

Client:
United States
Navy

Project Value:
\$280 million

**Project
Duration:**
1997–2004

Parsons' Services:
project management for clearance of UXO, UXO fragments and hazardous materials; assessment and protection of historical properties and natural resources; design and construction of infrastructure to support clearance efforts; documentation of clearance for risk assessment and land-use planning development



Kaho'olawe Island Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance Project

Kaho'olawe, Hawaii
September 2001

Only 45 square miles in size, Kaho'olawe is the smallest of the eight major Hawaiian Islands, and lies six miles southwest of the island of Maui. Archaeological evidence indicates Kaho'olawe was inhabited for over a thousand years. Hawaiians fished, farmed, and lived in coastal and interior settlements across the entire island. Today, Kaho'olawe serves as a foundation for the revitalization of Hawaiian cultural practices.

At the start of World War II, Kaho'olawe was taken by the U.S. military for use as a target and training area. In 1993, after years of strong public sentiment against the bombing, Congress passed a law recognizing the cultural significance of the island. Congress required the Navy to return the island to the state of Hawaii and directed the Navy to conduct a cleanup of unexploded ordnance (UXO) left from the naval activities, and environmental restoration of the island in consultation with the State.

In 1997, Parsons, in a joint venture with UXB International, Inc. (PUXB), was awarded a multi-year contract to manage the clearance of ordnance from the island of Kaho'olawe. This effort includes surveying the site to locate unexploded ordnance and removing or disposing of the UXO material from selected portions of the island. This contract is one of the largest and most logistically complex UXO clearance projects awarded to date by the federal government. Kaho'olawe is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the cleanup project requires the preservation of over 500 known archaeological sites on the island, and the replanting of native vegetation to slow the erosion of the island's top soil.

This project presents several challenges to Parsons and its contractors. One challenge is the uncertainty of UXO and UXO fragment concentration and locations. Additionally, the highly diverse UXO items span 50 years of bombardment. While the cleanup takes place,

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