



Waikane Valley Impact Area Munitions Response Program

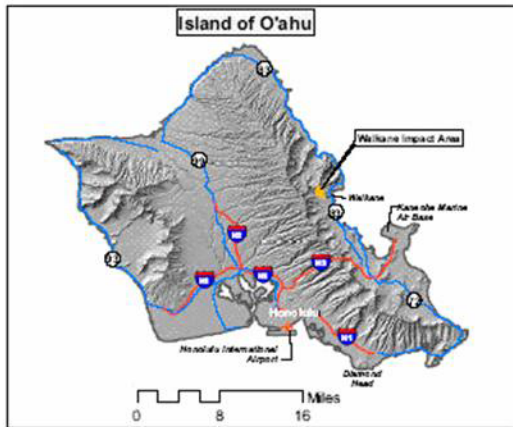
Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay

Fact Sheet No. 1 (Revised)

August 2007

History

Waikane Valley Training Area is located in the Waiahole and Waikane Valleys, on Oahu's windward side (Kaneohe, Hawaii), approximately 10 miles northwest of Kaneohe Bay (map below).



Military history in the valley dates back to the early 1940s when the Army leased over 2,000 acres for training which at different times included jungle training, field maneuvers, aircraft bombing practice, and small arms, artillery, and mortar firing.

From 1953 to 1976 the Marines leased 1,061 acres of the Army training area. Marine training consisted of small arms fire, three and a half inch rockets, and possibly medium artillery fire. In 1976, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit conducted a visual search and clearance of munitions-related material of the land used by the Marines. The land was then returned to the original owners who farmed and developed it. The Marines re-investigated the land in 1976 and discovered that 187 acres of the training area would never be free of duds, practice ordnance, etc. In 1989 the government acquired title to the 187-acre ordnance contaminated area. The area was fenced-off in 1992 and remains as government property because munitions and explosives on the site pose potentially unsafe risks to people and the environment.



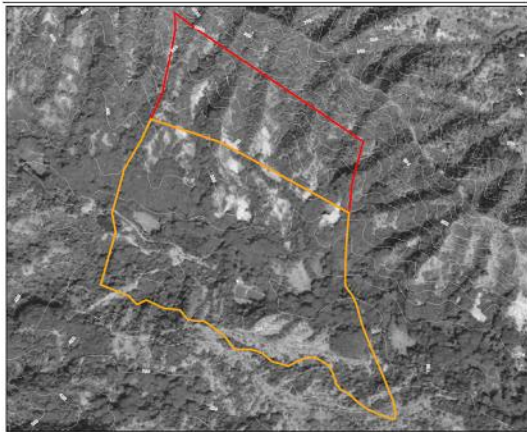
This 187 acre area known as the Waikane Valley Impact Area became a Marine Corps Munitions Response Site in 2005 following closure of the training range. It is shown in red on the figure above and is the responsibility of the Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe Bay. The area shaded yellow is now a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), and is the responsibility of the US Army.

Munitions Response Program

The Marine Corps follows requirements of the official Department of Defense (DoD) Munitions Response Program (MRP). The MRP addresses environmental health and safety hazards from unexploded ordnance (UXO), discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents (chemical components of explosives and munitions) on closed Navy and Marine Corps training ranges.

The first step of the Munitions Response Program is to conduct a Preliminary Assessment (PA), which was completed for the Waikane Valley Impact Area in March 1991. In addition, the Marines conducted a Range Identification and Preliminary Range Assessment (RIPRA) in December 2001 which included the Waikane Valley Impact Area. The RIPRA involved reviewing historical records and information and conducting an on-site visit to determine if the site might pose an unsafe risk, and therefore require additional study. The RIPRA, like other PAs, did not involve any sampling or field investigation. Based on the RIPRA, additional study of the area known as a Site Inspection is necessary.

A Site Inspection (SI) is an on-site investigation to augment the data collected in the PA. The purpose is to generate sampling and other field data to determine if further study or environmental cleanup is needed. The Marine

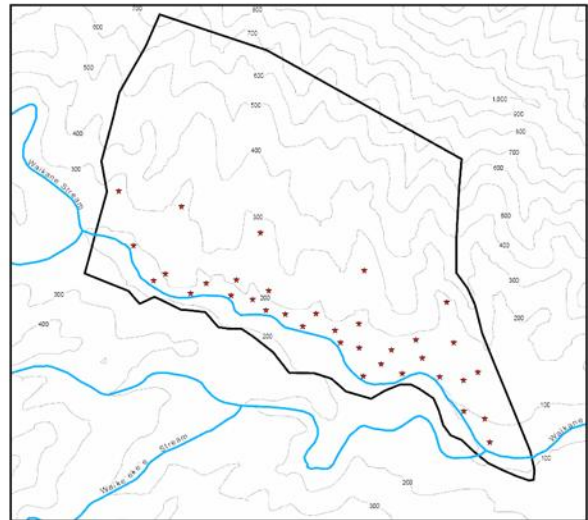


Corps is currently preparing a SI Work Plan. Field work for the Waikane Valley Impact Area SI is expected to begin in 2008. The figure above shows the site broken down into two sections. The section outlined in orange is the area that will be investigated during the SI. The red outlined section is not going to be studied in the SI because the land is too steep for safe sampling and field work.

Waikane Valley Impact Area Site Inspection

The SI will include two types of investigations. The first is a detailed walk through inspection for surface evidence of discarded military munitions (DMM) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and munitions constituents. This will involve making multiple sweeps back and forth on foot across the site by technicians trained to visually identify signs of munitions contamination. The technicians will also use specialized metal detection devices to locate munitions near the surface.

The second type of investigation planned for the SI is soil sampling to test for munitions constituents. A total of 35 sampling sites have been selected and are shown as red stars on the figure to the right above. The sampling results will be compared to both the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) environmental action standards and US EPA Region 9 preliminary remediation goals (PRGs).



Future Work

The findings of the SI will be used with the data collected in the PA and RIPRA to determine if additional action is necessary at the site. The data will be evaluated to determine if the site poses a potential or existing risk/hazard to human health or the environment. If there is a potential risk/hazard or if one exists, then a Remedial Investigation will be required to determine the nature and extent of the munitions and chemical contamination.

Community Involvement

Documents related to the Waikane Valley Impact Area are available for review at the following information repositories:

University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hamilton Library, Hawaiian & Pacific Collection
 2550 McCarthy Mall
 Honolulu, HI 96822
 Ms. Jean Kusano
 (808) 956-8227

Kailua Public Library 239 Kuulei Road Kailua, HI 96734 Ms. Patti Meerians (808) 266-9911	Kaneohe Public Library 45-829 Kamehameha Hwy. Kaneohe, HI 96744 Ms. Eileen Root (808) 233-5674
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For More Information, Please Contact:

Community Questions: Community Relations Office, (808) 257-8832
 Media Questions: Media Officer, Lt. Strickland, (808) 257-8870