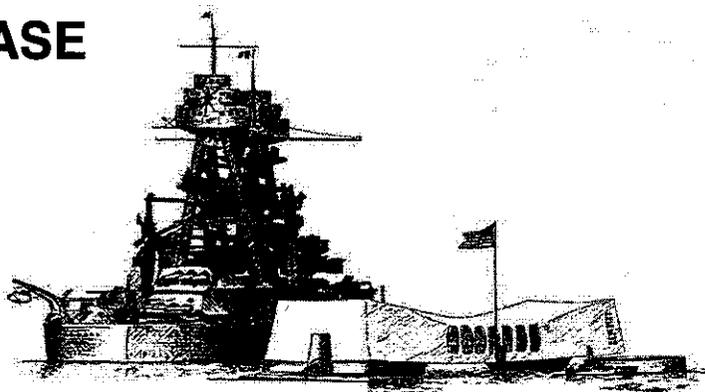


# NAVY NEWS RELEASE

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## *Navy concludes Kaho'olawe ordnance removal operations*

The Navy today completed its operations on the island of Kaho'olawe through a contract with Parsons/UXB Joint Venture.

The Navy contracted Parsons/UXB in 1997 to clear and remove unexploded ordnance from areas of the island according to a priority list developed by the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

Rear Adm. Barry McCullough, Commander Navy Region Hawaii, visited the island today to meet with contractors and KIRC staff, and to view the final demobilization efforts.

"I am very pleased with the quality of the work done here," said McCullough. "The efforts of all the workers and this team will allow the State of Hawaii to provide safe, meaningful access to the island for what the State has in mind."

Of the 26,158 accessible acres on Kaho'olawe, 22,114 acres (84.5%) were cleared of surface ordnance. Of that, 2,650 acres were further cleared to a depth of four feet.

More than 100,000 ordnance items were collected, identified and destroyed. More than 10 million pounds of ordnance items, fragments, and scrap metal were collected, handled and removed from the island. More than 14,000 tires were collected and removed from the island to be recycled.

More than 800 archaeological sites containing nearly 3,000 features were professionally located and documented. More than 8,000 posts were installed marking the boundaries of the cleared areas.

To aid in future management of Kaho'olawe, the Navy is providing the State with an extensive library of data and information. This includes a geographic information system and data management system with information on unexploded ordnance, natural resources, historic preservation and environmental conditions. There are 11,473 files on each individual 100 meter by 100 meter square of the island containing detailed information about what was found and what work was performed. Additionally, studies relating to unexploded ordnance, historic preservation, natural resources and environmental cleanup actions are being turned over to KIRC.

KIRC has received \$44 million in federal funds to date to manage Kaho'olawe in the future. The Navy worked closely with KIRC to allow it to retain as much federal government property used during the cleanup as possible. This includes trucks, computers, office furniture, galley, communication equipment, sheds and toilets. KIRC is receiving about \$4 million in equipment, \$4.9 in facilities, as well as a 9.6-mile road that cost \$8.8 million.

The Navy has established procedures to return to the island as needed in the future to respond to newly discovered, previously undetected ordnance.

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