

# WEARE MCBH NEWSLETTER

Keeping our Marines and Neighbors Informed...

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## MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

### From The Ashes: MCBH To Demolish And Replace Infamous Mackie Hall

**Story by Sgt. Julian Elliott-Drouin**  
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – As word of the demolition of Mackie Hall disseminates, as its whispers reach more and more ears, one can observe both resounding cheer and solemn reminiscence. The barracks, originally condemned in the '90s and infamous for its poor living conditions, has been well overdue for a makeover. Two years ago, the Marine Corps envisioned something rising from the rubble: a more modern barracks, and after meticulous planning, Marines will have a place they can be proud to call home.

series barracks completed in 1976, housing up to 408 Marines, and in the early 2000s the barracks were converted from three-man to two-



"Marines with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalion under 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, resided in Mackie Hall between

rotational deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Marines with 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment -- all units which have since then decommissioned," said Gary Johnson, deputy director, Unaccompanied Personnel Housing.

The demolition of Mackie Hall falls under Marine Corps Base Hawaii's 5th Generation Living plan with military construction projects in place to upgrade facilities in accordance with Barracks 2030, a Marine Corps initiative to improve the quality of life of Marines through the modernization of facilities and the professionalization of barracks management. [Read More](#)

Mackie Hall was one of eight 1600-

### Something's In The Water: MCBH ECPD Discovers Seahorses in Nu'upia Ponds

**Story by Lance Cpl. Hunter Jones**  
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – The Nu'upia ponds wildlife management area on MCBH is a common hiking and scenic experience open to Marines and their families. This month, while removing invasive plants from the protected waters, MCBH Environmental Compliance and Protection Division (ECPD) personnel made an unexpected discovery: the hippocampus kuda.

The hippocampus kuda, or common seahorse, is native to the Hawaiian islands and can commonly be found in shallow waterways, such as the

Nu'upia ponds. While seahorses have been found in the ponds, populations and sightings have dwindled in recent decades. While volunteering during the Weed Warriors event, aimed at removing invasive mangrove trees from the edge of the pond's water, U.S. Marine Corps Col. Robert Shuford, a volunteer, casually remarked on seeing a seahorse in the waters. Upon hearing this, Dain Christensen, the ECPD Natural Resource Manager, rushed over to verify the identity of the elusive creature.

ECPD plans to conduct an

environmental DNA test in partnership with the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology to help determine population and overall health of the seahorses. ECPD hopes to find a baseline population level to apply appropriate management efforts for the seahorses. [Read More](#)



### Reducing Energy Consumption at Marine Corps Base Hawaii: Celebrating Energy

#### Conservation Month

**Story by Lance Cpl. Marcos Albertorocha**

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Marine Corps Base Hawaii works hard to save energy and become more sustainable. We utilize solar power, energy-efficient upgrades, electric vehicles, and water-saving technologies to reduce energy use and costs. By involving the community and encouraging green practices, MCBH is not only



reducing our carbon footprint but also improving our energy security. MCBH's renewable energy initiatives

are primarily focused on solar energy. The base is equipped with solar panels, generating a substantial amount of renewable power. Additionally, we harness solar energy for hot water generation in on-base housing, further enhancing our sustainability efforts. These initiatives have been in place for several years, reflecting our commitment to integrating renewable energy solutions. [Read More](#)

### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

#### Dain Christensen



**Role at MCBH:**  
Natural Resources Manager  
**Hometown:**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
**Accomplishments:**  
Identified seahorse species in Nu'upia Ponds

As the natural resources manager at MCBH, Dain Christensen has continued to play an important role this month in spearheading the newly discovered seahorse population in the Nu'upia Ponds. A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, Christensen attended the University of Hawaii and attained his Masters in Environmental Management.

"We do as much work in the ponds as we can," said Christensen. "We are trying our best to manage biodiversity!"

For his efforts and dedication to the environment and his community, Dain Christensen has been selected as October's community member of the month!

### MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



EOD with MCBH prepare to be decontaminated during CBRN and Explosives training during exercise Lethal Breeze 2024 at MCBH, Oct. 22, 2024. Lethal Breeze is an annual exercise that exhibits the base's ability to employ security forces and assessing responders' ability to communicate and coordinate during an incident. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Taylor Von Sanders-Frazer) [More Imagery](#)



A U.S. Air Force aircraft marshal runs across the runway at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Oct. 9, 2024. U.S. Airmen with 7th Airlift Squadron, 62nd Airlift Wing, conducted a hot refuel, increasing proficiency, which aims to quickly turn aircraft around for combat. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Taylor Von Sanders-Frazer) [More Imagery](#)

3d MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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



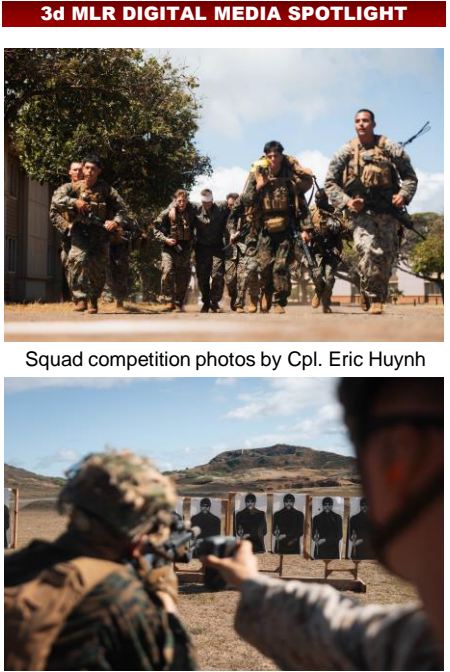
**U.S. Marines with 3d Littoral Combat Team Participate In A Squad Competition**  
*Story By 1stLt. Emily Zito*

On Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Marines with 3d Littoral Combat Team competed fiercely in a squad competition designed to test the Marines’ physical fitness levels, improve tactical proficiency, and build unit cohesion. Throughout the course, each squad pushed through urban training scenarios, marksmanship challenges, simulated casualty drills, and written exams made to test their understanding of basic infantry tactics while under the physical stress of the competition. This course demanded

proficiency in the basics while challenging internal communication skills and teamwork amongst the squad members. The tropical weather and terrain, though beautiful, presented its own difficulties with high humidity, steep inclines, and dense vegetation.

As they raced from one event to the next, every Marine was driven not just by seeking personal improvements but by the comradery that bonds each Marine rifle squad. The squad competition is designed to test all facets of the Marine rifle squad, from the rifleman to squad leader, each must perform

their roles accordingly in order to remain compete successfully. This give the Marine of the 3d Littoral Combat Team to address areas where they can improve while refining the challenges that they complete with ease, making each squad more capable and resilient for when they are called to use these skills both in training scenarios and in real-time. By the end of the day, one squad emerged victorious, having demonstrated not only their strength and skill but the cohesive fighting spirit that defines 3d Littoral Combat Team.



MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

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





Families attend a Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, "Trunk or Treat" event at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Oct. 25, 2024. (U.S. Marine Corps courtesy photo)



A U.S. Navy Sailor attached to the Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) 6 USS John L. Canley uses hand and arm signals to guide a U.S. Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey during a deck landing qualification training on the ship as part of exercise Warrior Voyage, off the coast of the island of O’ahu, Hawaii, Oct. 10, 2024. Exercise Warrior Voyage is a group-level training event. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Moses Franco) [More Imagery](#)



U.S. Marines with Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 174, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing attach straps to a crane during salvage and recovery training. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien) [More Imagery](#)