



NEWS RELEASE FROM THE NAVFAC HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28, 2013

Release No. 13-20

POC/

Author: Denise Emsley, Public Affairs Officer

E-mail: 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

JBPBH, HI 96860-3139

Navy Schedules Controlled Detonations at Waipio Peninsula, Oahu, Hawaii

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – During the Navy’s screening of dredged harbor material at its Confined Disposal Facility, Waipio Peninsula, Oahu, various potentially explosive munitions have been recovered that are scheduled to be destroyed through controlled detonations at a safe location Oct. 30 and potentially Oct. 31.

“At no time will the public be at risk,” said Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Program Director Aaron Poentis. “The project site is located within a secured area on Navy property on Waipio Peninsula. Depending on the winds and weather, the public along the Pearl Harbor waterfront at Waipahu, Ewa, Pearl City, Aiea and Pearl Harbor-Hickam and others may hear a series of loud noises which indicate intentional detonation actions to render the items harmless.”

Types of munitions recovered from the screening of dredged material include 11 each 4.5-inch Barrage Rockets; 9 each 40mm Projectiles and/or Cartridges; and 59 each 20mm Projectiles, Cartridges and/or Point Detonating Fuze.

On Sept. 25, 2013, the State Department of Health (DOH) granted the Department of the Navy a State Hazardous Waste Emergency Permit allowing the Navy to treat the identified waste military munitions by detonation at a specific site on Waipio Peninsula.

A maximum of fifteen 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.

“The contractor performing this project is Cape Environmental Management Inc. which has trained and extensively experienced personnel to execute this type of work,” said Poentis. “Required structural engineering controls and precautions will be implemented to ensure safety of personnel and protection of the environment. All of this effort is being accomplished in close coordination with the DOH. Tentative time for the detonation is between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.”

The DOH Hazardous Waste Emergency Permit also directs a notice be placed in the local newspaper which was accomplished in the Star Advertiser on Sunday, Oct. 20.

(more)

2-2-2-2 Navy Schedules Controlled Detonations at Waipio Peninsula

Due to past historical events (e.g., Dec. 7, 1941 attack, May 1944 Landing Ship Tank explosion, suspected past disposal practices, etc.), some munitions are suspected to be in waters of Pearl Harbor. During construction and maintenance dredging, munitions have been removed along with the dredged material. Dredged material has been temporarily accumulated within earth-bermed cells on Waipio Peninsula to be dewatered, dried and screened prior to use for other beneficial purposes (e.g., soil cover for sanitary landfill, etc.).

In April 2013, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii's contractor, Cape Environmental Management, Inc., actively began the munitions screening and removal portion of this project. Due to budget constraints, further munitions screening and removal have been temporarily discontinued. Additional field work is estimated to resume around March 2014.

– USN –

For more information about NAVFAC Hawaii and/or Naval Facilities Engineering Command visit:
www.navfac.navy.mil.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command: The Facilities and Expeditionary Combat Systems Command

NAVFAC is the Systems Command that delivers and maintains quality, sustainable facilities, acquires and manages capabilities for the Navy's expeditionary combat forces, provides contingency engineering response, and enables energy security and environmental stewardship. Additional updates and information about NAVFAC can be found on social media sites Facebook and Twitter. Become a Fan at www.facebook.com/navfac and follow us at www.twitter.com/navfac, or visit our Photostream on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/navfac>.