



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corps Discovers, Removes More Grenades At Big Island's Waimea Middle School

(HONOLULU, March 28, 2002) -- Three more live hand grenades and other ordnance material was found and safely removed from the garden site at Waimea Middle School in Waimea on the Big Island of Hawaii today.

The school is within the boundaries of the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area that was used for military training during World War II. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Honolulu District is surveying and cleaning up the area as part of the Department of Defense's Defense Environmental Restoration Program, Formerly Used Defense Sites, or DERP - FUDS.

On February 5, Waimea School students found a live grenade in the garden site, which was then closed. The grenade was safely removed and disposed of by explosive ordnance disposal specialists from the Army's Pohakuloa Training Area, also located on the Big Island.

Contractors working for the Corps of Engineers started surveying the school garden site this week to determine if additional ordnance remained. The survey was planned for spring break so that school operations would not be disturbed. As of this morning, no ordnance had been found on the surface but three live grenades, one inert part of a hand grenade and seven bullets were found below the ground.

All the ordnance found this week was safely removed by EOD specialists from the Army's Pohakuloa Training Area.

Corps of Engineers' Project Manager Chuck Streck praised the EOD specialists, the Waimea Police Department, other local authorities and the staff of the Waimea Middle School staff for their cooperation.

Streck also said the investigation of the school grounds should be completed by tomorrow, but encouraged all area residents to notify local police if they spot what could be unexploded ordnance.