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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

Building the Future: Mōkapu Elementary School Grand Opening

Story by Lance Cpl. Nicholas Figueroa

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Marine Corps Base Hawaii – On Jan. 6, 2026, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) marked a milestone for military families as Mōkapu Elementary School celebrated the grand opening of its newly built campus. The ceremony highlighted the opening of modern classrooms and a new administrative building, bringing together base personnel, students, faculty, staff, and community members to welcome the next chapter in the school's history.

The new school is now carrying the legacy of the former one, which served generations of students since opening in 1960. For more than six decades, the former school building has supported and taught the needs of countless children upon the installation making it a central part of the community.

"This ceremony celebrates the opening of the new Mōkapu

Elementary School building and reflects our shared commitment to children and families. These new structures facilitate learning, while also enhancing the quality of the educational programming and curriculum development," said Col. Jeremy Beaven, commanding officer of MCBH. "By investing in education at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, we strengthen our community, nurture a love of learning, and build a strong foundation for our students' growth."

Cultural practitioners blessed the building before base leadership and school officials delivered remarks. The ceremony emphasized cultural and community events recognizing traditional values and moving forward to a bright future.

Students later joined hands and sang "Hawai'i Aloha" expressing deep love and pride to the Hawaiian homeland, as the ribbon was cut by Kelly Perez, an academic coordinator who has

taught at the school for 35 years officially marking the opening of a new chapter for Mōkapu Elementary School.

With its new doors officially open, Mōkapu Elementary School stands ready to continue a tradition of excellence while embracing the future. As students, families, and educators begin this new chapter together, Mōkapu Elementary School remains a cornerstone of the MCBH community, building a foundation of learning, resilience, and connection for generations to come. [Read More](#)



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



SPOTLIGHT:

U.S. Sen. Mazie K. Hirono Visits MCBH's New Mōkapu Elementary School and Ongoing Barracks Construction

U.S. Sen. Mazie K. Hirono, center, U.S. Marine Corps Col. Jeremy Beaven, second from left, commanding officer of Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Karl Coulson, center left, a civil engineer corps officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command and civilian contractors pose for a group photo during a tour at MCBH Jan. 22, 2026.



Marine Corps Marksmanship Competition-Pacific: Precision Under Pressure

Story by Lance Cpl. Tania Guerrero

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Marine Corps Base Hawaii - U.S. Marines, service members and civilians from across Hawaii competed in the Marine Corps Marksmanship Competition-Pacific (MCMC-P), putting their skills to the test through a series of timed and precision-based events at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), from January 5th-17th, 2026.

The MCMC-P is an essential event under the Competition-In-Arms Program (CIAP), which has supported marksmanship excellence for 115 years, bringing together Marines from across the Pacific to refine shooting skills, and assess proficiency in accordance with Marine Corps standards. The competition plays a vital role in developing lethality and creating an opportunity to compete in higher level marksmanship competitions.

"One of the biggest challenges was the mental aspect," said competitor Sgt. Robert Banks, a supply chain manager with Littoral Logistics Battalion, 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment. "Shooting under time while staying focused and maintaining accurate hits required discipline and control."

Throughout the event, Marines were evaluated on their ability to perform under stress by maintaining consistent accuracy, highlighting the mental demands of marksmanship. The competition was made up of a series of matches: Pistol, Rifle, Rifle Night, Precision Marksman, Team Rifle and Team Pistol match. Each of these had their individual dynamic stages with timed scenarios that emphasized accuracy, weapons handling and decision-making, reinforcing the skills required for combat readiness.

Among the top honors awarded were the Gunner Trophy, Rifle Team Trophy, Pistol Team Trophy, and individual rifle and pistol Excellence-in-Competition Badges, highlighting both individual and team cohesion. Marines may also earn the prestigious Distinguished Marksman Badge, and Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge. These badges are awarded once a Marine accumulates the required points within the CIAP. [Read More](#)

[Associated Imagery](#)

U.S. Sen. Mazie K. Hirono, left, speaks with Mōkapu Elementary School students, during a school tour at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Jan. 22, 2026. MCBH leadership and civilian staff hosted a tour of the new Mōkapu Elementary School and ongoing barracks construction, demonstrating the installation's investment in infrastructure and quality of life. (U.S. Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Samuel Estridge)

[More imagery](#)

MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



Medal of Honor recipient, former U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class and now retired U.S. Army National Guard Col. Donald E. Ballard, center, poses for a group photo with medical personnel at Branch Health Clinic Kāne'ohe Bay, MCBH, Jan. 16, 2026. While on O'ahu, Ballard toured Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and MCBH for a meet-and-greet with Navy corpsmen, Army medics, and other medical personnel. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Julian Elliott-Drouin)

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U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. British Robinson, a food service specialist with Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), serves food during a chef of the quarter competition at MCBH, Jan. 22, 2026. Quarterly competitions allow food service specialists to showcase their skills and earn recognition for excellence within their military occupational specialty. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. MaKenna Hearne) [More Imagery](#)

3RD MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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

3rd Littoral Combat Team (LCT) executes a sniper live-fire range at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA)



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Nigel Palmer, a team leader with 3rd LCT, 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, observes simulated targets with a Mark 22 precision sniper rifle during a live-fire range at Pōhakuloa Training Area, Hawai'i, Jan. 19, 2026. The training exercise at PTA refined weapon system and tactical proficiency, strengthening overall combat readiness and preparing 3rd LCT for future operational requirements. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Iyer Ramakrishna) [More Imagery](#)

3rd Littoral Combat Team (LCT) Marines conduct air insert training with U.S. Army CH-47 Chinooks



U.S. Marines with 3rd LCT, 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, execute reconnaissance, selection and occupation of position from U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters during an air insert training exercise at Pōhakuloa Training Area, Hawai'i, Jan. 21, 2026. The training exercise at PTA refined weapon system and tactical proficiency, strengthening overall combat readiness and preparing 3rd LCT for future operational requirements. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Ernesto Lagunes) [More Imagery](#)

3rd Littoral Combat Team (LCT) Marines participate in a live-fire machine gun training event



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Andrew Montpetit, left, and Sgt. Emilio Lopez, both machine gunners with 3rd LCT, 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, pose for a photo with a M240G/B medium machine gun during a live-fire training event at Pōhakuloa Training Area, Hawai'i, Jan. 16, 2026. The training exercise at PTA refined weapon system and tactical proficiency, strengthening overall combat readiness and preparing 3rd LCT for future operational requirements. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Ernesto Lagunes) [More Imagery](#)

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

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

III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Sergeant Major Visits MCBH

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Christopher J. Adams, sergeant major of III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) speaks to non-commissioned officers during a townhall meeting at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Jan. 22, 2026. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the current and future state of III MEF as well as address the concerns of Marines and Sailors at the installation. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien) [More imagery](#)



U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Christopher J. Adams, left, sergeant major of III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) speaks to non-commissioned officers during a townhall meeting at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Jan. 22, 2026. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the current and future state of III MEF as well as address the concerns of Marines and Sailors at the installation. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien) [More imagery](#)