

WEARE MCBH NEWSLETTER

Keeping our Marines and Neighbors Informed...

Vol. 3, Issue 4, April 2025

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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

Air Show Welcome Letter

Col. Jeremy Beaven, Commanding Officer

Aloha! I am delighted to invite you to the 2025 Kāne'ohe Bay Air Show and Open House at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The air show will be from Aug. 9-10, 2025, with Aug. 8, 2025, reserved for a Military Appreciation Day. We look forward to having you on base to experience this high-energy event and to meet the incredible U.S. service members and staff that make it so special. The air show will be filled with exciting military and civilian aerial demonstration teams, interactive static displays, and local food vendors. Headlining this year's air show is the world-famous U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, The Blue Angels. The aerial demonstration teams look forward to showcasing their precision, professionalism, and

dedication to their craft. This family-friendly event promises something for everyone. Those attending the event will get hands-on experience with military and civilian commercial aircraft and equipment, interact with static displays, and enjoy delicious food from some of Oahu's best food vendors. The Kāne'ohe Bay Air Show is not only an opportunity to see aerial demonstrations and static displays but is also an opportunity to connect and meet with U.S. service members. Every day, the dedicated team aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii works to innovate and preserve the resources entrusted to us. As part of the Joint and Combined Forces in the Indo-Pacific region, we play a vital role in a dynamic and complex part of the world. The Indo-Pacific serves as a core component of the global economy, encompassing half of the world's population, four of the

world's largest economies, and accounting for two-thirds of global economic activity. Due to the region's high volume and ever-changing environment, the Marine Corps is invested in modernizing its forces. Marine Corps Base Hawaii is at the forefront of these modernization efforts. This year's air show will feature demonstrations of new equipment and innovative concepts. We encourage you to explore these displays, meet our service members, and learn more about how the Marine Corps is evolving to meet the demands of tomorrow. It has been three years since the last Kāne'ohe Bay Air Show, and we are excited to experience this event with our neighbors and visitors. We look forward to having you aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii this August! Mahalo.

A Promising Return

Story by Staff Sgt. Marcos Alvarado

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) hosted a repatriation ceremony with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to honor the potential remains of fallen U.S. Marines from the Battle of Guadalcanal at MCBH on April 4, 2025. The DPAA, an organization with the mission to find and return U.S. personnel from past conflicts, worked hand in hand with MCBH

leadership to bring back the potential remains. The recovery missions led by the DPAA are significant and admired by many nations due to their humanitarian nature.

"The DPAA mission is twofold: research, investigate, recover our fallen, and communicate with families." Said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Jeremy Smith, the Deputy Director of the Indo-Pacific Directorate.

The DPAA, formed in 2015 with the sole function of recovering

the potential remains of U.S. service members, used MCBH as a reception point to welcome home the potential remains with honors. [Read More](#)



One Connection at a Time

Story by Lance Cpl. Tania Guerrero

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII - U.S. Marines with Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), network and communications, shut down legacy systems aboard Camp Smith on March 29, 2025. As time passed, the parts for legacy systems became less accessible, and programs became less

compatible. These systems are responsible for connecting 60% of the global population within the Indo-Pacific region. Having an updated system is important for U.S. national security and mission readiness. A complete system upgrade provides flexible solutions when meeting the demands of the ever-shifting battlespace.

Marines worked with the legacy systems for approximately 40 years. In that period, the communication systems degraded due to high demand and restless usage. Amid delays and disruptions, Marines completed tasks on the legacy systems across the fleet and Indo-Pacific region. [Read More](#)

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



ROLE:

Pu'uuloa Range Training Facility Staff

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Created New Range Scoring System

Serving as range staff at Pu'uuloa Range Training Facility (PRTF), Staff Sgt. Puerto Torres and Sgt. Jeffers Pickard are weekly responsible for over 200 Marines during their annual service weapon qualifications, including uploading their scores.

Sgt. Pickard took the initiative to design a software that automatically receives and uploads Marines' rifle scores into the system, streamlining the process and saving hundreds of man hours annually. Staff Sgt. Torres assisted Sgt. Pickard in developing the system further to support pistol qualification scores.

For their proficiency and initiative, they have been selected as April's community members of the month!

MCBH DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



Volunteers from across Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) remove mangrove trees during a Weed Warriors volunteer event at MCBH, April 12, 2025. The base environmental department held the event in an effort to remove non-native invasive plants from endangered species habitats. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Hunter Jones) [More Imagery](#)



U.S. Marines with Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) PMO visit Mokapu Elementary School students during Purple Up Day at MCBH, April 16, 2025. Students were greeted by staff, family, and service members in recognition of the Month of the Military Child. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Alana Smallwood) [More Imagery](#)

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3d MARINE LITTORAL REGIMENT

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



3d MLR Deploys NMESIS to Philippines for Exercise Balikatan 25

Story By 1stLt. Emily Zito

NORTHERN LUZON, Philippines – Following the announcement by U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth during his visit to Manila on March 28, U.S. Marines with 3d Marine Littoral Regiment deployed the Navy-Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System to the Philippines in support of Exercise Balikatan 25. This marks the inaugural deployment of the newly fielded Marine Corps weapon system to the Philippines and serves as a major milestone for the continuously developing U.S.-Philippines Alliance.

3d MLR's participation in BK25 will focus on the field training portion of the exercise, with involvement in the Integrated Air and Missile Defense at Naval Education Training and

Doctrine Command, Maritime Key Terrain Security Operations in Northern Luzon and the Batanes Islands, the Counter Landing Live Fire in Cagayan, and the Maritime Strike which occurs at sea with several firing systems, sensors and aircraft.

The NMESIS will be employed during the Maritime Key Terrain Security Operations in Northern Luzon and the Batanes Islands. During this event, U.S. Marines with 3d Littoral Combat Team's Medium-Range Missile Battery and Philippine Marines with 4th Marine Brigade will use air lift from the U.S. Army's 25th Combat Aviation Brigade and the U.S. Air Force's 39th Tactical Airlift Squadron to transport several NMESIS launchers from Northern Luzon to multiple islands in the Batanes island chain. Once on the islands, U.S. and Philippine



Marines will work together to establish a Fires Expeditionary Advanced Base.

In Northern Luzon, the AN/TPS-80 Ground/Air Task-Oriented Radar, operated by 3d Littoral Anti-Air Battalion's Tactical Air Control Element – will surveil the surrounding airspace in 3d MLR's area of operations in support of maritime strike and airspace deconfliction. Through various communication means and methods, the sensing data collected by the G/ATOR will be sent to the Fires and Air Direction Element. [Read More](#)

3d MLR DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



U.S. Marines with 3d Marine Littoral Regiment, 3d Marine Division, conduct a police call during Operation Mālama i ka 'āina on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, April 15, 2025. The event was designed for all Marines, Sailors and civilian personnel to work together in a cooperative effort to clean and beautify our base. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Eric Huynh)

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 24

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



VMGR-153 Completes First Detachment to RAAF Base Richmond

Story By Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien

RAAF BASE RICHMOND, AUSTRALIA – Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 153 successfully completed a training detachment to Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Richmond, Australia, from March 19 to April 10, 2025.

This two-pronged operation focused on improving squadron readiness through aircrew and instructor training while strengthening interoperability with Australian forces. The detachment was highly successful, achieving a range of challenging objectives and laying the groundwork for future joint operations.

The squadron accomplished 57 initial Training and Readiness qualifications, including the designation of a new instructor, as well as 297 qualification renewals.

"We completed training evolutions that are difficult to achieve locally in Hawaii, including Assault Landing Zone procedures, Fixed-Wing Air-to-Air Refueling, and Heavy Equipment Aerial Delivery," said Maj. Matthew Rowell, Officer in Charge of the detachment.

Australia provided VMGR-153 with vast open terrain that enabled unique training exercises.

"This was an ambitious detachment,

and despite unfamiliar procedures and locations, we met all of our objectives," Rowell said. He added, "The extensive

planning and relationship building we did ahead of time paid off."

As mission success brought valuable lessons for future operations, the squadron's first detachment to Australia focused primarily on initial qualifications using a single aircraft. This strategy allowed VMGR-153 to establish procedures for more complex training in the future.

A key aspect of the detachment was enhancing interoperability with the RAAF and improving training methods for both forces involved.

"The opportunity to work alongside the RAAF was invaluable," Rowell said. "Our maintenance personnel observed Australian supply systems and maintenance practices, which will help improve efficiency on both sides. Our operations departments also shared training methods that could boost future capabilities."

For most of VMGR-153's Marines, this was routine training. However, for some, it was full of firsts. Lance Cpl. Jose Muniz-Mendoza's first major deployment as a loadmaster with VMGR-153 brought unexpected opportunities. Muniz-Mendoza,

who joined the Marine Corps in February 2025, had not anticipated training overseas so early in his career. For him, the deployment has been a defining experience.

"Every day brings something new, whether it's aircraft operations, working with the maintainers or training overseas, I've learned more in three months than I ever thought possible," Muniz-Mendoza said. "I'm excited about what this squadron has to offer. I know there's a lot more to learn, and I'm ready for it."

Looking ahead to future operations in Australia, VMGR-153's success during this detachment is seen as just the beginning.

"We've set a great precedent with the RAAF and they're excited to have us back," Rowell said. "The success of this mission laid the groundwork for more complex training in the future, such as multiple aircraft operations and higher-level readiness codes. We will analyze the detachment through an after-action report to identify areas for more comprehensive training."

With lessons learned and partnerships strengthened, VMGR-153 is well-positioned for continued success in the Indo-Pacific region, demonstrating that even its newest members can make an immediate impact on the mission.

MAG-24 DIGITAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



A U.S. Marine Corps KC-130J assigned to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 153, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, performs a touch and go on an assault landing zone during a deployment for training (DFT) at landing zone Gilgandra, New South Wales, Australia, April 4, 2025. The DFT provided VMGR-153 pilots and crew with unit level training that enhanced the squadron capabilities and readiness while engaging with partner forces for future interoperability. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Anabelle Reed-O'Brien)