

# WEARE MCBH NEWSLETTER

Keeping our Marines and Neighbors Informed...

Vol. 3, Issue 12, December 2025

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## MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

### They Gave Their Today For Our Tomorrow: MCBH hosts Annual 84th Klipper Memorial Ceremony

Story by Cpl. Jade K. Venegas

**MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII** – Eight minutes before the attack on Pearl Harbor, aircraft with the Japanese Imperial Fleet attacked Naval Air Station (NAS) Kaneohe Bay, now known as Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH).

As the 84th anniversary of the attack came around, MCBH hosted the Klipper Memorial Ceremony at the installation on Dec. 7, 2025.

The morning began with a long-standing daily tradition in the United States military known as morning colors. Marines with Headquarters Battalion, MCBH, conducted morning

colors while the Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band played the national anthem. The Marines raised the U.S. flag to the top of the flagpole then lowered it to half-staff in honor of the 18 U.S. Sailors and two civilian contractors that lost their lives during the attack.

Following the ceremonial traditions and reading of the invocation, the audience was reminded of the weight of those events which occurred on Dec. 7, 1941, as a recording of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's speech was played for all, where he refers to the attack as "a date which will live in infamy."

U.S. Marine Corps Col. Jeremy W.

Beaven, commanding officer of MCBH, gave his thanks to many special guests in attendance such as fellow and former commanders, senior Marine Corps leadership, senior Navy leadership and Deputy Consul General Haruta Hiroki. [Read More](#)



[More Imagery](#)

### WWII Veterans Share Iwo Jima Experiences with Marines at MCBH

Story by Sgt. Julian Elliott-Drouin

**MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII** – Five World War II (WWII) veterans visited MCBH on Dec. 4, 2025, and shared their experiences in battle. After meeting with U.S. Marines assigned to the 1st Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion (LAADBN), Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, the veterans paid their respects at the Iwo Jima memorial.

One of the veterans was retired U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Don Graves, a flamethrower operator and veteran of the battle of Iwo Jima. Graves stood before the memorial, which depicted six Marines raising a U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi, and began to speak:

"Do you know how they got that flag up there?" Graves asked the Marines. Graves went on to explain that it was raised using a makeshift pole out of a drainpipe. As he fought up the other side of the hill and reached the top, the flag seemed to rise inexplicably. "It was beautiful! Listen, 520 ships out in the bay opened up with everything they had tracers, rockets, everything in the sky. It was spectacular like the Fourth of July. And then the fighting continued."

Then, Graves spoke about his last week on Iwo Jima before replacements arrived. "We got down by the cemetery at the foot of Mount Suribachi, and [Col.] "Harry the Horse" Liversedge said

"We hit the beach with 300 men, and now there are 18 of us. I'm going to ask you to go through that gate and say goodbye to your buddies and your officers."

Graves continued, "As we approached, there was a letter on the left side of the opening. Every Marine read it, and we went in. This is what it read: ... [Read More](#)

### Taking Training to New Heights: Mastering Vertical Movement on MCBH

Story by Lance Cpl. Nicholas Figueroa

**MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII** – U.S. Marines with Headquarters Battalion (HQB), Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), conducted vertical movement training at the Boondocker Training Area at MCBH, Nov. 18, 2025.

The training allowed Marines to enhance combat readiness and increase confidence while conducting operations in complex terrains. By utilizing quick-drop lanes, units can practice fast-rope and rappel-style incursions. The rappel tower replicates

urban breaching scenarios that involve windows, doorways, and other restricted apertures. Rappel tower training also develops grip strength, core stability, and overall endurance that will be translated to patrols, kit carries, and obstacle courses. Additionally, the training increases height confidence, which is essential for any helicopter insertions, rooftop movements, or urban operations where hesitancy can result in harm. It also improves communication and coordination among climbers, belayers,

and safety staff, strengthening trust and precise instructions in small groups.

"The wall gives Marines a methodical way to develop their confidence," said U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Corey M. Kolb, ... [Read More](#)

### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



#### SPOTLIGHT:

**Mele Kalikimaka: MCBH's Commanding Officer and Sergeant Major Attend the 2025 Kaneohe Bay Christmas Parade**

U.S. Marine Corps Col. Jeremy Beaven, commanding officer of Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), and Sgt. Maj. Adan Moreno, sergeant major of MCBH, wave to the crowd during the 2025 Kaneohe Bay Christmas Parade, Hawaii, Dec. 6, 2025. Every year since 1963, the Kaneohe Bay Christmas Parade has celebrated the holiday season by bringing communities together in what has grown to be the largest community-run parade.



(U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Carlos Daniel Chavez-Flores)

Click here for more imagery.

### MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marines, and civilians with MCBH, are set to begin a play during a Battle of the Bases flag football game at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, Dec. 11, 2025. The U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii sports office hosted this event in order to promote friendly competition between the Army, Navy and Marines Corps' Intermural flag football teams representing military installations on Oahu such as: Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam and MCBH. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Jade K. Venegas) [More Imagery](#)



U.S. Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 2 Hunter Bernius, gunner of Kaneohe Bay Range Training Complex and MCBH range control operations officer, with Headquarters Battalion, MCBH, hands out toys to children during Operation Santa Drop on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Dec. 18, 2025. The mission of the Toys for Tots Program is to ensure that all children experience the magic and joy of Christmas by receiving a new toy, serving as a community action program that unites families and their communities. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas Figueroa) [More Imagery](#)

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## 3RD MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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



### 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment Participates in Steel Knight 25

Story by Capt. Anne Pentaleri

#### MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

– U.S. Marines with 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, participated in Steel Knight 25 alongside U.S. forces from 1st Marine Division (MARDIV), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Expeditionary Strike Group 3, Amphibious Squadron 5 (PHIBRON 5), Destroyer Squadron 31 (DESRON 31), and 10th Air Force, Dec. 1 – 14.

Steel Knight 2025 is a scenario-driven, mission rehearsal exercise led by 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, designed to certify 5th Marine Regiment in the planning, deployment, and command and control of Marines in preparation for the next Marine Rotational Force – Darwin. The exercise enhances readiness, sharpens kill-web enabled decision-making, and demonstrates to allies that I MEF remains the partner of choice.

3rd MLR participated virtually

from across locations aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Throughout the exercise, 3rd MLR focused on honing its command-and-control capability by employing the staff in distributed command nodes directly contributing to the evolving scenario.

“Steel Knight 25 was an excellent rehearsal for 3d MLR to exercise our ability to adapt and effectively respond to complex, realistic scenarios while in a distributed environment,” said Col. Gabriel Diana, commanding officer of 3rd MLR. “Our dispersed, agile command-and-control approach is fundamental to our survivability and our capacity to maintain a decisive advantage in support of the joint force and our allies.”

3rd MLR was postured to respond to in-scenario situations in real time to support participating ground, aviation, logistics and information forces in California, Arizona, and afloat in the Pacific Ocean.

A key vignette of 3rd MLR's contribution to the exercise was the regiment's organic fires, effects and air direction element (FADE), which executed simulated maritime engagements, integrated air and missile defense, and leveraged maritime domain awareness throughout the scenario.

“The FADE was integral in how 3rd MLR achieved multi-domain effects during the exercise,” said Maj. Quinton Boyd, the deputy fires and effects coordinator with 3rd MLR. “We were able to integrate with our 1st MARDIV counterparts, conduct maritime dynamic targeting, and successfully contribute to joint maritime strikes within the scenario.”

3rd MLR's integration into Steel Knight 25 from its decentralized command nodes aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii highlighted the regiment's ability to command and control across a distributed battlespace, enhancing... [Read More](#)

### 3RD MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

3rd MLR commemorates Maj. Pacheco for saving a Marine's life



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt Maj. Donald Reynolds, right, sergeant major, 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, reads a promotion warrant during an award ceremony on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Nov. 26, 2025. Maj. Daniel J. Pacheco, an air officer with 3d MLR, was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal after helping save a fellow Marine's life following a motorcycle crash on the Pali highway. Reynolds is a native of Pennsylvania and Pacheco is a native of California. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Iyer Ramakrishna)

[Click here for more imagery.](#)

## MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

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



### U.S. Marine Corps fields MADIS to 1st LAAD

Story by 2nd Lt. Joseph Adcock

#### MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

– The U.S. Marine Corps took a major step forward with a state-of-the-art system designed for short-range detection, tracking and engagement of aerial threats. On Dec. 12, 2025, Program Executive Office Land Systems fielded two Marine Air Defense Integrated Systems (MADIS) to 1st Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) Battalion, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW). The fielding of these systems marks a pivotal step in enhancing expeditionary defense capabilities within the Indo-Pacific region.

The MADIS consists of two Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs), one focused on detection and the other oriented toward offensive action. Working together, they form a maneuverable ground-based air defense weapon system designed to defeat unmanned aircraft systems and manned fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft threats while on the move and at the halt.

The full-rate production configuration of the MADIS employs a powerful combination of 30mm cannons, Stinger missiles and multifunctional electronic warfare equipment. The 360-degree threat detection and protection allow the system to simultaneously engage and neutralize threats with both kinetic and non-kinetic forces.

“These systems will increase capabilities of counter-unmanned aircraft systems operations and provide automatic target recognition and weapon assignment to decrease engagement times and reduce the cognitive load on the Marine operator,” said Lt. Col. Mike Billings, product manager for Future Weapons Systems at PM Ground Based Air Defense. “The next step is to deliver the full rate production MADIS to all low altitude air defense battalions and littoral anti-air battalions across the Marine Corps, at a rapid rate.” Since the reactivation of 1st LAAD Battalion in 2023, the unit has

consistently advanced the U.S. Marine Corps' force design initiatives. Key milestones include the activation of Firing Battery Alpha in August 2024 and Firing Battery Mike in December 2025. Most notably, the successful fielding of MADIS units, today, marks a pivotal step forward.



“Owning these systems gives us direct control capability,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Mario Guadarrama, battalion operations chief for 1st LAAD Battalion. “Reducing the gap between training and combat employment allows seamless integration with partners and allies throughout the Indo-Pacific region.”

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### MAG-24 DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

MAG-24 hosts officer and SNCO run



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Sael Garcia, left, sergeant major of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW), presents a coin to Staff Sgt. Zane Hartman, a force fitness instructor with Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 24, 1st MAW, after a formation run at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Dec. 16, 2025. MAG-24 hosted this run during a visit from the 1st MAW commanding general and sergeant major to promote unit cohesion, moral and esprit de corps among the officers and staff non-commissioned officers. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien)

[Click here for more imagery.](#)