

WEARE MCBH NEWSLETTER

Keeping our Marines and Neighbors Informed...

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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

The One-Stop Range Complex: KRTC supports the Indo-Pacific Warfighter

Story by Sgt. Julian Elliott-Drouin

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - The Kāne'ohe Bay Range Training Complex (KRTC) supports the training and readiness of several military branches, as well as federal and local entities, year-round. Due to KRTC's ability to support a multitude of trainings and operations, it has quickly become a critical enabler of the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. RIMPAC is the largest maritime training exercise in the world, and it takes place right here at KRTC.

"Its [KRTC] proximity to real-world operational theaters, combined with its ability to support multi-domain, multi-force training, makes it a cornerstone of regional readiness," said Infantry Gunner Chief Warrant Officer 2 Hunter Bernius, gunner of KRTF and Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) range control

operations officer.

KRTC boasts 11 numbered live-fire ranges and specialized facilities. Ranges 1-3 consist of static firing lines, a 360-degree Modular Armored Tactical Combat House with breaching capabilities, and fire and movement lanes. Ranges 4-7 support training around .50 caliber and below live-fire, M3A1 multi-role anti-armor anti-personnel weapon system, M72 light anti-tank weapon, AT-4 rocket launcher, and 40-millimeter target practice and high-explosive rounds. Ranges 9-11 are equipped to train long-distance rifle, M67 grenade throwing pits, and 60-millimeter mortars. Additionally, KRTC contains multiple urban operations sites, each with breaching points, tunnel systems, rooftops, and hard walls.

"KRTC is not only a training area, but also a mission rehearsal platform for the Indo-Pacific warfighter," said Bernius.

KRTC also supports helicopter insertion/extraction (fast rope, rappel, rooftop insertions), amphibious operations, including surf-zone operations, boat landings across multiple craft landing zones, and special insertion/extraction training, such as: military free fall and low-level static line parachute operations, combatant dive operations using ocean-to-inland infiltration profiles, subsurface and surface approaches for recon and special operations forces; joint air-ground integration, including small unmanned aircraft systems and rotary-wing support.

"These users... [Read More](#)

MCBH Enhances Training with Pyramid Rock MOUT Atmospherics

Story by Lance Cpl. Carlos Chavez-Flores

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII—Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) sites are specialized training environments designed to simulate the complexities of urban warfare. These facilities allow service members to train in realistic settings that simulate modern combat zones. From navigating tight alleyways to securing multi-story buildings, MOUT sites are used to prepare service members to make quick decisions and operate effectively in high-stress environments. Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) Pyramid Rock MOUT site, located on the Northwest side of the Marine Corps Air Station runway near Pyramid Rock Beach, achieves precisely that.

The Pyramid Rock MOUT site has recently been upgraded with new atmospherics on Sept. 10, 2025, to create an enhanced training environment. These training set dressings are designed to immerse Marines in the realities of urban combat, ultimately strengthening unit readiness.

"Atmospherics is the generic term the Marine Corps uses to describe set dressings that make a training area or MOUT facility feel more immersive," said Daniel Geltmacher, MCBH Range Training Area Manager. "Your house isn't just a bare room. It has tables, chairs, and items in it. That's what we've done here, we've added realism."

The atmospherics received include furnishings for rooms built to replicate environments Marines may encounter during real-world

operations. Training areas now feature mock drug labs, bomb-making facilities, restaurants, food vendor carts, bicycles, and even an armory stocked with replica AK-pattern weapons.

As part of the Pyramid Rock MOUT upgrades, malice kits have been incorporated to further create a realistic training environment. To reinforce intelligence-driven training in a MOUT environment, instructors can seed the environment with "malice kits," which include items such as fake passports, counterfeit currency, cell phones, and bomb-making material. These tools allow commanders to run counterinsurgency and cordon-and-search exercises that train Marines to identify and act on critical evidence.

"When Marines find the... [Read More](#)

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



SPOTLIGHT:

Sgt. Tamallia Spencer, Lance Cpl. British Robinson, and Lance Cpl. America Saldana, win MCBH's Chef of the Year Competition.

U.S. Marine Corps Col. Jeremy Beaven, far left, commanding officer of MCBH, and Lt. Col. Andrew Koch, far right, commanding officer of HQBN, MCBH, pose for a photo with the winners of the Chef of the Year competition at Anderson Chow Hall, MCBH, Sept. 18, 2025. The competition consisted of each Chef of the Quarter winner or runner-up competing against one another in a cook-off and a series of evaluations, including a written test. The judges graded the food based on presentation, taste, and creativity. The winner received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (NAM) and a chance to compete at higher levels across Marine Corps Installations, Pacific (MCIPAC).

To view more imagery, [click here](#).



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Nicholas Figueroa)

MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marines with 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, advance on an objective during dive infiltration training at MCBH, Sept. 13, 2025. Reconnaissance Marines conducted dive training to sustain their knowledge of advanced dive infiltration and exfiltration techniques and overall readiness for maritime threats. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Carlos Daniel Chavez-Flores) [More Imagery](#)



Retired Lt. Gen. Koichiro Bancho, special advisor to the minister of defense, accompanied by his official party and U.S. Marine Corps Col. Jeremy Beaven, commanding officer of MCBH, gathers for a wreath-laying ceremony, moment of silence, and site tour of the Commander Fusata Iida Memorial at MCBH. (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/>



3rd Marine Littoral Regiment Explores Littoral Mobility with U.S. Army MSV(L) Training

Story by 1st Lt. Leah Curtright

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Hawaii – U.S. Marines with 3rd Littoral Combat Team and 3rd Littoral Logistic Battalion, 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, performed drills using the U.S. Army's Maneuver Support Vessel (Light) alongside soldiers assigned to 7th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) on Wednesday.

The joint training focused on assessing the feasibility of leveraging the MSV(L) and its unique capabilities to support 3rd MLR mobility operations. Flexible littoral mobility options like the MSV(L) enhance 3rd MLR's capacity to rapidly maneuver in complex littoral environments utilizing joint equipment.

During the collaborative training, Marines with 3rd LCT and soldiers assigned to 7th TB(X) integrated the MSV(L) into potential operational scenarios, specifically evaluating its utility for supporting Navy/Marine Corps Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System battery-level movements. This included familiarization with the vessel's capabilities, on and offloading procedures, and coordination with Army personnel.

"This training was a valuable opportunity to explore additional littoral mobility solutions in order to enhance our formation's survivability and sustainability," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Devon Henderson, the 3rd LLB mobility officer. "The MSV(L)'s unique capabilities offer a potential force

multiplier, allowing us to extend our reach and respond rapidly to evolving operational demands."

The MSV(L) is designed for logistics in contested environments, capable of supporting both routine and combat operations by delivering troops and equipment to austere ports, degraded ports, and bare beaches throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

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3d MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

3rd MLR conducts 5k sustainment hike



U.S. Marines with 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, conduct a 5-kilometer sustainment hike on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Sept. 18, 2025. Unit hikes serve as a method for Marines to maintain conditioning and sustain combat readiness. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Malia Sparks) [More Imagery](#)

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

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



Marine Aircraft Group 24 supports Kalaheo High School Navy Junior ROTC Basic Cadet Training Camp

Story by 2nd Lt. Joseph Adcock

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION KĀNE'OHE BAY – Students from Kalāheo High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) executed their annual Basic Cadet Training (BCT) camp at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH). The event immersed cadets in the core values, operations and culture of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Kalāheo NJROTC has a long history of partnering with MCBH to introduce first year cadets to U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps principles. As the official unit sponsor, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 153, a subordinate squadron of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 24, worked closely with MCBH to coordinate guided tours, static displays and military instruction over the span of two-days from Sept. 12, 2025, to Sept. 13, 2025. The BCT camp offers orientation training to new cadets while allowing senior cadets to showcase their

operational planning and small unit leadership skills by supervising the cadet's movements between stations.

"MCBH Kāne'ohe has been a tremendous partner over the years," said retired Lt. Cmdr. Henry Van Oss, the program's senior naval science instructor. "The support provided by MCBH is a key factor in successfully orienting our new first-year cadets to Navy JROTC and the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps team."

NJROTC is an elective program emphasizing self-discipline, character development and leadership. At Kalāheo High School, the program supports federally mandated goals as well as many Hawai'i Content Performance Standards, including social studies, science and physical education. While participation does not require a military obligation, it provides numerous benefits for cadets interested in military careers.

This year's training began with guided tours of the Marine Corps Air Station air traffic control tower and radar room. Cadets then moved to the flight line to learn about Marine Corps aircraft and equipment, including the KC-130J Super Hercules and MV-22B Osprey.

"I personally loved going into the Osprey," said cadet Lacy Bitanga. "I'm thinking about cadets who have never been on a military base. They don't know what it's like to be in these types of positions, so I think it's really cool how they can incorporate civilian life into military life." [Read More](#)



MAG-24 DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

MAG-24 NCOs hike Koko Crater Trail for 9/11 Memorial



A U.S. Marine with Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing rests after climbing Koko Crater Trail at Honolulu, Hawaii, Sept. 11, 2025. MAG-24's Non-Commissioned Officers completed a hike up Koko Crater Trail to honor the firefighters who bravely ascended the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001, remembering the nearly 3,000 lives lost and embodying the spirit of sacrifice, leadership and resilience.



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Staff Sgt. Heather Atherton) [More Imagery](#)