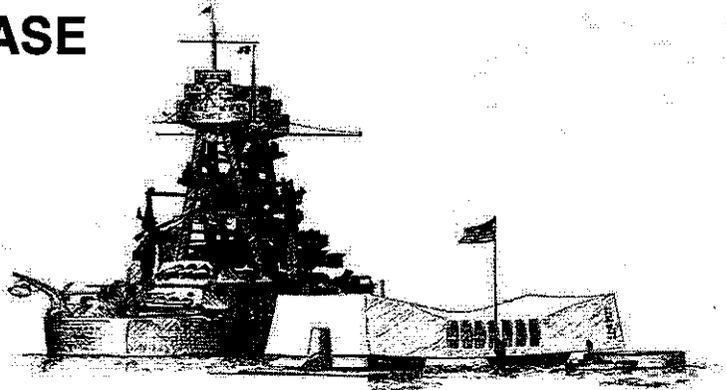


NAVY NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mar. 15, 2004

POC: Lieutenant Commander Jeff Davis

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At about 9:20 a.m. this morning, a small explosion occurred during mechanical demilitarization operations on Kaho'olawe. Three civilian contract personnel suffered minor injuries and are being transported by helicopter to Maui Memorial Hospital for further treatment and evaluation.

Mechanical demilitarization is the process of cutting and crushing inert ordnance to convert it into scrap metal. An investigation of the incident will be conducted.

The Navy contracted Parsons-UXB Joint Venture to undertake ordnance clearance operations on Kaho'olawe. In November 2003, the Navy transferred control of access of Kaho'olawe to the State and is in the final stages of operations.

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