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Finds Bomb in Okinawa Kitchen

EASY DOES IT—Members of the 5th Explosives Ordnance Disposal Det. from Machinato, Okinawa, gingerly hoist a 'live' 500-pound bomb from the home of Kogoro Komine in Naha. The bomb had been under the Komine home for 14 years. (S&S Photo)

S&S Okinawa Bureau

NAHA, Okinawa — Kogoro Komine probably wanted everything in his new dream house — everything but the 500-pound bomb in his kitchen.

Ryoko Higa, a 58-year-old laborer, found the rusty World War II relic — still alive and deadly—as he dug a well Tuesday in the kitchen of Komine's newly-constructed home.

It was under five feet of mud and Higa thought at first it was an acetylene tank from a nearby scrap-yard.

Higa looked again Wednesday and decided he had an explosive handfu. He called the Ryukyuan police who then notified the U.S. Army Ordnance Group.

The Army ordered the area evacuated Thursday and Komine, his wife and four children left with a flock of neighbors.

The bomb halted traffic on nearby Highway 44. All trucks and cars were stopped as five soldiers from the 5th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Det. took an hour and a half to defuse the bomb.

First Lt. Robert E. Caldwell, commander of the detachment, said his men found the bomb "as good as new."

The soldiers who disarmed the bomb were M/Sgt. Perfect Oliver, SP5's John Boudousquie, Milton Goehring and Richard Hill, and SP4 Raymond Tomczak.

R. 8087

232

901/A

Bombs

OKINAWA - WTR REMAINS