

Vol. 3, Issue 10, October 2025

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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAI'I

Stepping Forward

Story by Lance Cpl. Tiana Guerrero

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAI'I - U.S. Marines with the Wounded Warrior Battalion, Detachment Hawai'i, gathered along Fort Hase Beach Trail to celebrate the Marine Corps' 250th Birthday with a one-mile walk at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Oct. 24, 2025. The walk reflected a long-standing Marine Corps tradition of honoring the service's legacy through shared effort and camaraderie.

"It's an honor," said U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Jefferey Kinsel, the senior enlisted advisor for the Hawai'i detachment. "Even something that seems small, like coming out here and putting in a mile, is a way to honor the sacrifices of those who came before us."

Kinsel, who has been a part of the detachment for over a year, explained that the walk represented their

contribution to a collective goal of logging 250 miles across all Wounded Warrior units, honoring the Marine Corps' legacy.

"Our mission has always been to provide Marines a place to focus on themselves, to recover and to get back to 100%, and when possible, back to the fleet. If not, we help them transition successfully into civilian life." Said Kinsel. This event allows service members who are recovering to still actively be a part of Marine Corps Birthday traditions.

For U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Taylor Hastings, a recovering member of the detachment, the event served as a reminder of Marine Corps tradition and camaraderie.

"I didn't want to be here at first," admitted Hastings. "None of us really plan to end up here, but it's been a lifeline. They've given me the support I need, not just for me but for my

family too.

"For Hastings, being able to be a part of the Marine Corps Birthday tradition was a full-circle moment that emphasized how Marines take care of each other.

"Being able to participate in a tradition like these means everything to me," said Hastings. "Even though I'm about to retire, events like this make me feel like I'm a part of something bigger. That's what keeps me going."

As Marines crossed the finish line together alongside Malibu, the detachment's therapy dog, the morning closed with reflection, smiles, and a reminder of the Marines that came before them. For the Marines in the Wounded Warrior Battalion, every step of that trail was a tribute to 250 years of Marine Corps legacy.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT:
First Responders Host
The 2025 National Night
Out At Marine Corps
Base Hawai'i

A U.S. Marine with Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Marine Corps Air Station Kāne'ohe Bay, MCBH, teaches a child how to operate a hose during a National Night Out event at MCBH, Oct. 7, 2025. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that enhances the relationship between law enforcement, first and emergency responders, and the community they serve.

(BELOW) U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Andrew Koch, the commanding officer of Headquarters Battalion, MCBH, conducts a K9 unit demonstration for community members during a National Night Out event at MCBH, Oct. 7, 2025.



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Nicholas Figueiroa)
To view more imagery, [click here](#).

HQBN and MAG-24 Host the 2025 Trunk-or-Treat Event

Story by Lance Cpl. Nicholas Figueiroa

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAI'I - U.S. Marines with Headquarters Battalion (HQBN), Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH), and Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW), hosted a "Trunk-or-Treat" Halloween event at Marine Corps Air Station Kāne'ohe Bay, MCBH, Oct. 24, 2025.

Trunk-or-Treat is a Halloween event where service members and their families dress up in costumes and decorate unit vehicles and personal cars to hand out candy to trick-or-treaters. This event provided an opportunity for Marines and Sailors to connect and interact with other service members and their families with a shared excitement for the upcoming Halloween holiday.

"When we create an event like this, where we bring the families in, it just reinforces that bond," said Lt Col.

Andrew Koch, the commanding officer of HQBN. "As we say at Headquarters Battalion, it's an Ohana, it's a family, and so to be able to tie the family into that is really important."

Those who participated got to interact with spooky-themed unit vehicles, such as a haunted firetruck. Trick-or-treaters had the opportunity to explore a spooky firetruck and interact with firefighters, all while enjoying some candy. This event showcased a fun and creative way for service members and their families to not only participate and dress up in the event, but also to see and interact with other units.

This is the first time that MAG-24 and HQBN have worked together to organize a Halloween-themed event for service members and their families to enjoy. Participants who had the best themed vehicles and costumes received recognition and a prize for their creativity, adding a bit of

competition to the event.

"The best part of the Trunk-or-Treat is seeing the kids and their reactions to the event," said Col. Michael Blejwski, the commanding officer of MAG-24. MAG-24 and HQBN look forward to hosting more interactive events like this in the future for the MCBH community to enjoy. The service members and volunteers who organized this event created a wonderful community event for all to enjoy.

[Click here to view Imagery of the event.](#)

To learn more please visit:
<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/>

MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Marcos Alvarado, a communication strategy and operations chief with Headquarters Battalion, MCBH, sprints during the Warrior Athlete Challenge at MCBH, Oct. 8, 2025. The Warrior Athlete Challenge tested service members' mental and physical resilience in tactical strength conditioning. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas Figueiroa) [More Imagery](#)



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Isaac Reigstad, a low altitude air defense gunner with 1st Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, fires a FIM-92 Stinger during exercise Tenacious Archer 25 at Koror, Palau, Aug. 17, 2025. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Carlos Chavez-Flores) [More Imagery](#)

3RD MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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

Sailor Recognized for Outstanding Leadership

Story by 1st Lt. Leah Curtright

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class Andrew Mercier, a Hospital Corpsman with 3rd Littoral Logistics Battalion (LLB), 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR), was awarded the Exemplary Leadership Award for Senior Sailor of 4th Quarter. His dedication and expertise have been instrumental in maintaining peak operational capability and unit readiness for 3rd LLB and the regiment. Petty Officer First Class Mercier leads and mentors a team of over 50 sailors, overseeing all medical operations at the battalion's medical facility. He carefully plans medical support for training exercises and ensures the team has the supplies and equipment they

need. His attention to detail helps keep everyone healthy and mission ready. Petty Officer First Class Mercier is dedicated to helping his team grow professionally, providing training to junior corpsmen and making sure they meet high standards. As an Independent Duty Corpsman, he's directly responsible for the medical care of nearly 1,000 Marines, reporting to both the battalion and regimental surgeons, as well as the Commanding Officer. Thanks to his proactive approach, Petty Officer First Class Mercier developed streamlined care procedures, leading to a 100% patient satisfaction rate. This commitment to excellent care directly supports the readiness of 3rd MLR. Petty Officer First Class

Mercier's leadership, expertise, and dedication to the health of those he serves make him a well-deserved recipient of this award. 3rd MLR and 3rd LLB are proud to have him on their team.



3RD MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

3rd MLR Joint CommEx



U.S. Marines with 3rd MLR, 3rd Marine Division (MARDIV), and Soldiers with 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force conduct a joint-training communications exercise at MCTAB, Hawaii, Oct. 22, 2025. 3rd MLR worked with 12th MLR, 3rd MARDIV, and Soldiers with 3rd MDTF to enhance interoperability by rehearsing interorganizational communication and refining techniques, tactics, and procedures.



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Sgt. Grace Barneveld)

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

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

MAG-24 DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT