

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District and Sacramento District
Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program

PROPOSED PLAN FOR AREA S MUNITIONS RESPONSE SITE

Former Waikoloa Maneuver Area, Island of Hawaii, Hawaii
Formerly Used Defense Sites Project No. H09HI035915



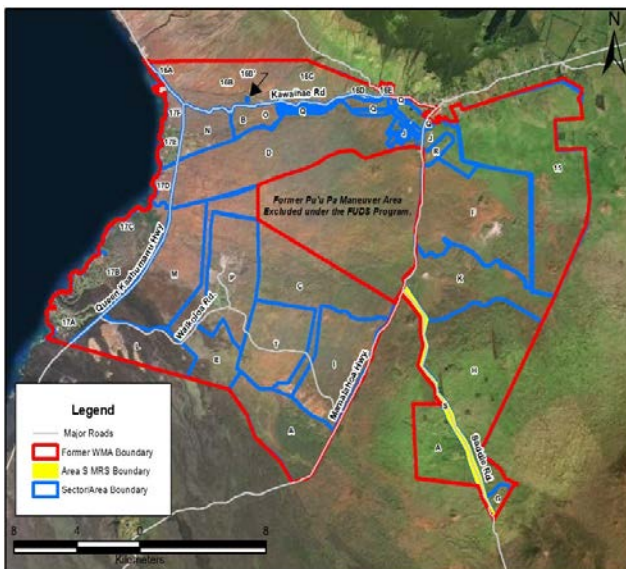
July 2015

INTRODUCTION

This **Proposed Plan** is presented by the United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to allow the public the opportunity to review and comment on the **Preferred Alternative** for the Area S **Munitions Response Site**, located within the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area. Area S has also been referred to as Area S – Saddle Road or Project 15.

Area S is located on the Island of Hawaii in the South Kohala District of the County of Hawaii. Located in the southeastern portion of the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area, Area S extends from the entrance of the Pohakuloa Training Area (to the south) to the intersection with Hawaii Route 190 (Mamalahoa Highway) to the north. Figure 1 shows the location of Area S within the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area.

Figure 1: Area S Site Location



background information of Area S; identify the Preferred Alternative and explain the reasons for the

Dates to Remember:
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

July 15, 2015 – August 14, 2015

The Corps will accept verbal and written comments on the Proposed Plan during the public comment period. Comments may be sent to:

USACE Honolulu District
Attn: Walter Nagai
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii
96858-5440 (808) 835-4089

PUBLIC MEETING:

July 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

A public meeting will be held to present the Proposed Plan at the Waimea Elementary School, 1225 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kamuela, HI 96743.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Project documents are available for review at the Thelma Parker Memorial Library located at 67-1209 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kamuela, HI 96743.

Although there are numerous munitions response sites within the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area, this Proposed Plan provides the rationale for the Preferred Alternative for only Area S. The Preferred Alternative is identified based on the findings of the Remedial Investigation. This Proposed Plan will present basic

This Proposed Plan contains terms (**in bold letters**) used for environmental remediation and the overall **Military Munitions Response Program**. These terms are described in the Glossary found at the end of this document.

preference; encourage public review and comment on the alternative described; and provide information on how the public can be involved in the alternative selection process.

The Corps is the executing agent for the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program, which is responsible for environmental restoration of real property that was owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary that was transferred from Department of Defense control prior to October 17, 1986. In executing the FUDS program, the Corps carries out response actions to address releases of hazardous substances and **Munitions and Explosives of Concern** or **Munitions Constituents** contamination. The Corps conducts environmental response activities at FUDS on behalf of the Department of Defense.

The Corps is the lead agency for investigating, reporting, deciding and implementing remedial action at Area S. Representatives from the Hawaii Department of Health, the lead regulatory agency for this project, reviewed the Remedial Investigation Report and agreed with its conclusions and recommendations.

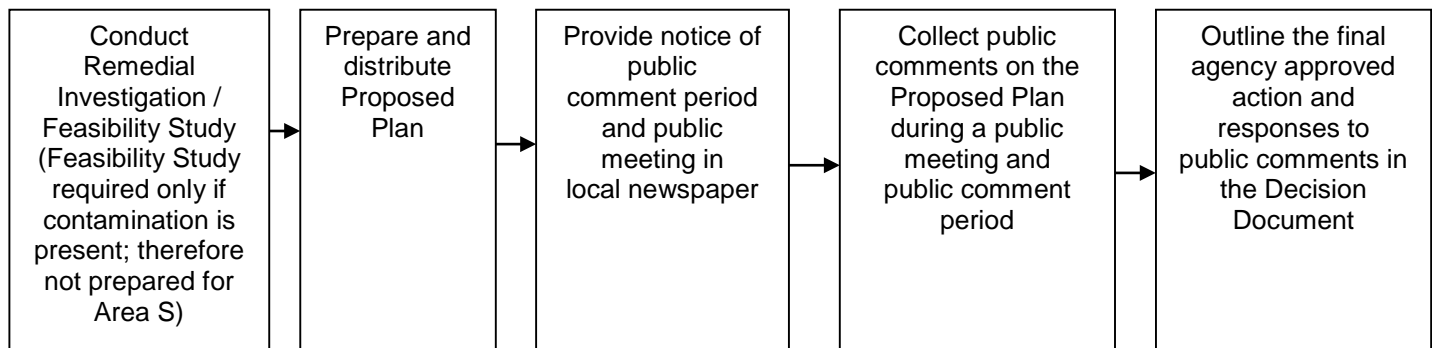
A Remedial Investigation of Area S was conducted in 2014 to determine the nature and extent of potential munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC) within Area S. The Remedial Investigation Report determined that since no munitions have ever been found on Area S and a full removal action including all of Area S was completed, no unacceptable risk from munitions constituents and no explosive hazard is present in Area S. Therefore, the Corps has identified “No Further Action” as the Preferred Alternative because MEC and MC do not present a current or future unacceptable risk to human health or the environment in Area S as a result of historical military training within the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area. Consequently, with the recommendation of No Further Action, a **Feasibility Study** was not required to evaluate remedial alternatives.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The Corps is issuing this Proposed Plan as a part of its public participation responsibilities under Section 117(a) of **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)**, and Section 300.430(f)(2) of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

Following presentation of the Proposed Plan at the public meeting, verbal and written public comments will be received at the meeting. Written and verbal comments will be accepted during a public comment period, which begins at the public meeting. All comments received are carefully considered and documented before an alternative is chosen. The location of the meeting, the date and time, and the address of the information repository are presented on the first page of this document. The decision of the appropriate alternative for Area S will be presented in a **Decision Document**. The Corps’ responses to public comments on this Proposed Plan will appear in the “Responsiveness Summary” section of the Decision Document. The flow chart shown in Figure 2, below, summarizes the various steps in the development and approval process for the Area S Decision Document.

Figure 2: Area S Decision Document Process



SITE BACKGROUND

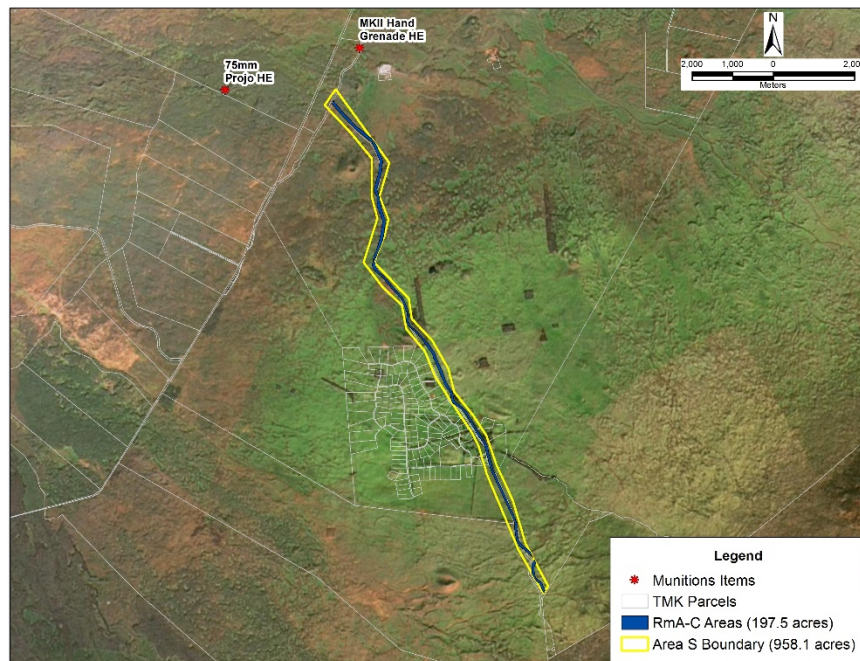
SITE HISTORY

Area S is located within the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area, as illustrated in Figure 1. The former Waikoloa Maneuver Area (also known as Camp Tarawa) was acquired by the U.S. Navy in 1943 through a licensing agreement with Richard Smart of the Parker Ranch, for use of 91,000 acres as a World War II Era Military Training Camp. Approximately 467 acres of the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area was used for tents and Quonset huts, most of the remaining acreage was used for maneuvers and military training exercises. Additional acreage was acquired and the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area was expanded to 123,000 acres. In September 1946, the original 91,000 acres of the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area, including the land occupied by Area S, was transferred back to the Parker Ranch. The remaining acreage was transferred at later dates, with use in some areas until 1953.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Historical information indicates that Saddle Road was used to transport troops from Hilo to the Waikoloa Maneuver Area for training exercises. Area S is a linear tract of land, consisting of eleven miles along Saddle Road (Hawaii Route 200). Area S includes land on both sides of Saddle Road, extending approximately 40 feet from the center line of the road on both sides. Area S includes approximately 958 acres. A more detailed view of Area S is shown on Figure 3.

Figure 3: Site Map, Area S of the Former Waikoloa Maneuver Area



PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS AND MUNITIONS REMOVAL ACTION

A number of early investigations have been performed within the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area. This section summarizes only those investigations which included investigation of the property within the boundaries of Area S. While other investigations provide additional background information and framework for the site, they are excluded from this summary (additional information is included in the Remedial Investigation Report and the Administrative Record file).

Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis

The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis evaluated the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area in three phases: Phase I, Phase II and Phase III. Area S was evaluated in Phase II, where the boundaries of Area S were created based on land uses and estimated explosive hazard present.

During fieldwork for the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, no munitions were found or reported in Area S. Eleven pieces of expended small arms ammunition (bullet casings) were found during the fieldwork. Based on the presence of munitions related items (even if an explosive hazard was not present in the items) and munitions found in other parts of the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area, Area S was given a moderate hazard rating.

Area S Munitions Removal Action

Based on the moderate munitions hazard rating assigned in the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis and Area S's full accessibility to the public, a munitions removal action was performed in 2011 to provide sufficient data supporting the absence of unexploded ordnance. The surface and subsurface removal action was performed in Area S to the depth of detection using metal detectors. The removal action was conducted on both sides of the road from the centerline to 40 feet away, or until fence lines were encountered (whichever was encountered first). No munitions related items were found within Area S during the removal action. Figure 3 illustrates the 197.5 acres included in the removal action.

Remedial Investigation

The purpose of a remedial investigation is to determine what contamination may still be present at a site, at what locations, and in what amounts. This is known as characterizing the nature and extent of contamination. During the Remedial Investigation of Area S, the contamination resulting from military use was evaluated. The Remedial Investigation summarized and evaluated the available data from the Area S removal actions to make a recommendation regarding the potential explosive hazard that could be present within Area S and to provide a recommendation about the extent of the potential explosive hazard remaining within Area S. The Remedial Investigation concluded that munitions and munitions constituents do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment at Area S.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LAND USE

The current land use is classified as residential, industrial, pastoral, and recreational. Sensitive ecological receptors and habitats are not present at the site. Potential human receptors present within Area S are residents, recreational users (hikers, bicyclists, motorists), construction and utility workers, and site visitors.

CONTAMINATION SOURCES

The potential sources of contamination in Area S are munitions that remain from the former military use of the site. However, no munitions have been recovered from Area S. Eleven pieces of expended small arms ammunition were found historically.

CONTAMINATED MEDIA

Media that may be potentially contaminated with munitions are the surface soil and subsurface soil in Area S. The Remedial Investigation determined that there is no evidence that groundwater contamination is present. No surface water or sediment is present in Area S.

SCOPE AND ROLE

Area S was investigated previously due to its location in the Waikoloa Maneuver Area and nearby areas which had an explosive hazard present. Area S is accessible to the public. The potential pathways for exposure to an explosive hazard within Area S at the time of the investigation were surface and subsurface activities from residents, recreational users, construction/utility workers and site visitors. However, since no munitions other than expended small arms ammunition have ever been recovered from Area S, and a munitions removal action was performed on the surface and subsurface of Area S with no munitions recovered, the potential of encountering a residual explosive hazard is negligible to non-existent. No Further Action is planned at Area S. The Corps will pursue project closeout and seek regulatory concurrence.

SUMMARY OF SITE RISKS AND CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the Area S Remedial Investigation Report, the following conclusions are presented:

- **Munitions and Explosives of Concern** - No items with an explosive hazard have been found or reported in Area S. The only military related items recovered from Area S were eleven pieces of expended small arms ammunition. No discarded military munitions or chemical warfare materiel were found. There is no unacceptable risk to human or ecological receptors from munitions within Area S.
- **Munitions Constituents** - Since no items with an explosive hazard were found, no munitions constituents sampling was required. Results from a sampling effort where samples were collected in other areas of the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area, where larger quantities of munitions were found, were presented in the Remedial Investigation Report to represent the soil and ground water beneath Area S. No risk from munitions constituents was found in those areas. A risk assessment determined that eleven items of small arms ammunition do not provide enough source to cause an unacceptable risk of contamination in the soil or groundwater of Area S to people or ecological receptors.

Based on the findings of the Remedial Investigation, the Corps has made a determination that the site does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment and therefore, recommends No Further Action for Area S. A Feasibility Study was not performed as a result.

REMEDIAL ACTION OBJECTIVES

Since there is no evidence of munitions or munitions constituent contamination within Area S, a remedial action is not necessary to provide for protection of human health or the environment at Area S. Therefore, Remedial Action Objectives were not developed as part of the Proposed Plan.

SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

Because the Area S does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment, remedial action alternatives were not developed. Therefore, only the No Further Action alternative is presented in this Proposed Plan.

EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Based on the results of the Remedial Investigation, the Corps has determined that no remedial action is warranted at Area S. Therefore, the only alternative being evaluated is No Further Action.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Further Action alternative, the current conditions at Area S would remain unchanged. There were be no remedial action or land use controls implemented.

If, after consideration of all public comments received, the No Further Action alternative is ultimately selected by the Corps, then no additional environmental investigation or remediation will be performed. There will be no cost is incurred for the implementation of this alternative.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Corps is requesting public comments on the Preferred Alternative presented in the Proposed Plan for Area S. Written and verbal comments will be accepted at a **public meeting scheduled for July 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Waimea Elementary School, 1225 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kamuela, HI 96743** Written and verbal comments will also be accepted throughout the comment period, which ends **August 14, 2015**.

Written and verbal comments should be sent to Mr. Walter Nagai (contact information presented below).

The Proposed Plan is available in the Thelma Parker Memorial Library throughout the comment period, beginning **July 15 through August 14, 2015**. Comments received during the public meeting and comment period will be considered in the final decision. This decision will be presented in a Decision Document signed by the Corps. The Corps' responses to public comments will be documented in the "Responsiveness Summary" section of the Decision Document.

The *Remedial Investigation Report for Area S Waikoloa Maneuver Area* provides a comprehensive description of the site history, the details of the Remedial Investigation, the associated risk assessments and their conclusions. All of the reports, including this Proposed Plan, and other project documents are available at the reference desk in the Thelma Parker Memorial Library located at 67-1209 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kamuela, HI 96743.

Contact information

General Information: <http://www.poh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/FUDS.aspx>

Walter Nagai
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu
District Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440
Walter.T.Nagai@usace.army.mil
(808) 835-4089

Gary Shirakata
FUDS Program Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu
District Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440
Gary.N.Shirakata@usace.army.mil
(808) 835-4087

Information Repository

Copies of the *Remedial Investigation Report for Area S Waikoloa Maneuver Area, Island of Hawaii, Hawaii*, and the Administrative Record file for this site will be available from **July 15, 2015 through August 14, 2015** at the following location:

Thelma Parker Memorial Library
67-1209 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Kamuela, HI 96743-8429
Telephone: 808-887-6067

References

- Earth Tech Inc., 2002. Final Phase II Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, Former Waikoloa Maneuver Area and Nansay Sites, Island of Hawaii, Hawaii. Report prepared for the US Army Corps of Engineers. January.
- Environet Inc., 2012. Area S Letter Report. Contract W9128A-09-D-0002, Task Order 0005, September 20.
- Native Hawaiian Veterans (NHV), 2014. Final Remedial Investigation Report, Former Waikoloa Maneuver Area, Area S.
- The South Kohala Community, 2008. South Kohala Development Plan. Final, 2008.

Glossary of Terms

Administrative Record – A collection of documents that forms the basis for the selection of a response action. The administrative record file is placed at a location near the project site for public review.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, otherwise known as Superfund) – of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. The federal law that provides the government with the authority to compel or perform remediation of sites contaminated with hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment.

Decision Document – The documentation of remedial response decisions at Formerly Used Defense Sites. Concurrence on the Decision Document by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state regulatory agency is sought and the Army approves the document.

Feasibility Study – A study undertaken by the lead agency to develop and evaluate options for remedial action. The RI data are used to define the objectives of the response action, to develop remedial action alternatives, and to undertake an initial screening and detailed analysis of the alternatives. The term also refers to a report that describes the results of the study.

Formerly Used Defense Site – A facility or site which was under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense and owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States at the time of actions leading to contamination by hazardous substances, for which the Secretary of Defense shall carry out all response actions with respect to releases of hazardous substance from that facility or site. The FUDS program is limited to those real properties that were transferred from Department of Defense control prior to October 17, 1986.

Munitions Constituents – Any materials originating from unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, or other military munitions, including explosive and non-explosive materials, and emission, degradation, or breakdown elements of such ordnance or munitions.

Munitions Debris – Remnants of munitions (e.g., fragments, penetrators, projectiles, shell casings, links, fins) remaining after munitions use, demilitarization, or disposal.

Munitions and Explosives of Concern – Specific categories of military munitions that may pose unique explosives safety risks, specifically composed of (a) unexploded ordnance, (b) discarded military munitions, or (c) munitions constituents (e.g., TNT, RDX) present in high enough concentrations to pose an explosive hazard.

Munitions Response Site – A discrete location that is known to require a munitions response.

Preferred Alternative – The alternative that the Corps feels is the best way to address any past military impacts to a site.

Proposed Plan – A plan that identifies the preferred remedial alternative for a site and is made available to the public for comment.

Remedial Investigation – A process undertaken by the lead agency to determine the nature and extent of the problem presented by the release. The Remedial Investigation emphasizes data collection and site characterization, and is generally performed concurrently and in an interactive fashion with the feasibility study. The Remedial Investigation includes sampling and monitoring, as necessary, and includes the gathering of sufficient information to determine the necessity for remedial action and to support the evaluation of remedial alternatives.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
Corps	United States Army Corps of Engineers
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site
MC	Munitions Constituents
MEC	Munitions and Explosives of Concern



Remember the “R’s” of Explosives Safety:

Because of how the military used the site, munitions may remain on site. Munitions may be dangerous and may not be easily recognizable. Never touch, move or disturb something you think may be a munition. Remember the 3Rs of explosives safety.

Recognize - The item you found may be munitions, and munitions may be dangerous.

Retreat - Leave the area without touching or moving the object.

Report - Call 911 immediately.