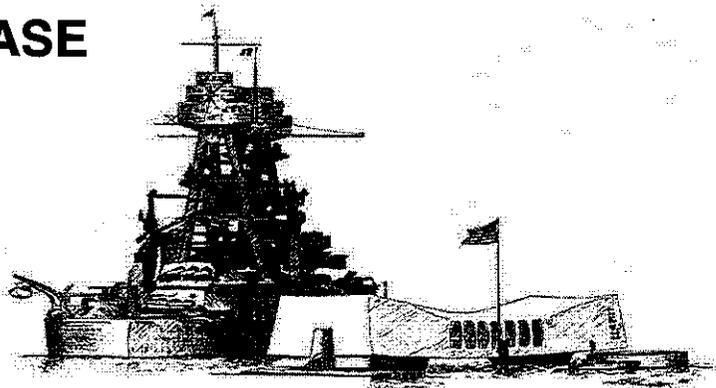


# NAVY NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 22, 2003**

**POC: LCDR Jane Campbell**

**RELEASE #024-03**

## **Cause of Kaho`olawe helicopter crash identified**

The cause of the crash of the Pacific Helicopter UH-1 Huey has been identified. Investigations of the wreckage site by FAA representatives determined that a long line cable struck the tail rotor. Long line cables are often used by the helicopters to pick up and relocate cargo and equipment.

The National Transportation Safety Board will not investigate the accident. Additionally, Pacific Helicopter will be allowed to remove the wreckage of the aircraft.

The pilot was the only person onboard at the time of the accident, and the name has not been released pending notification of the family.

This is the first fatality associated with the largest Department of Defense unexploded ordnance clearance project in the world. The island is the property of the State of Hawaii, but the Navy currently controls access to the island.

The accident occurred at 11:50 a.m. this morning. The aircraft crashed on the Northwestern coast of the island.

Demolition operations scheduled for tomorrow have been cancelled, however the contractor will return to full operations on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

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