



Media Release

Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii
(808)656-3152
“Malama na Koa”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PTA Wildfire Update

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA (PTA), Hawaii- The wildfire is currently established on the south slope of Mauna Kea posing challenges for firefighters. The terrain is steep with lava substrate and volcanic ash soils.

Power and communication lines have been damaged or destroyed and the threat of further impact continues. The corridor is a critical communication conduit between Kona and Hilo communities.

The smoke has impacted air quality in the vicinity of PTA and Bradshaw Army Air field (BAAF). BAAF has been closed as an emergency airfield for general aviation.

Saddle Road remains open with detours in place at mile marker 29 and 34.5. Monitoring of the direction of the wildfire will determine if and when the detours will be lifted and normal traffic patterns resumed on the new Saddle Road.

A total of four helicopters remain on the scene today fighting the fire. Approximately 150 personnel continue to battle the blaze. No structures have been burned and no injuries to firefighters have occurred.

The fire began sometime approximately 9:30 a.m. Sunday about a 1/4 mile east of PTA's main gate in the vicinity of Mauna Kea State Park. No Army training activity was taking place on the eastside of Saddle Road at that time.

For more information, call Mike Egami, at 808-656-3152 or Cell 387-8511

