

WEARE MCBH NEWSLETTER

Keeping our Marines and Neighbors Informed...

Vol. 3, Issue 6, June 2025

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

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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

Hatching Honu: Over 40 Potential Green Sea Turtle Nests this Season

Story by Sgt. Julian Elliot-Drouin

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - Forty-five potential Green Sea Turtle nests have been detected thus far along the Fort Hase and North Beach shorelines on Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) during the 2025 turtle nesting season. The turtle nesting season began on May 15, 2025, and lasts until September 30, 2025, with peak hatchling emergences between July and August. MCBH has been identified as a hotspot for Green Sea Turtle nesting and

is responsible for stewarding nearly 14 miles of shoreline across Pyramid Rock, North Beach, Fort Hase, and Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

The 45 potential nests were discovered by MCBH's Natural Resources office, a part of the Environmental Compliance and Protection Division (ECPD), and volunteers with Mālama i nā Honu (MINH), an organization focused on detecting nests and collecting data each season to improve conservation measures

surrounding the Green Sea Turtle, which is protected by the Endangered Species Act. The appearance of Green Sea Turtle nests on the Mokapu peninsula has been trending upwards, with 2025 having the highest number of nests already from previous seasons. This has been attributed largely to an influx of committed turtle nest surveyors trained by MINH over the years and routine monitoring of the shorelines, which occurs five days a week at MCBH. [Read More](#)

Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Conservation Partners Unite to Protect Maunawili Forest and Lo'i

Story by 1stLt. John O'Hara

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - The lush and culturally significant Maunawili Forest and Lo'i, located on O'ahu's windward side, are the focus of a growing conservation effort backed by a unique collaboration between Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), the U.S. Army, U.S. Forest Service, state agencies, and nonprofit partners.

Through the Department of Defense's (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection

Integration (REPI) program, MCBH and the U.S. Army has secured approximately \$11 million to support ongoing work to protect the Maunawili watershed, preserving dozens of cultural sites, and restoring native species habitat.

The Maunawili initiative builds on a broader movement to safeguard the valley's 1,084 acres of forest, lo'i systems, and historic trails from incompatible development. The project aligns conservation objectives with military readiness by preventing urban

encroachment and protecting upstream watershed health, which is critical to both the community and the environment. [Read More](#)



Crawl, Walk, Ride: Belgian Special Forces Attend iWaterman Course at Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Story by Cpl. Jade K. Venegas

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - Belgian special forces service members attended Tactical Watercraft Rescue (TWR) training hosted by the iWaterman organization, a specialized water rescue group with a curriculum typically taught in three weeks that is condensed into only five days. The condensed curriculum

was taught on the shore of Waterfront Operations and Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, MCBH, June 9 to 13, 2025. MCBH, an installation with flat and rough water within a 25-mile radius, creates an ideal location for maritime exercises and training such as the TWR training. The collaboration between MCBH and iWaterman to teach TWR has been happening for nearly a

decade, providing U.S. service members and their allies with crucial watercraft rescue techniques and operations. iWaterman Instructor, Todd Bradley, said "it's a real benefit for the groups we teach to train out of Kaneohe Bay." He pointed to the ground and gestured to the sky, "...because here is everything we need." [Read More](#)

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Headquarters Battalion conducts Change of Command

SPOTLIGHT:

U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Parker Consaul commanded HQBN for approximately two and a half years.

U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Parker Consaul, right, outgoing commanding officer of Headquarters Battalion (HQBN), Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), and Lt. Col. Andrew Koch, incoming commanding officer, deliver remarks during HQBN's change of command ceremony at MCBH, June 18, 2025.

Consaul relinquished command to Koch.

For his memorable contribution to the battalion and exceptional leadership in command, Lt. Col. Consaul has been selected as June's community member of the month!

MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



A U.S. Marine operates a Man Transportable Robotic System (MTRS) during a robotic drop-charge training at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, June 25, 2025. Headquarters Battalion EOD and 3d Littoral Logistics Battalion EOD conducted the training to maintain proficiency in unmanned robotics systems. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Samuel Estridge) [More Imagery](#)



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Carlos A. Ruiz, the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, addresses junior enlisted Marines during a town hall at the base theater on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, June 24, 2025. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tania Guerrero) [More Imagery](#)

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3d MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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



3d Marine Littoral Regiment Celebrates a Transformative Command, Welcomes New Commander

Story By 1stLt. Leah Curtright

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Hawaii – June 18, 2025, marked a significant moment for 3d Marine Littoral Regiment as they bid farewell to Col. John G. Lehane and welcomed their new commanding officer, Col. Gabriel L. Diana. The change of command ceremony, held at Dewey Square aboard MCBH, served as an opportunity for 3d MLR to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of the regiment under Col. Lehane's leadership over the past two years.

Taking the reins on June 15, 2023, Col. Lehane guided 3d MLR through a period of unprecedented transformation and modernization, solidifying its role as a key component of the Marine Corps' Force Design

initiative. The regiment accomplished significant milestones during Col. Lehane's command, demonstrating the regiment's evolving capabilities and commitment to regional security in the Indo-Pacific.

One of the earliest and most crucial achievements under Col. Lehane's command came in December 2023, when 3d MLR achieved initial operational capability following a rigorous Force Design Integration Exercise. This exercise served as a powerful validation of the regiment's ability to conduct naval expeditionary warfare, seamlessly integrating air, land, and sea-based assets. This milestone signified the regiment's ability to accomplish its 6 mission essential tasks – conduct Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations



(EABO), support Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), attack enemy maritime targets, conduct expeditionary strike, support operations in the information environment, and coordinate air and missile defense.

Throughout 2024 and into 2025, 3d MLR consistently demonstrated its ability to project power and enhance interoperability with Allies and Partners.

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3d MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marines with 3d MLR, 3d Marine Division, march during a welcome home celebration at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, June 11, 2025. 3d MLR returned from Littoral Rotational Force-Luzon which included exercises Balikatan 25 and KAMANDAG 9. Balikatan is a longstanding annual exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. military designed to strengthen our ironclad alliance. KAMANDAG is an annual Philippine Marine Corps and U.S. Marine Corps-led exercise aimed at enhancing the Armed Forces of the Philippines by training in combined operations with foreign militaries. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Jonathan Beauchamp) [More Imagery](#)

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

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



The Season of Ceremonies



From left, U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Mayra Moreno, incoming sergeant major, Lt. Col. Paul Cordes, commanding officer of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 153, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and Sgt. Maj. Brandon Soetaert, outgoing sergeant major, pose for a photo during a relief and appointment ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, June 11, 2025. Soetaert relinquished his duties as sergeant major of VMGR-153 to Moreno. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Chandler Evans) [More Imagery](#)



U.S. Marines with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 24, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing participate in a change of command ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station, Hawaii, June 6, 2025. Lt. Col. Scott A. Martin relinquished his duties as commanding officer of MALS-24 to Lt. Col. Seamus B. Carey. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien) [More Imagery](#)



U.S. Navy Lt. Michael A. Lanz, a chaplain with Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) gives the invocation during a change of command ceremony for 1st Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion (LAAD), Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st MAW at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, June 12, 2025. Lt. Col. Heath A. Phillips relinquished his duties as commanding officer of 1st LAAD to Lt. Col. Douglas A. Columbus. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien) [More Imagery](#)

MAG-24 DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marine Corps Col. William G. Heiken, commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing awards Lt. Col. Scott A. Martin, off-going commanding officer of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 24 during a change of command ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station, Hawaii, June 6, 2025. Lt. Col. Scott A. Martin relinquished his duties as commanding officer of MALS-24 to Lt. Col. Seamus B. Carey. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien) [More Imagery](#)