

1 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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3 April 26, 2023
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7 Night flights for Army Corps coastal surveys to create visible green laser beams in sky
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11 HONOLULU - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Joint Airborne Lidar Bathymetry
Technical Center of Expertise (JALBTCX), is performing airborne coastal mapping surveys
along the shorelines of the Hawaiian Islands now through June as part of the USACE
National Coastal Mapping Program (NCMP).
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14 The surveys will be conducted using a contracted aircraft equipped with a USACE-owned
Coastal Zone Mapping and Imaging Lidar (CZMIL) system. Lidar, which is short for "light
detection and ranging," uses light in
15 the form of lasers to measure distance.
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18 Residents near Oahu's south-facing shores between Barber's Point and Diamond Head are
advised that broad beams of green light may be observed across the night sky and coastal
terrain, between midnight and 5 a.m.,
19 April 28-30. The light will be omitted by the small aircraft equipped with the lidar.
Brief exposure to the light is safe for the unprotected eye.
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22 "The majority of data collection will take place during the day," said Chris Macon,
scientist with the JALBTCX. "The airspace along Oahu's south shore is very busy, so
we're surveying this area at night to avoid
23 interfering with air traffic from the Honolulu Airport."
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26 Activity will take place from offshore to approximately 500 meters inland from the shore
at an altitude of approximately 1,300 feet AGL (above ground level).
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29 The topographic data collected supports many USACE, state, academia, and private sector
agency projects such as harbor dredging, sea level rise preparedness, and the evaluation
of eroding shorelines.
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32 NCMP surveys are conducted on a 10-year basis in the islands and along mainland coasts
every 5 years and following hurricane events.
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35 The Joint Airborne Lidar Technical Center of Expertise (JALBTCX) based out of Kiln,
Mississippi is comprised of partners from USACE, the United States Naval Oceanographic
Office (NAVO), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
36 Administration (NOAA), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).
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