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<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/><https://linktr.ee/mcbh/>

## MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

### Marine Corps Base Hawaii Celebrates 250 Years of the Marine Corps

Story by Cpl. Jade K. Venegas

#### The Marine Corps' 250th Anniversary

For 250 years, U.S. Marines have served and played pivotal roles in every major American conflict: from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror. The Marine Corps was founded on November 10, 1775, at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, marking the start of its distinguished legacy in the American military.

In 2025, this celebration remains a meaningful opportunity to honor the Marine Corps' enduring military and cultural legacy, as well as to recognize installations like Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), which enables Marines to carry out their mission worldwide.

#### The History Pageant

The Marine Corps History Pageant is a ceremonial presentation in which Marines appear wearing historically accurate uniforms that represent different eras of Marine Corps history, spanning from 1775 to the present day. It visually tells the story of the Marine Corps' evolution by showcasing how Marines looked, dressed, and fought across major conflicts. It is performed in conjunction with the birthday cake-cutting ceremony that connects present-day Marines and their families to the generations who came before them. Marines with Headquarters Battalion (HQBN), MCBH, performed the pageant on Nov. 6, 2025.

U.S. Marine Corps 1st Sgt. Ryan Bradley, company first sergeant, Headquarters Company, HQBN, the lead action officer in coordinating the pageant, explained, "It's an incredible honor to share this responsibility. Being able to connect the past with the present through this pageant allows us to honor those who paved the way for us. It's a humbling experience to put on a

show that not only showcases our rich history but also reminds us of the warriors who built the legacy we continue to uphold today."

When asked how it feels to honor the Marines and the legacy that came before, Bradley said, "Honoring the Marines who came before us is incredibly important. Those Marines are legends—those who set the example for excellence, sacrifice, and duty. The U.S. Marine Corps' dedication to honoring those who paved the way for us is what truly sets us apart, and it's a privilege to be part of this tradition."

Lance Cpl. Quincy Bell, a finance technician, HQBN, who volunteered to perform in the pageant, expressed his insight and previous knowledge of Marine Corps history by saying, "It definitely has opened my eyes to all the challenges that we faced in the past and in the present. Everything in the Marine Corps is bigger than you think it is... we have a lot of history."

#### The History of MCBH

In 1918, the installation was established within the Windward Coastal Artillery Command. In 1939, the construction of the Naval Air Station (NAS) located on Kāne'ohe Bay began. By late 1940, U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. George Spence reported to the installation with 30 Marines; they became the first military unit to be assigned to the NAS. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese Navy attacked the air station eight minutes before the assault on Pearl Harbor. Roosevelt famously declared it "a date which will live in infamy."

In 1949, the U.S. Navy decommissioned NAS Kāne'ohe Bay. The Marine Corps then assumed and took charge of the air station after the landowner, Mr. Harold K. Castle, refused to take back the property in 1951. Before the establishment of MCBH, the

geographical location of Hawaii had become a vital U.S. military outpost, notably after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Castle believed it was essential to maintain a military installation on the windward (eastern) side of the island for both defense and economic stability.

By 1952, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Kāne'ohe Bay was officially established, and in 1953, the 1st Provisional Marine Air-Ground Task Force was created at the air station. From 1960 to 1990, the installation served as home to several generations of Marine Corps fighter aircraft, including the F-8 Crusader, F-4 Phantom II, and F/A-18 Hornet. Undergoing many changes in 1992, the air station removed F/A-18 jet aircraft and CH-46 helicopter squadrons, replaced the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade with contingents from 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, and welcomed the arrival of Navy squadrons from NAS Barber's Point, making it the exclusive home of all the Marine Corps' CH-53D helicopter squadrons. In September of 1994, Aviation Support Element, Kaneohe, was established and reassigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW). It was then redesignated as Marine Aircraft Group 24 in 2002.

#### A Single Command

In 1994, the Marine Corps consolidated all its installations and facilities in Hawaii under a single command, identified as MCBH, which included a HQBN and MCAS. On April 15, 1994, MCAS was downgraded to Marine Corps Air Facility (MCAF) in accordance with a successful base realignment and closure strategy.

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### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



#### SPOTLIGHT:

### U.S. Marine Corps Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Specialists Conduct Training with Honolulu Fire Department

U.S. Marine Corps Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Specialists with Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Kāne'ohe Bay, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, (MCBH) and Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 174, Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW), operate a hose and conduct forcible entry alongside Honolulu Fire Department firefighters during a joint training event at Honolulu, Nov. 21, 2025. This training served to enhance the Marines' skills in hose relays, search and rescue drills, and fire suppression alongside the Honolulu Fire Department.



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

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

### MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marines with Headquarters Battalion, MCBH, reenact the Iwo Jima flag raising during the Marine Corps birthday pageant at MCBH, Nov. 6, 2025. The birthday pageant showcased the various uniforms worn throughout Marine Corps history, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony in honor of the Marine Corps' 250th birthday. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Julian Elliott-Drouin) [More Imagery](#)



A child observes the Christmas tree during the 2025 Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Mōkapu Mall, MCBH, Nov. 21, 2025. The annual tree lighting ceremony was an opportunity for MCBH families to come together in celebration of the start of the holiday season. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Desmond Browning) [More Imagery](#)

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## 3RD MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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

## Enhancing Interoperability: 3rd MLR and 12th MLR Conduct Communications Exercise with 3rd MDTF

Story by Capt. Anne Pentaleri

## MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA

**BELLOWS, HAWAII** – 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, conducted a joint training exercise aimed at enhancing and synchronizing communications capabilities at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawai'i, Oct. 22, 2025. This communications exercise involved collaboration between U.S. Marines with 3rd MLR and U.S. Army Soldiers from the 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force, as well as participation from U.S. Marines with 12th Marine Littoral Regiment based out of Okinawa, Japan.

The exercise focused on rehearsing inter- and cross-organizational communication by refining tactics, techniques and procedures for improved coordination across services. The participants worked together to overcome challenges that are inherent in multinational and multi-service operations, thereby ensuring smooth operations during the regiments' upcoming deployments.

## Communications Systems in Action

Throughout the exercise, Marines from 3rd MLR demonstrated their proficiency with advanced communications equipment. As the exercise unfolded, U.S. Marine Sgt. George Ferguson IV, a radio operator, and his colleagues engaged in spectrally diverse communication windows to ensure that the systems were functioning as intended. U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Genesis Flores-Aguirre, a data systems administrator, worked tirelessly to operate GETAC laptops for data transmissions, showcasing the technical skills necessary for successful joint operations. Meanwhile, U.S. Marine Sgt. Carlos Lopez-Guardado, a satellite transmissions system operator, played a key role in assuring seamless data transport to support joint planning efforts.

## Expanding the Reach: Portable Radio Communications

One of the critical components of the exercise was the use of the AN/PRC 160 wideband manpack radio, which facilitated long-haul high frequency (HF) communication with 12th MLR, located 4,700 miles away. The setup complimented narrowband

capabilities and allowed Marines from 3rd MLR to employ emerging (HF) waveforms to connect with their counterparts across the Pacific in Okinawa, validating low probability of detection waveforms ahead of real-world scenarios. These systems are essential in maintaining continuous contact across vast distances and in austere environments.

"Planning and coordination was integral for communicating across the pond," said Sgt. Jowie Montefalcon, a transmissions systems operator with 12th MLR. "In order to maximize the odds of success, we had to coordinate a time window in which the ionospheric conditions matched across time zones - if the sun was up in Okinawa, we wanted it to be up Hawai'i."

## Training Together for Future Success

In addition to the technical and tactical training, the exercise also underscored the importance of leadership in joint operations. U.S. Marine Capt. John... [Read More](#)

## 3RD MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

## 3rd MLR Helicopter Support Team



U.S. Marines with 3rd Littoral Logistics Battalion, 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, conduct helicopter support team training at MCBH, Nov. 4, 2025. 3rd LLB, 3rd LCT, and Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 268 conducted this training to increase proficiency in logistics tasks and enhance the ability to execute potential contingency missions carried out by 3rd MLR.



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

## MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

satellite communications

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

## MAG-24 Marines Run 250 Miles for the Marine Corps Birthday

Story by Cpl. Anabelle Reedobrien

## MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

— From Nov. 4–6, 2025, Marines and Sailors with Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW), conducted the 250th Marine Corps Birthday Run. The event commenced at 5:00 p.m., a time deliberately chosen to synchronize with fellow Marines stationed in Japan. The running of the Colors was a tribute to heritage and legacy across the Wing. For 250 miles, the Colors remained in motion, in three different locations, honoring the Corps' unbroken spirit.

The atmosphere was charged with anticipation as the first runners stepped off, with each squadrons' Colors held high. Each stride carried purpose, with every Marine and Sailor recognizing they were part of something greater than themselves. Sweat and determination mixed with pride as Marines and Sailors from every squadron within 1st MAW joined forces, embodying *Esprit de Corps*.

"I always love a good run, but this is far greater than just 'a good run,'" said Staff Sgt. Zane Hartman, a force fitness instructor with MAG-24. "It's running side by side with friends, coming together when we normally wouldn't, and nothing compares to that feeling."

As the run continued into the night, each handoff of the Colors symbolized generations of Marines passing forward the legacy of service and sacrifice. Meanwhile, across the Pacific, thousands of Marines and Sailors from 1st MAW ran at the same hour, their efforts synchronized in both spirit and time. The shared run represented more than celebration, it was a living demonstration of the Marine Corps' endurance and unity, regardless of distance.

"The experience was motivating and surprisingly smooth," recalled Cpl. Dominic Hice, a precision measurement equipment technician with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, MAG-24, 1st MAW. "The gathering of so

many Marines running together in the MAG made me never want to quit. After 35 miles, I was surprised I wanted more, I ended up running 40. It was a phenomenal event to celebrate the birthday, especially for the Corps."

For the final mile all 1st MAW units ran in formation with every Marine and Sailor crossing the finish line at the same moment. As the Colors came to rest, a profound sense of pride filled the air as the Marine Corps' Hymn began. The 250th Marine Corps Birthday Run across all 1st MAW units ended. The miles behind each Marine and Sailor reflected the generations who came before, while the road ahead symbolized the Marines yet to come. [Read More](#)



## MAG-24 DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

## VMM-363 and 3d MLR rehearse hoist operations



A U.S. Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey attached to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 363, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing lifts a vehicle at Marine Corps Air Station Kāne'ohe Bay, Hawai'i, Nov. 13, 2025. VMM-363 and 3d Marine Littoral Regiment, 3d Marine Division rehearsed joint-operation hoist training designed to test and minimize communication gaps while improving mission readiness. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Chandler Evans)

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