



NEWS RELEASE FROM THE NAVFAC HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2013

Release No. 13-02

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Navy Schedules Controlled Detonations at Kalaeloa Site

PEARL HARBOR – During the Navy’s environmental restoration site inspection at Ordy Pond, various Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) or potentially explosive items have been found that will be destroyed through controlled detonations at a safe, pre-designated location at the project site Feb. 4.

“This action is being taken to protect the public,” said Aaron Poentis, Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Director. “At no time will the public nor will any of the cultural and archeological resources on the project site be at risk. The designated detonation area is secured by the contractor, who is trained to execute this type of work. All of these efforts are under the complete oversight of the State of Hawaii’s regulatory agencies.”

The public at White Plains Beach, the Kalaeloa race track, or others living in the Kapolei area may hear a series of loud noises which indicate intentional detonation actions to render the items harmless.

The Navy Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program’s environmental restoration addresses cleanup under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) which requires the federal government to warrant that all remedial action required to protect human health and the environment has been taken prior to the disposal of surplus federal property.

The site inspection at Ordy Pond is to search for any potentially explosive items that could be in or around the edge of the pond and remove them. Any items found that are safe to move will be placed in temporary storage at the project site. If they are safe to transport, the items will be packaged and disposed of at an approved off-island facility. Those not safe to transport will be rendered harmless on site using explosive charges. Harmless items that do not require detonation or disposal off island will be taken apart and scrapped.

As of Jan. 30, the total number of items identified from around the edge of Ordy Pond and its depths total 301. Those to be disposed of through controlled detonations scheduled for Feb. 4, include MK24 aircraft flares (used for submarine warfare in marking the location of an enemy submarine), 1 lb. spotting charge in the 100 lbs. practice bombs; and a spotting charge in the MK106 practice bomb.

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Following this action, the collection of potentially explosive items will resume. Should another scheduled detonation be required, the public will be informed.

The contractor conducting the site inspection is Cape Environmental Management Inc. All contractor personnel are trained to perform this type of work. Divers will complete a geophysical search to detect, identify, recover, and assist with the disposal of potentially explosive items.

The results of the site inspection will be documented in a report expected at the end of June.

Ordy Pond is located between the old Naval Air Station air field and White Plains Beach at Kalaeloa. The pond is within a partially fenced area and filled with fresh water. It is over 200 feet across and 19 feet deep at its deepest location.

The site was part of the Navy's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and is currently owned by the Navy.

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