



22 July 2004

## **INFORMATION PAPER**

**SUBJECT:** Waikoloa / Waimea Formerly Used Defense Site, Island of Hawaii, 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 Waikoloa Maneuver Area/Nansay Combat Range comprises about 123,000 acres on the western side of the island of Hawaii, and includes all or parts of the communities of Waikoloa and Waimea (Kamuela). The U.S. Navy acquired the site area in 1943 through licensing agreements for use as a military training camp and artillery range. Portions of the area were used for U.S. Marine Corps maneuvers and intensive live-fire training with hand grenades, 4.2 inch mortar, and 37 millimeter (mm), 75mm, 105mm, and 155mm high explosive shells.

b. The first ordnance clean-up activity occurred in 1946. In 1954, following the death of two Parker Ranch employees by live ordnance rounds they placed in their pickup truck, a team of 50 men, from ordnance disposal units based at Fort Shafter and Hickam Air Force Base, searched 1,100 acres, and identified and disposed of thousands of munitions.

c. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) determined the site was eligible for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) in 1992. Field investigations were conducted in the late 1990's and a time critical removal action was completed in 2001. This included a surface sweep of approximately 300 acres in the Ouli portion where there were reports of ordnance found by neighborhood children. Interim measures were implemented to inform the public of health and safety hazards.

d. The Phase II engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) was completed in January 2002 and designated the entire property for potential ordnance health and safety risk. Eleven areas within the property, encompassing 48,000 acres, were determined to have the highest ordnance health and safety risk. The areas of highest risk within the site included all of Waikoloa Village and the developing urban area from Kawaihae to Waimea town. The EE/CA estimated the total cost-to-complete for the entire site to be in excess of \$600,000,000. Approximately \$250,000,000 of this total is estimated for rendering safe the 3 highest areas of potential risk. Field investigations for a Phase III EE/CA were completed in July 2004 in the Hawaiian Home Lands properties east of Waimea, a strip on the north side of Kawaihae Road, and undeveloped properties between Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway and the shoreline. The intent of these investigations is to assure the public that all areas with potential unexploded ordnance risk are investigated and assessed for this project.

e. Congress requested in Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Report 107-151 that USACE develop a comprehensive plan if \$250,000,000 were made available for identification

and removal of potential unexploded ordnance. The plan was submitted to the Secretary of the Army and outlines scenarios and alternatives for cleanup of the three areas of highest potential risk.

f. To date, approximately \$29,600,000 was expended at this property. An Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity Contract for Base Year + 4 Option Years, maximum \$10,000,000/year, for a total of \$50,000,000 for ordnance clearance, was awarded at the end of December 2002 to American Technologies Inc. with Wil Chee Associates performing Hawaii-based coordination and communication with local subcontractors. The first Task Order, comprising \$10 million, was negotiated and awarded in March 2003; the second Task Order for \$9.6 million was awarded in March 2004. The first Task Order was negotiated for ordnance clearance of 680 acres in Waikoloa, Waimea, and Lalamilo. Due to a variety of project efficiencies, it is anticipated that over 916 acres shall be cleared of explosive ordnance by mid-August 2004. Utilizing these project efficiencies, the second Task Order has been negotiated for ordnance clearance of over 1,100 acres in Waikoloa, Waimea, and O'uli. The intent of the ordnance removal actions is to provide a cleared zone around all existing neighborhoods. The ordnance removal includes both surface and subsurface detection and clearance. These tasks also include measures for support environmental services (ecological/cultural).

g. A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), composed of local residents and representatives from the police and fire departments, was established in 1999. The RAB is very active in all stages of project execution and development. A program for planning and achieving public awareness of the health and safety risks from unexploded ordnance was initiated. This includes the production of posters, brochures, school/community group educational packages, a safety video, permanent displays, and warning signs. Educational displays are also prepared and staffed during community gatherings and festivities.

h. A program for ordnance health and safety support during construction within the project area was initiated in 2002. Extensive portions of the project area pose a probable ordnance health and safety risk to the public. Many portions are either currently being developed or proposed for imminent development by both government and private entities. To date, approximately \$1,500,000 was allocated for health and safety support during construction/development within the FUDS property. Waikoloa Village Association, Parker Ranch, Hawaii State Departments of Hawaiian Home Lands, Land and Natural Resources, and Education, and private residential developers have been included within the construction support program. USACE established an arrangement with the County of Hawaii to assist in the review of building permit applications within the project area.

i. This project has received intense media interest including newspapers in Hilo, West Hawaii, North Hawaii, Waikoloa Village, and Honolulu; radio coverage on the Island of Hawai'i; and television coverage with the Fox and CBS Honolulu affiliates, and Fox News (national).

3. Congressional Interest. The Congressional delegation has strong interest in this project. Numerous briefings were provided to the Hawaii delegation and to the staffers of the House of Representatives Armed Service and the Senate Appropriations committees. The Secretary of the Army has also shown strong interest in this project including identifying as a highest priority in Congressional reports.