



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release number: 2008-X-XX

July 18, 2008



Sgt. Amado Pedrosa, an EOD technician, holds a World War II-era, non-explosive, armor-piercing tracer round, found in a Hilo residence backyard. Photo by Chicpaul Becerra, Pohakuloa Public Affairs.

Military secure armor piercing round in Hilo

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii—Explosive ordnance technicians, stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, secured a rusty, slim-green, World War II-era round at a Hilo residence found on July 13.

An elderly gentleman had previously called the Hawaii Police Department and informed the police officer that, while cutting the grass, he had struck a metal object that was partially buried in the ground. He took it out of the ground, sprayed wash and cleaned the round, and set it aside.

Technicians from Explosive Ordnance Detachment from Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and attached to the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines who are on unit training at PTA, were notified of the round on July 14.

“Sgt. Amado Pedrosa, a U.S. Marine EOD technician, and I immediately went to the scene of the round,” said Sgt. Hollan Gower, U.S. Marine EOD technician team leader. “While at the bottom of the hill of the Chong Street residence, we met and talked to the on-scene police officer, and he pointed to us where the round was and what it looked like,” Gower added.

The Marine EOD technicians closely approached the round, identified what it was, and Sgt. Pedrosa took some pictures of the round for future reference.

“We positively identified it as an armor-piercing tracer round which definitely was no explosive hazard,” Gower said. “I informed the police officer and told him what the situation was, and explained to him what we were going to do with the round. So we took the round, strapped it securely in the back of our truck, and went back to PTA with it.”

What’s next for the round?

“We will keep it at PTA’s EOD Library and use it as a teaching aid and for future reference,” according to Gower.

There’s a saying that “if there is one, there might be more.” It’s important for people to remember what to do if they see an odd or potentially hazardous object.

“If you find an item that looks like a military round, or not sure what it is, do not touch it and do not move it,” Gower said. “Make sure to notify the police immediately and evacuate everyone in the immediate area of the unknown object, so no one is in danger of a potential safety hazard.”

And with that in mind, the military’s explosive ordnance detachment will take care of the rest.