



22 July 2004

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Former Waikane Valley Training Area, Formerly Used Defense Site, Oahu, Hawaii

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project for the Commanding General's visit to the Congressional delegation.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The Former Waikane Valley Training Area (WVTA) is situated in the Windward portion of Oahu Island, Hawaii. The WVTA includes approximately 874 acres located on the coastal plain adjacent to Kaneohe Bay and on the slopes of the Koolau Mountain Range. Most of this property is covered with dense vegetation with some gulches and steep slopes.

b. In 1942, the Department of the Army entered a lease agreement with Lincoln L. McCandless heirs and Waiahole Water Company, Ltd., for the right to use approximately 1,061 acres in Waikane Valley for advanced offensive warfare training. Authorization for the Army to use Waikane Valley continued until July 1953 when the U.S. Marine Corps was substituted as lessee. Waikane Valley was formerly used as a training and artillery impact area from 1942 to 1976. Of the 1,061 original acres, only 874 acres are eligible under the FUDS program. The remaining 187 acres of the WVTA is presently Marine Corps property and not eligible for FUDS.

c. WVTA was formerly used as a training and artillery impact area from 1942 to 1976, particularly advanced training in offensive warfare and air-to-ground practice bombing during World War II. Per its lease, the Marine Corps was authorized continued use of WVTA from 1953 to 1976. Due to the potential as a fire hazard, no tracer ammunition or incendiary shells were to be used at any time and all weapons in excess of .50-caliber were to be fired into 2 designated impact areas. One of these impact areas is currently under Marine Corps control. The other forms part of the FUDS property. Two EOD sweeps of the artillery impact areas (August 1976 and February-April 1984) recovered as much as 40,000 pounds of demilitarized practice ordnance as well as 37- and 75-mm HE rounds, 60-mm mortars, 2.36- and 3.5-inch HEAT rockets, M28 HEAT grenades, and rifle grenades. The most probable munition at the WVTA is the 75-mm HE projectile (fragmentation distance of 1701 feet).

d. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the site was eligible for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program/Formerly Used Defense Site (DERP/FUDS) in 1996. A contract for field investigations and compilation of an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was awarded by USACE for \$1.0 million in 2003. Fieldwork for this study and evaluation is anticipated to commence by September-October 2004, following production of the final work plan and coordination and consultation with the local community.

e. The Honolulu District sponsored a public information meeting for the proposed project on August 4, 2004. This included query of the community as to whether a Restoration Advisory

Board (RAB) should be established for the project. Consultation and coordination with area Native Hawaiian cultural groups, Neighborhood Boards, the State of Hawaii, and the City and County of Honolulu has been initiated.

f. The initial project Cost to Complete (CTC) for the WVTA is \$5.4 million. All Honolulu District activities are subject to the availability of funds in DERP FUDS. It is not anticipated that funding for the Honolulu District's program shall exceed a maximum of \$15 million to \$20 million per program year for the foreseeable future. This would include all DERP/FUDS properties within the Pacific Ocean region (Hawaii, Guam, Northern Marianas, American Samoa, and island possessions).

3. Congressional Interest. The entire Hawaii Congressional delegation has thus far been advised of the importance of complete FUDS funding and they have been very supportive of the progress in the Pacific region