

Masters of **Amphibious Assault**



Chris Pappas, AFCE Hawaii



Bob Schmitt, AFCE Hawaii



Chris Pappas, AFCE Hawaii

Every January since 1982, Marines invade Nu'upia ponds wetlands with 26-ton amphibious assault vehicles. Their massive tracks kill invasive pickleweed plants and create a "moat and island" terrain that the endangered Hawaiian stilts love. Stilts nest on mud mounds, where water deters predators, and pierce their sword-like beaks through the mud to devour flies, worms, and crustaceans. Marines, teaming with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, demonstrate how an elite amphibious force can train while helping a fellow master of amphibious assault. Stilts counted at Marine Corps Base Hawaii have risen from 60 to 160 in 22 years. That's what happens when your best friends are Marines.

The Marines We're Saving A Few Good Species

