

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
HONOLULU DISTRICT
DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (DERP/FUDS)

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING
FOR
HEEIA COMBAT TRAINING AREA & PALI TRAINING CAMP

Topic: RAB Meeting

Date: 22 Oct 2003

Time: 1900 Hours

Location: Windward Community College, Hale Akoakoa, Room 107-109

Those in attendance included:

- Project Manager Charles Streck, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District
- Mr. Tommy Hunt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Ordnance Center of Expertise
- Mr. Marty Ray, Zapata Engineering, EE/CA Site Characterization Project Manager
- Consultants Clayton Sugimoto and Ty Hiraki of Wil Chee-Planning, Inc.
- Interested community and RAB members included Leslie Kahihikolo, Ed Lesperance, George L. Young, Clint Anderson, Marge and Ken Stromgren, Johnnie Wells, Warren Hall, Steve Clark, Michael Miyasaka, Dawn Chang, Shannon Wood, and Muriel Seto

Chuck Streck from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) opened the meeting by saying that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the preliminary findings from the completed field. Heeia Kea portion is finished and most of the Kahaluu portion is also finished. There were rights-of-entry problems with the State of Hawaii around Maunawili. That area has not yet been investigated, but hopefully Zapata will start before the end of the year. The report in this meeting will be for the Kaneohe side and not the Maunawili side because of the unresolved right-of-entry problem.

Marty Ray of Zapata Engineering commenced with his powerpoint presentation.

Objectives of the Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA):

- Characterize the site for any risk associated with ordnance or explosives that may remain on the site
- Make recommendations to the USACE and RAB members

Most of the property in Kahaluu is undeveloped. There are some housing development and agricultural use in the area. Access was allowed for approximately 800 acres on the site. A geophysical prove-out was done in March 2002. The Kahaluu site is extremely steep and rugged terrain. Surface

reconnaissance, in place of geophysical mapping, was necessary to cover the area that was not safe (e.g. too steep). Intrusive sampling was done based on the geophysical data collected.

Work started in March 2003. Archaeologist and biologist assisted in the preliminary assessment. The vegetation in the area grew to 6 to 10 feet tall and covered many obstacles such as abandoned buses, cars, and much metallic debris.

Surveying began on April 2003. Geophysical crew mapped sites in Heeia Kea. There were 18 grids that covered 3 acres in Kahaluu. The grids were placed only in areas that were deemed safe from the rugged terrain. The traditional square grid was not used because of the terrain. Odd shapes were formed to adapt to the work area and they were called “super transects”. Transects were used to collect data that were comparable to data collected in other DERP-FUDS sites. Geophysical mapping was done by mid-May in Heeia Kea and early-June in Kahaluu. The targets were selected from the data collected. Intrusive operation began in July and ended on July 28th.

Zapata geophysically mapped 9.75 acres at Heeia Kea and 3.5 acres at Kahaluu. Surface reconnaissance was done on 4.5 acres at Kahaluu. Intrusive investigation was conducted on 571 anomaly targets in Heeia Kea. From the 571 targets, there were 8 ordnance and explosives (OE) scrap items recovered. They were all practice items. No live or high explosive ordnance items were found. There were fragments of a Mark II hand grenade found in a training area. The entire hand grenade training area was covered by a grid and geophysically mapped.

Items found included:

- 2.36mm rocket
- 37mm tank fire
- fragments of Mark II hand grenade

A website for the project has been created that documents all data collected thus far. It can be used to create maps for presentations or dialing up directly to show the data to interested parties. Also located on the website are location and position coordinates for each of the target items. The website address is:

<https://oe.zapeng.com>

Several RAB members have had problems logging onto the website. Marty believes the problems were related to password or security issues and they either have been resolved or will be resolved in the near future. Zapata Engineering will give each RAB member a new login and password to access the website. All RAB members are encouraged to contact Marty Ray if they are unable to access the website.

Questions (Q) and Answers (A):

Q: Are there rights-of-entry problems with the State because the preservation plan has not been signed off?

A: *(Chuck) No. The problem is regarding language within the rights-of-entry. The State of Hawaii insisted of having an indemnity clause in the right-of-entry. However, it is against the U.S. Constitution for the Federal Government to indemnify itself. It is a problem that the Federal Government has every time we have to work with the State of Hawaii. There are some people working in the State of Hawaii offices that are trying to help produce a right-of-entry for us.*

Q: How long have the abandoned vehicles been in Heeia?

A: *(Marty Ray) There were some models in the 1970s and maybe even 1940s or 50s. Some vehicles could not be identified because of excessive corrosion.*

Q: There are several planners such as Wil Chee - Planning, Inc. that has already done work in the area. Are you including them in this project?

A: *(Marty Ray) Yes. Wil Chee - Planning, Inc. is part of the team on this project.*

Q: Why can't this RAB be extended to cover the Waikane Valley project? Can't you ask Senator Dan Inouye for money to do that?

A: *(Chuck) It is against the law for a government employee to lobby for that. As a community member, you have to make your wishes known.*

Q: What criteria were used to decide where the grids would be located?

A: *(Marty Ray) There was some information of where training facilities was in the past. The grids were placed on that first and then some of the area in-between was covered randomly by transects. However, there was no location information in Kahaluu. A visual reconnaissance was performed with some military personnel. An observation point, tents and other structures were found that help to estimate where the training areas could have been and the grids were placed there. Safety of all personnel was another factor in determining where to place grids.*

Q: Was cultural information included in the archaeological report?

A: *(Chuck) Cultural information was part of the Archaeological work plan. Steve Clark put together a very comprehensive research design for doing the work.*

Q: Are you speaking about intact Hawaiian archaeological sites?

A: *(Chuck) Yes. By federal law, we have to consider anything 50 years or older.*

Q: If anything was found, was it collected and curated?

A: *(Steve Clark) Yes, we did collections and they are in our archaeological laboratory. We will be doing descriptions and interpretations on them. Normally collections stay in boxes for Army Corps projects and are given back to the Corps.*

(Chuck) All the work, and in this case, is done on non-department of defense land. The recording of all the materials found is in satisfaction of Section 106 requirements. The materials actually belong to the landowners. The majority of the materials found were through the Board of Water Supply and they will go to the local government. We don't do the distribution of collected materials. We can assist a landowner in working with native Hawaiian groups.

Q: Were there any findings of human burial remains?

A: *(Steve Clark) No.*

Q: Is it a standard to collect an archaeological artifact when you find them while surveying?

A: *(Chuck) No. It's not a standard. There has to be a rationale behind it. If something is in eminent danger of being destroyed, then it is collected. It may be necessary to collect something to determine if there is an adverse impact.*

Q: What if you find ordnance close to an artifact?

A: *(Chuck) We usually use engineering controls such as a shield or sandbags to keep the impact of the blast away from the artifact.*

Q: We used to do ordnance work in the army. Is it possible to tie a rope around the ordnance and pull it away from the artifact?

A: *(Chuck) No. It is not considered an appropriate method of handling that situation. (Tommy Hunt) Operations for active EOD is completely different from what civilians are allowed to do. There are stricter rules and regulations that we, as civilians, have to follow as guidance.*

Q: There was a naval base station training in Kaneohe that was targeting the beach area. Was Heeia ever used as a target for their training?

A: *(Marty) We were investigating anything that impacted this site. We didn't find anything other than the Army using this site in the 1940s.*

Q: Is it possible that there are ravines in the area where people throw large quantities of trash?

A: *(Marty) There is trash in different areas. However, we did not enter areas with steep inclines. Those areas are difficult to access by us and historically.*

Q: Based on what you (Marty Ray) have found to date, there is no live ordnance?

A: *(Marty Ray) Yes. That is what the findings to date will support.*

Q: Can we say, with some level of confidence, that there is no live ordnance outside the sample grids?

A: *(Chuck) This isn't the end. The EE/CA will put this information into a risk assessment model. It is very rare for the federal government to walk away from these projects and assume there is no problem. That does not happen. There will be recommendations on handling issues. It may not be to do underground clearance. It may be to do educational material or signage. Right now, it's preliminary and information hasn't been plugged into the risk assessment model.*

Q: At the end of this process, is there a certification by the federal government?

A: *(Chuck) No. We don't do certification. On ordnance projects, the federal government will maintain an interest in that property into perpetuity. There is no certification because there is no end point of potential government involvement. There will be certain recommendations to follow of what should be done such as cleaning or signage. After that, there will be long term monitoring by the government to check on the site. Our program right now has long term monitoring going on for up to 150 years.*

Q: Is there a certification for purposes of use?

A: *(Chuck) No. We will make available the language that will go into the land deeds and everything else. Hawaii State law has it where it has to be part of the deed language.*

Q: There will be a park here in the future. When the city starts construction and they happen to find something such as ordnance, does the federal government return to help?

A: *(Chuck) Yes.*

Q: There is no certification, but the results will be used as a tool to permit certain kinds of uses?

A: *(Chuck) Yes. That is the goal of this project, is to aide future land use.*

(Tommy Hunt) If the future land use changes after the EE/CA report, that is where long term monitoring comes in. If land use changes, our recommendations will also change.

Q: For the purpose of safety, there is no live ordnance on the site?

A: *(Chuck) There is nothing that gives a red flag for an immediate reaction or a time critical removal action. If there was an immediate threat to the public we can utilize a time critical removal action which circumvents a lot of the process and lets us take care of the problem immediately.*

Q: The two streams in Heeia Kea reduce the percent of what you didn't find. You expected to find more but could it be buried in the stream? This will be a park and the children will play in the streams.

A: *(Chuck) Yes. Hand grenades are highly mobile and could be washed into streambeds and buried. The majority of the areas that were checked were in the flat areas above the streams. Not close to the streams because we couldn't dig with all the rocks in the area. If it did happen, it should have shown in some of our grids. It may be happening to some degree but I can't get into that much detail because it is premature now. This is something that will be evaluated in the report with a proper response to it. I can't give you a definite answer because it's premature right now. I don't want to second guess.*

Q: Does the EE/CA consider environmental issues related to the abandoned cars?

A: *(Chuck) The crew was working in the back of Kahaluu and found some compress gas cylinders, which is a safety problem. They aren't military equipment. We let the Board of Water Supply know about the cylinders so they can remove those items. We don't normally put it in a report, but we let the people or organization know about it so something can be done to correct the problem.*

Q: Have the City removed the buses and cars from the area?

A: *(Chuck) No. That hasn't happened yet.*

Q: Has there been any indication that contamination has impacted the ground water?

A: *(Marty Ray) No. We have not found anything that would have any impact on the water.*

Q: Have the Board of Water Supply given you permission to go into their property?

A: *(Chuck) Yes. They have been real good about this project. They had special locks made for us. They had people who showed us what they thought were unusual on the site.*

Q: There is a plan of opening up the whole back of the watershed for selected projects.

A: *(Chuck) If there is a plan or information on an area on or near the project site, you can send that information to me. The information becomes part of the project file and would get evaluated through the EE/CA.*

Q: Marty said that there were 571 targets. Are they still there? Have you dug them out yet?

A: *(Marty Ray) Those are target anomalies. They are geophysical anomalies that meet our target selection criteria and are identified as targets to dig. We dug 571 anomalies at Heeia Kea that produced 8 pieces of ordnance scrap. We dug 125 anomalies at Kahaluu.*

Q: After you dug them out, how did you dispose of them?

A: *(Marty Ray) It was all scrap metal. There was nothing of significance to be concerned about. It was certified as scrap and contained no AEDA (Articles of Explosives....). They were taken to recyclers.*

Q: Are you through digging in Heeia Kea and Kahaluu? Now you are waiting to do the Maunawili site?

A: *(Marty Ray) Yes. Maunawil and the remaining portion in Kahaluu will be done next.*

Q: Is there an estimated early and late completion date?

A: *(Marty Ray) No.*

(Tommy Hunt) We are on hold at the moment because Honolulu District Real Estate is working on the right-of-entry. We had to demobilize. Chuck has to set a cutoff date on receiving those right-of-entries. Right now, we are on hold waiting for those right-of-entries.

(Chuck) The delay on this project right now is my decision. The right-of-entries goes through DLNR and their lawyers are currently sitting on it.

Q: Are these right-of-entry problems jeopardizing the funding?

A: *(Chuck) Yes. I've had to take money from another project to fly Marty and others to Hawaii multiple times.*

Q: What percent of the work on the grid has been completed?

A: *(Chuck) For the whole project, about 2/3 or 60 percent has been completed.*

Q: Once you get right-of-entries, you will complete the field work, then compile the data and come up with a report?

A: *(Marty Ray) Yes. Once we completed the work and have the data, we will run the risk analysis by taking into account the current and future land use. Based on the risk analysis and current and future land use we will identify what alternatives are appropriate to address any risk and compare those to determine what we would recommend for the following action for the next step.*

Q: What is the role of the RAB in context of the recommendation and findings?

A: *(Marty Ray) RAB looks at the data, our methods and approach, and determine if we are not addressing an issue. RAB also takes the results back to show the community and neighborhood boards.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

