

# WEARE MCBH NEWSLETTER

Keeping our Marines and Neighbors Informed...

Vol. 3, Issue 1, January 2025

<https://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/>

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## MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

### An Opportunity Too Hot to Miss: Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marines Visit Pohakuloa Training Area

**Story by Lance Cpl. Taylor Von Sanders-Frazer**

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, HI – On Dec. 3, 2025, an MV22 Osprey carried Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 174 above the sparkling dawn-lit sea to conduct training at Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA). MWSS has a specially trained group of Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Marines.

The ARFF Marines perform a multitude of trainings to maintain readiness such as bumper and simulated drills conducted here on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Bumper drills consist of challenging a Marine's speed and agility to put on



full firefighting gear in under two minutes to enhance response time to emergencies. The simulated drills challenge the crew's decision-making skills by being able to analyze the appropriate resources and stabilization tactics in the face of emergencies. While these trainings enhance crew efficiency and safety, the full day of training that awaits ARFF Marines at PTA allows them to

put their training to the next level with realistic scenarios.

The crew's training started with a safety brief from the PTA Fire Department's instructing firefighters. The Marines spent the training day utilizing a thermal imaging camera, studying compartment fires, observation burns, and oxygen surges.

The thermal imaging camera was employed to assess the heat profile of a near 500°C wood fire coming from a barrel within a shipping container. Thermal imaging cameras allow the Marines to see the source(s) of heat. [Read More](#)

### Heroes of the Bay: MM2 Silvacruz Rescues family in Kaneohe Bay

**Story by Lance Cpl. Hunter Jones**

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Upon the waters of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Machinist Mate 2nd class Sebastian Silvacruz, a water rescue team member with Waterfront Operations, Headquarters Battalion, MCBH, and his team was called to action on Dec. 4, 2025. As soon as he received a call about a capsized civilian boat in the unpredictable waters of Kaneohe Bay, Silvacruz and his dedicated team sprang into action. The team navigated their boat through the swaying waves as the gravity of the situation set in—four adults and a small toddler were

stranded in the choppy waters, fighting against the elements.

With efficiency, Silvacruz and his team started rescue procedures after locating the distressed family in a wrecked boat amongst the waves. Relying on the team's small boat recovery and search-and-rescue operation training, Silvacruz was able to utilize the arm-to-arm pickup technique and life ring to bring the family safely aboard their craft. His actions in the face of danger demonstrate something shared amongst all Marines and Sailors, the unwavering dedication to the service of others.

"The water does not discriminate, and this is a prime example," Silvacruz said. "It doesn't care about age, gender, or race. It was eye-opening seeing a toddler and their family stranded in the water." [Read More](#)



### Marine Corps Base Hawaii Announces 2025 Kaneohe Bay Air Show

**Press Release by 1stLt. Hailey Harms**

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII – Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) is excited to announce the 2025 Kaneohe Bay Airshow from Aug. 8-10, 2025. The Airshow is opened to the public from Aug. 9-10, 2025 with Aug. 8, 2025 being reserved for Military Appreciation Day.

All three days of the Airshow will take place on MCBH.



Headlining this year's show is the U.S. Navy Blue Angels demonstration team.

Those attending will get to see aerobatic performances from professional pilots and interact with military and civilian static displays throughout the event. Food vendors, musical performances, and various other attractions will be available in addition to the aerobatic performances.

General admission is free to the public. [Read More](#)

### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

#### Lance Cpl. Victoria Calderon



**Hometown:**

**Houston, TX**

**Role at MCBH:**

**Administrative Specialist at IPAC**

**Accomplishments:**

**Coordinated an OC Spray Course**

As an administrative specialist at MCBH and a Houston native, Lance Cpl. Victoria Calderon has played an important role this month in coordinating an oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, also known as pepper spray, course for Marines on base.

"I thought it would be a cool new training opportunity for Marines that don't get the chance to do this sort of thing normally," said Calderon.

For her initiative, Lance Cpl. Victoria Calderon has been selected as January's community member of the month!

## MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Sailors with Waterfront Operations pose with Headquarters Battalion leadership after receiving Certificates of Commendation, acknowledging bravery in the face of danger, at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Jan. 15, 2025. The three sailors were recognized for their calmness under stress and awarded for exceptional endurance by safely rescuing a family of four, including an infant that was in the water from a capsized boat. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Dezmond Browning)

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U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Scott Laux, center, and U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Lilly Montana, right, pilots for the Blue Angels, visit Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) to conduct planning for the upcoming Kaneohe Bay Airshow with U.S. Marine Corps Maj. William Huckeba, left, operations officer, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 153, Marine Air Group, 1st Marine Air Wing, MCBH, Jan. 10, 2025. Airshow staff are preparing the base, airfield, and community for a great lineup of entertaining acts for all fans and spectators, scheduled for Aug. 8-10, 2025. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Taylor Von Sanders-Frazer) [More Imagery](#)

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## 3d MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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



### 3d Marine Littoral Regiment Fires the Marine Air Defense Integrated System (MADIS)

Story By 1stLt. Emily Zito

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii – U.S. Marines with 3d Marine Littoral Regiment, 3d Marine Division, conducted a counter unmanned aerial system live-fire training event utilizing the Marine Air Defense Integrated System – a ground-based air defense capability, on January 25, 2025, to commemorate the addition of the MADIS and the months of operational testing and evaluation required to field this new weapon system.

Lt. Col. Matthew E. Sladek, Commanding Officer, 3d Littoral Anti-Air Battalion, stated, "The fielding of the Marine Air Defense Integrated

System to the Marines of 3d Littoral Anti-Air Battalion is the culmination of years of tireless work from government and industry teammates across the country. The delivery of the critical capabilities the system provides to 3d Littoral Anti-Air Battalion and by extension 3d Marine Littoral Regiment, makes the stand-in-force more survivable and lethal in the conduct of contested littoral operations against emerging aerial threats. As a career Low Altitude Air Defender Marine, it is truly amazing to have watched the Marine Air Defense Integrated System transition from an idea to a capability and with it, the

modernization of Marine Corps short range air defense capabilities. Now the real work begins."

The MADIS is operated by the Marines of 3d LAAB's Ground-Based Air Defense Battery. Giving low-altitude air defense Marines the ability to detect, track, identify, and engage various unmanned aerial systems with various missiles, air-to-air launchers, chain guns, machine guns, and simulated munitions – all of which are part of the MADIS weapon system.

The MADIS live-fire event marked the first time this weapon system has been fired on a Hawaiian island.

[Read More](#)

### 3d MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marine Corps photos by Sgt. Jaqueline Parsons



## MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

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



U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 Ospreys assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 363, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, fly in formation during the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE) at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Jan. 23, 2025. The MCCRE is a formal evaluation of a unit based on approved Marine Corps Training and Readiness tasks, condition, and standards to ensure standardization and combat readiness. VMM-363 performed various training exercises including air-to-air refueling with a KC-130J assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 153, air-delivered ground refueling with U.S. Navy MH-60R Sea Hawks assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 37 and water rescue hoist operations as part of their MCCRE. This rigorous evaluation ensures that VMM-363 maintains its operational readiness and is prepared to meet the demands of future missions. [More Imagery](#)



U.S. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 174, Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) board an MV-22 Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 363, MAG-24, 1st MAW, during the Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation (MCCRE) at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Jan. 21, 2025. The MCCRE is a formal evaluation of a unit based on approved Marine Corps Training and Readiness tasks, conditions, and standards to ensure standardization and combat readiness. VMM-363 hosted interservice training alongside Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37 as part of their MCCRE. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Anabelle Reed-O'Brien)

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