



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army Protects Discovery at Schofield

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Army-contracted archaeological and cultural monitors discovered suspected human remains on a Schofield Barracks construction site, Friday, while supervising a routine ground excavation.

Army archaeologists and cultural resource specialists were immediately dispatched to the site to make an initial determination as to whether the remains were likely human. Dr. James Pokines, forensic anthropologist with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, confirmed on Saturday that the remains were indeed human.

Protective fencing has been erected in the area, and all construction activities at the site have been halted until further notice.

Procedures in the form of an "Inadvertent Discovery Plan" were in place and put into action, with site identification, protection and notifications to the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Office (HSHP) and the Oahu Burial Council (OBC).

"Anytime there is construction taking place and in which digging occurs, there is always a possibility that one could encounter an unexpected find," said Laurie Lucking, Cultural Resource manager for U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. "It is for this reason that we have contingency plans and procedures in place so that finds like this can be treated with the utmost dignity and respect."

The Army will continue to work closely with the necessary state and federal agencies, to ensure compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act in order to protect and preserve Hawaii's rich historical and cultural heritage.

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MEDIA NOTE: Media who would like should contact Loran Doane, Media Relations chief, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs at (808) 656-3157 or cell (317)-847-2222.