

**Annual Report for Routine Military Training Actions and
Related Activities at United States Army Installations on the
Island of Hawai'i, Hawai'i, January 1, 2023 through December
31, 2023**

Prepared by:

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U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii
Pōhakuloa Training Area

Project #: CRS-24-045



March 2024

Introduction

The United States Army Garrison Hawaii, Pōhakuloa Training Area (USAG-HI PTA) implemented a Programmatic Agreement (Training PA) on September 27, 2018 to fulfill responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for routine and recurring training and support activities. This report fulfills the obligation under Training PA stipulation IV.B. to provide an annual report of steps taken to comply with the terms of the agreement. The stipulated reporting period is between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

Reporting on the Training PA requirements generally follows the order of the Stipulations.

Stipulation II. Training Area Activity Review

Stipulation II.B. Undertakings Reviewed by USAG-Pōhakuloa Cultural Resources

Seven undertakings were reviewed by the USAG-HI PTA Cultural Resources (CR) staff during the reporting period (Table 1).

Table 1. Activities Reviewed during 2023 Reporting Period

| Title | Action | Status as of 31 December 2023 |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 2nd Grazing Lease (CRS-22-095) | NHPA Section 106 Consultation | Project-specific consultation complete. <i>No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties</i> |
| Cooper Airstrip (CRS-23-183) | NHPA Section 106 Consultation | Project-specific consultation complete. <i>No Historic Properties Affected</i> |
| Aha Alakai Range 20 Bunker (CRS-23-073) | Reviewed by CR | Training Area Configuration, Maintenance, and Repair under Appendix A of Training PA; in Go area. |
| Drop Zone Hollister Fence Line Removal (CRS-24-005) | Reviewed by CR | Training Area Configuration, Maintenance, and Repair under Appendix A of Training PA; in Go area. |
| Next Generation Combat Vehicle (CRS-23-168) | Reviewed by CR | Mounted Maneuver Training under Appendix A of Training PA; in Go area. |
| 2IBCT Fueling Points | Reviewed by CR | Assembly Area Operations Training under Appendix A of Training PA; in Go areas. |

Stipulation II.C. Undertakings Involving Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

Eighteen UXO items were identified during the reporting period. Table 2 provides information about the location of the UXO items and the ultimate disposal of the items. Two items were determined to be too hazardous to move and were detonated in place. Both areas had been previously surveyed for cultural resources, and no historic properties were located near the UXO items. Other reported UXO were able to be safely removed and disposed of at the approved demolition area at Range 9.

Table 2. 2023 UXO Disposal

| Item # | Dated Reported | Discovery Location | Status as of December 31, 2023 |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 24 January 2023 | Range 20 | Removed and disposed |
| 2 | 25 January 2023 | Range 11 | Pending |
| 3 | 02 March 2023 | Training Area 22 | Removed and disposed |
| 4 | 15 March 2023 | Training Area 9 | Removed and disposed |
| 5 | 23 March 2023 | Range 10 | Removed and disposed |
| 6 | 28 March 2023 | Range 10 | Removed and disposed |
| 7 | 28 March 2023 | Range 10 | Removed and disposed |
| 8 | 10 July 2023 | BAX | Removed and disposed |
| 9 | 05 September 2023 | IPBC | Pending |
| 10 | 06 September 2023 | Impact Area | Detonated in Place |
| 11 | 18 October 2023 | Range 10 | Removed and disposed |
| 12 | 19 October 2023 | Infantry Platoon Battle Course (IPBC) | Detonated in Place |
| 13 | 22 October 2023 | Range 9 | Removed and disposed |
| 14 | 27 October 2023 | Range 1 | Pending |
| 15 | 3 November 2023 | Range 10 | Pending |
| 16 | 14 November 2023 | Training Area 12 | Pending |
| 17 | 28 November 2023 | Training Area 12 | Pending |
| 18 | 7 December 2023 | Training Area 12 | Pending |

Stipulation III. Activities to Support Project Reviews

Stipulation III.A.3 Trainings for Implementation of the Training PA

Six trainings were held for thirteen staff members of the Range Division Hawai'i (RDH) regarding their roles and responsibilities under the Training PA and the general requirements of NHPA on July 24, July 26, August 10, August 15, August 17, and August 21, 2023.

Stipulation III.B. Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties

During the 2023 reporting period three cultural resource surveys were completed encompassing approximately 49 acres (Table 3). Seven cultural resources sites were evaluated for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility, and all seven sites were determined not eligible in consultation with consulting parties (Table 4).

Table 3. 2023 Cultural Resource Surveys

| Title | Location | Acreage | Newly Identified Cultural Resources |
|---|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Mixed Trees Fire Break (CRS-22-162) | Training Area 22 | ~10 acres | T-081522-01 (Trail) |
| Training Area 15 Fire (CRS-24-026) | Training Area 15 | ~9 acres | None |
| Keamuku Maneuver Area (KMA) Fire (CRS-23-050) | KMA | ~30 acres | None |

Table 4. 2023 NRHP Evaluations

| Site # | Location | Site Type | NRHP Eligibility Status |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 23473 | KMA | Ranching Era: Two Mounds | Not Eligible |
| 23487 | KMA | Military: circular enclosure | Not Eligible |
| 23488 | KMA | Military: mound | Not Eligible |
| 23497 | KMA | Military: L-shape and 2 C-shapes | Not Eligible |
| 23600 | KMA | Ranching Era: land clearing pile | Not Eligible |
| 26912 | KMA | Ranching Era: water tank | Not Eligible |
| T-013114-01 | KMA | Ranching Era: fence, trough, pipe | Not Eligible |

Stipulation III.C. Historic Property Condition Assessments

Forty-two condition assessments were conducted during this reporting period (Table 5).

Table 5. 2023 Historic Property Condition Assessments

| Site # | Location | Site Type |
|-------------|------------------|---|
| 19529 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| C-020305-01 | Training Area 22 | Mound |
| C-031705-04 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| C-031705-05 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| C-031705-06 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-012805-02 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-020305-02 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-041906-01 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-041906-02 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-041906-03 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-043094-02 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-043094-03 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-043094-04 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-043094-05 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-082306-01 | Training Area 22 | Cairn |
| T-082306-02 | Training Area 22 | Modified Outcrop |
| T-082306-03 | Training Area 22 | Lava Tube |
| T-082306-04 | Training Area 22 | Excavated Pit |
| T-082306-05 | Training Area 22 | Excavated Pit |
| 14638 | Training Area 5 | Lava Blisters, Lithic Scatter |
| 19490 | Training Area 5 | Lava Tubes, Trail Segments, Cairns, C-Shape, Lithic Scatter |
| 21351 | Training Area 5 | Lithic Scatter |
| 21744 | Training Area 5 | Lithic Scatter, Wall, Cairn |
| 21745 | Training Area 5 | Lava Blister |

| Table 5 (Continued). 2023 Historic Property Condition Assessments | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| Site # | Location | Site Type |
| 23456 | Training Area 5 | Enclosure |
| 23562 | Training Area 5 | Lava Tubes |
| 23563 | Training Area 5 | L-Shape |
| 23565 | Training Area 5 | Quarry |
| 23566 | Training Area 5 | Lava Tube |
| 23568 | Training Area 5 | Lava Tubes |
| 23572 | Training Area 5 | Habitation Complex |
| 23575 | Training Area 5 | Lava Blister |
| 26728 | Training Area 5 | Lava Tube |
| 26729 | Training Area 5 | Lava Blister |
| T-020701-02 | Training Area 5 | Lithic Scatter |
| T-021402-01 | Training Area 5 | Lithic Scatter |
| T-070104-01 | Training Area 5 | Lithic Scatter |
| 23457 | Training Area 7 | Trail, Cairns |
| 23462 | Training Area 7 | Cairn |
| 24326 | Training Area 7 | Lava Blister |
| 24327 | Training Area 7 | Cairn |
| 24328 | Training Area 7 | Wall, C-Shape |

Stipulation III.D. Programmatic Resolution of Adverse Effects

The programmatic resolution stipulates development of a short educational video featuring Kānaka Maoli to inform military training units and other users of PTA; twice annual meetings at which the USAG-Pōhakuloa leadership listens to consulting parties (referred to as listening sessions); and any outgoing Garrison Commander shall brief the incoming Garrison Commander about historic properties at PTA. The Deputy Garrison Commander and PTA CR shall support this relay of information. Progress on the resolutions are summarized below:

1. III.D.2.a. Educational Video: The educational video was finalized and began showing to military training units in June 2023.
2. III.D.2.a. Listening Session: Two Listening Sessions were held on June 21, 2023 and November 6, 2023. The discussions were wide ranging and dynamic. Notes of the meetings were distributed to all Training PA consulting parties and are available upon request.
3. III.D.2.b. New Commander Training: outgoing Garrison Commander Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Cronin briefed incoming Garrison Commander LTC Alvarado prior to LTC Cronin's departure in June 2023. In addition, USAG-HI PTA Archaeologists Heidi Miller and Katherine West briefed LTC Alvarado on August 30, 2023.

Stipulation IV. Administrative Stipulations

IV.B.6 Annual Meeting

No annual meeting was held in 2023 due to implementation issues discussed in section IV.B.5.h below.

IV.D. Dispute Resolution

No disputes were raised during 2023.

IV.F. Emergency Situations

During the 2023, reporting period one emergency situation arose:

1. Training Area 15 Fire: On November 10, 2023, a fire started in Training Area 15. The fire was 100% contained on November 29, 2023 and considered extinguished on December 7, 2023 (more than 72 hours with no visible smoke). The firefighting activities consisted of widening, by a maximum of 18.5 meters, a 1,904-meter long segment of existing gravel road into a firebreak; constructing a 4,061-meter long firebreak, which ranged in width from approximately 2.5 meters to approximately 15 meters; helicopter water bucket drops; and handheld tool use. The fire burned approximately 184 acres, and there was approximately nine acres of new ground disturbance as a result of firefighting activities. The fire was training related, but the exact cause was reported as undetermined.

The entire 184 acres of the fire footprint had been previously surveyed for cultural resources in 2003 (Desilets et al. 2005), and after the fire was extinguished, an intensive pedestrian cultural resource survey of the emergency response firebreak construction was performed, totaling approximately nine acres of survey. One previously recorded Traditional Hawaiian site (23450) and one newly recorded military site (MT-111523-01) are located within the footprint of the fire. Site 23450 consists of a habitation site with an overhang shelter, artifact scatter, and pictographs, and site MT-111523-01 consists of a modern military, expeditious, stacked stone structure. A post-fire condition assessment was performed for each site. Both sites were avoided by all firefighting activities, and the fire did not impact the NRHP eligibility status of either site.

Stipulation IV.G. Post-Review Discovery

IV.G.a. No new post-review discoveries occurred in 2023.

Stipulation V.B. Updates to Appendices

No updates to appendices were performed.

Other Business

IV.B.5.h Implementation Issues

IV.B.5.h covers issues affecting, or could affect, the ability of USAG HI-PTA to meet the terms of the Training PA. Funding shortfalls have resulted in limitations on progress regarding Stipulations III.C. and III.B., and due to staffing vacancies, the Training PA annual reports for 2021 and 2022 were not produced and the associated meetings were not held. In April 2023, USAG-HI PTA hired Katherine West to fill the remaining vacant archaeologist position.

References

Desilets, M., A. Roberts, A. Buffum, and S. Roberts
2005 *Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey for SBCT Go/No Go maneuver Area at U.S. Army Pohakuloa Training Area, Ka'ohē Ahupua'a, Hamakua District and Pu'uanahulu Ahupua'a, North Kona District, Island of Hawai'i, Hawai'i (TMKs 3-4-4-16:01 and 3-7-1-04:07)*. Garcia and Associates, Kailua, Hawai'i. Ganda Report No. 2051-1.