, Marine Aircraft Group 24, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 37, and the Army's 25th Infantry Division, conveying his appreciation for their service, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the mission.

"Motivating time spent with the warriors of K-Bay - Marines who embody discipline and lethality," Hegseth wrote on social media platform X. "America's enemies take note - these Devil Dogs are always ready."

MCBH, located along the windward coast of Oahu, remains a critical focal point in the U.S. military's posture in the Indo-Pacific. The proximity to key regional partners, combined with access to littoral training environments, makes it an ideal hub for the Marine Corps' newest operational concepts.

The visit to MCBH is part of a broader Indo-Pacific tour, with stops planned in the Philippines, Guam, and Japan, where Hegseth will meet with allied defense leaders to strengthen regional cooperation.



MCBH Hosts the Second Annual Train the Trainer Rescue Watercraft Course

Story by Cpl. Dezmond Browning

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - From Feb. 26 to Feb. 28, 2025, Marine Corps Base Hawaii partnered with the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association (HLA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing lifesaving efforts across the Hawaiian Islands, to host the second annual Train the Trainer Rescue Watercraft Course. Lifeguard agencies from Hawaii and Okinawa attended the course and collaborated to improve water rescue techniques and ensure that lifeguards are well-prepared for water emergencies.

Hawaii, renowned worldwide for its beautiful beaches and crystal-clear waters, has led the nation in annual drownings for decades. Each year, the state reports between 30 to 60 drownings, making it the leading cause of death for tourists and



children aged 1 to 15. Contributing factors include Hawaii's strong rip currents, large waves, sudden drop-offs, and the influx of tourists unfamiliar with ocean conditions.

The Train the Trainer Rescue Watercraft Course helps reduce these risks by providing a platform for lifeguards to exchange knowledge and learn new water rescue techniques and watercraft operations on a jet ski. The course covered risk management, post-operation maintenance, troubleshooting, and fundamental flat-water rescue skills. [Read More](#)

Decide, Communicate, Act - Advanced Infantry Marine Course 2-25

Story by Sgt. Julian Elliott-Drouin

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - The soft crunch of vegetation underfoot could be faintly heard among scattered whispers as infantry squad leaders in the making traversed the unforgiving terrain of Kahuku Training Area (KTA). The squad leaders tactically and deliberately patrolled to their objectives and expertly maneuvered

their Marines through thick brush to accomplish their assigned missions. These missions ranged from defensive operations, setting up ambushes, and offensive operations including scouting and raiding.

For 8 weeks, from Jan. 20 to March 26, 2025, instructors with Advanced Infantry Training Battalion (AITB), Detachment Hawaii, School of

Infantry West, oversaw the development. [Read More](#)



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Kalani Vierra



Hometown:

Hanalei, Hawaii

Role:

President of the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association

Accomplishments:

Lead Instructor for the Train the Trainer Rescue Watercraft Course

As the President of the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, Kalani Vierra enhances water safety by training lifeguards with the most up to date life saving techniques and watercraft operations. On Feb. 26, he assisted MCBH serving as the lead instructor for the Train the Trainer Rescue Watercraft Course. He instructed multinational lifeguards in flat water rescues and built proficiency and confidence in all who participated.

For his proficiency and initiative, Kalani Vierra has been selected as March's community member of the month!

MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Israel Cabrera, a student with the School of Infantry-West, Advanced Infantry Training Battalion, Detachment Hawaii, Advanced Infantry Marine Course (AIMC) class 2-25, took part in live-fire drills and tactical maneuvers with a focus on small unit training, all with the goal of becoming more effective infantry leaders upon their return to the fleet. (U.S. Marine Corps by photo Lance Cpl. Carlos Daniel Chavez-Flores) [More Imagery](#)



Students with Hala Ku Mana Charter School off-load tents at Waterfront Operations, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, March 13, 2025. MCBH invited the students to learn the history of the Mokapu Peninsula and receive hands on experience in traditional sailing navigation and maritime practices. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Hunter Jones) [More Imagery](#)

3d MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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



3d MLR Celebrates Patronage Day 2025: Honoring the Van Orden Marine Corps Legacy

Story By 1stLt. Emily Zito

On 13 March 2025, the Marines of 3d Marine Littoral Regiment gathered to honor the remarkable legacy of the Van Orden Family for the unit's annual Patronage Day. Patronage Day originates in the Saint Barbara tradition, which is deeply embedded in the history of artillery units. Saint Barbara, a Christian martyr, who was executed by her father, was adopted by artillery units because of the parallels between an artillery strike and the lightning that struck and killed her father following her execution. Over the years, artillery units, including those in the Marine Corps, have celebrated Patronage Day to honor Saint Barbara's legacy.

3d MLR's Patronage Day recognized four generations of Van Orden Marines – George Van Orden, George Owen Van Orden, George Mason Van Orden and George Kelley Van Orden—and gave an opportunity for the Marines of 3d MLR to reflect on the service, sacrifice and excellence of the Marines that came before them.

George Van Orden, the first in line, was an exceptional individual. From his early years at the U.S. Naval Academy to his bravery during the Spanish-American War and World War I, he left a deep mark on the Marine Corps. His vision shaped Marine officer training, and his contributions extended to selecting Quantico as a major training base, which continues to serve as a transformative place for Marines at every level in the Corps.

The legacy carried forward with his son, George Owen Van Orden, a Marine who revolutionized sniper training and marksmanship. His work laid the foundation for the modern Marine sniper training pipeline, with his development of sniper courses and contributions to the manual for "Equipping the American Sniper." During World War II, his heroism and leadership on Bougainville, earned him the Navy Cross, the U.S. military's second highest decoration for valor in combat, and cemented his place in Marine Corps history.

The next generation, George Mason Van Orden, followed suit with a remarkable

marksmanship career, winning national shooting championships and contributing to training manuals. He was also instrumental in enhancing Marine Corps marksmanship standards.

Finally, George Kelley Van Orden, though not initially set on becoming a Marine, followed in his family's path. Joining during a time of immense global turmoil, George Kelley Van Orden quickly earned a reputation for his exceptional leadership and expertise in combat. His remarkable service, including his role in testing and fielding critical weapons systems like the M16A4 and Squad Advanced Marksman Rifle, continued the family's reputation for excellence and service.

Patronage Day is 3d MLR's way of paying tribute to the Van Orden family and their four generations of service. The Van Orden family and their enduring spirit will continue to inspire and guide future generation of 3d MLR Marines, ensuring that new challenges will be met with the same courage, commitment, and sacrifice.

3d MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marines with 3d Marine Littoral Regiment, 3d Marine Division, participate in a ground fighting event during the 3d MLR Patronage Day field meet on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, March 13, 2025. Companies within 3d MLR competed in different events designed to test strength, wit, and endurance, ultimately bolstering unit cohesion and celebrating the individual and collective strengths of 3d MLR. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Eric Huynh) [More Photos](#)

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

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



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien

U.S. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 174, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing participated in simulated Base Recovery After Attack Training (BRAAT) at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, March 11, 2025. This unit-level training aimed to enhance the readiness of MWSS-174 through dynamic scenarios requiring swift and strategic responses. By simulating realistic challenges, the exercise allowed the Marines to identify operational strengths and weaknesses, refine their tactics, and bolster their preparedness for

real-world situations, whether on station or deployed. These efforts were particularly vital as the unit geared up for Exercise Balikatan 25, ensuring adaptability and resilience to mitigate potential risks and maximize mission success. This innovative training strengthens readiness by promoting foresight and precision to address future challenges effectively.