Media Release

Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii
"Malama na Koa"

Release number: 2007-12-01
December 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army to Detonate Makua Munitions Monday

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii—After intensive safety and environmental preparations, the Army will detonate several unexploded munitions at Makua Military Reservation Monday, December 3. Due to safety precautions, Farrington Highway and the beach areas adjacent to the reservation will be closed to public access Monday between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m.

The unexploded munitions were found in November as part of the Army's effort to provide safe access to the Makua Military Reservation for cultural observances under a 2001 Settlement Agreement between the Army and Plaintiff Malama Makua.

As part of this effort, an Army contractor conducted an unexploded ordnance (UXO) sweep at Makua from October 29 to November 19, for the purpose of clearing roads and trails leading to cultural areas. This would also allow the opening of additional cultural sites and outlooks previously closed to access. Three unexploded munitions were found during this sweep, to include a fused World War II-era bomb, a 106mm anti-tank round and an 81mm round.

Due to safety concerns, the reservation has been closed to all but essential security and demolition personnel since the discovery of the munitions.

After the UXO sweep was completed November 19, the Army expedited efforts to destroy the munitions in compliance with federal, state and local laws, regulations and requirements.

Under the implementing guidelines of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Army successfully obtained an expedited seven-day review and approval of its proposed demolition and site protection plan, in lieu of the standard 30-day consultation process. The demolition plan was also coordinated with appropriate federal, state and local agencies.

--more--

442 SANTOS DUMONT, WAAF
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HI 96857
PHONE 808.656.3154 | FAX 808.656.3162 | www.25idl.mil

2-2-2 MAKUA

In order to minimize the blast area and protect cultural sites from the detonation, thousands of sandbags have been filled and other barriers placed around the bomb and other munitions. The Army began this time-consuming effort November 23, as Soldiers worked during their Thanksgiving holiday weekend to expedite the action, completing the task five days later.

As part of the Army's commitment to protecting and preserving historic sites, sandbags and a structural barrier were put in place last week to protect a petroglyph in the area.

To comply with the Endangered Species Act, vegetation at Makua in the potential blast area that are prone to burning will be doused with water prior to the detonation to protect wildlife and the habitat.

During the actual detonations Monday, helicopters will be used to coordinate overall security, fire control, and demolition personnel. Several federal, state and local agencies will participate in the event at Makua, to include the U.S. Coast Guard, the Honolulu Police Department, the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Hawaii Civil Defense, among others.

A two-day cleanup period will clear any shrapnel or other debris from the area after the detonation. Following this cleanup, the range will be reopened for cultural access observances.

The Army is fully committed to providing cultural access under the 2001 Settlement Agreement, in compliance with applicable safety and range regulations, and it is already in consultation with community groups to reschedule cultural visits and a Makahiki celebration, which were postponed due to safety reasons following the munitions discovery.

-- 30 --

PHOTOS:

(1) Sandbags and Jersey Barriers surrounding WWII-era bomb

(2) Uncovered WWII-era bomb within interior sandbag barrier

(3) Sandbags and a wood shield provide blast protection for a petroglyph in the area

(4) Detail of a human figure on the petroglyph, prior to shielding

(5) WWII-era bomb original photo upon November 1, 2007 discovery

For more information, please contact the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii Public Affairs Office at (808) 656-3154 or (808) 226-2706.

442 SANTOS DUMONT, WAAF
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HI 96857
PHONE 808.656.3154 | FAX 808.656.3162 | www.25idl.mil