



NEWS RELEASE FROM THE NAVFAC HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Author/POC: Denise Emsley, Public Affairs Officer
Email: denise.emsley@navy.mil
Tel: 808-471-7300
Cel: 808-221-6387
Fax: 808-474-5479

Commanding Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii
400 Marshall Road
JBPHH HI 96860-3139

Navy Controlled Detonations to Continue August - September at Waipio Peninsula, Oahu, Hawaii

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – The Navy’s contractor will continue to schedule controlled detonations at a safe, secured, pre-designated location at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Waipio Peninsula Annex during August and September. This action is to destroy additional military munitions recovered from on-going screening of dredged material from Pearl Harbor and will occur as needed.

“This is an active project and as old munitions are found they are collected and safely stored in secured portable magazines until a detonation event is scheduled for their destruction,” said Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Program Director Aaron Poentis. “To date, we have successfully completed 22 controlled detonations consisting of a variety of items such as 5-inch projectile, 4.5-inch barrage rockets and/or motors, 3-inch projectile, 75mm projectile, 60mm mortar, 40mm projectiles and/or casings, 20mm projectiles and/or casings, grenades, practice bomb, TNT demo charge, fuzes, flares, a revolver and various small arms ammunition.”

The State Department of Health (DOH) granted the Navy a State Emergency Hazardous Waste Permit on June 29, 2015 allowing the treatment of identified waste military munitions by detonation at a specific site on Waipio Peninsula for 90 calendar days from the issuance of the permit. A maximum of 50 detonation events will be allowed. Each controlled detonation event will use no more than 15 pounds net explosive weight. Detonation events will be conducted in accordance with the respective Work Plan, Health and Safety Plan, Explosives Safety Submission and applicable Standard Operating Procedures.

All future detonations will be scheduled to occur during a normal business week, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Navy’s Confined Disposal Facility at Waipio Peninsula.

“Everything has gone according to plan and we expect that future work will continue to be unobtrusive to the public,” said Poentis. “This announcement is to keep everyone informed so if unfamiliar noises are heard from this activity, no one is surprised.”

The work is being performed by personnel trained from Cape Environmental Management Inc., and USA Environmental Engineering. Controls and safety precautions have been implemented to ensure safety of personnel and protection of the environment.

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