



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Formerly Used Defense Sites Program

Pinecastle Jeep Range

Orlando, Florida

Fact Sheet

September 2007

Current News

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting an environmental investigation on a former World War II training facility in Orange County, previously known as Pinecastle Jeep Range. The Odyssey Middle School was built in 2001 on part of the former target range used by the military for bombing practice and weapons demonstrations from 1944 through 1945. The Department of Defense leased this property until 1947 when it was declared surplus and returned to its owner.

Following the discovery of surface munitions on private property adjacent to Odyssey Middle School and to protect and ensure the safety of the school children, staff and parents, the Corps of Engineers installed a fence to prevent access to the adjoining property.

The Corps and its contractor, conducted a sweep to detect the presence of military munitions on school property and collected soil samples to test for DDT, a chemical used during the military demonstrations. The results confirmed that there were no surface munitions on the school grounds or chemical hazards in the soils.

A survey using equipment to map locations where metal may exist below the ground surface was also completed on the school grounds. Anomalies or unknown metal

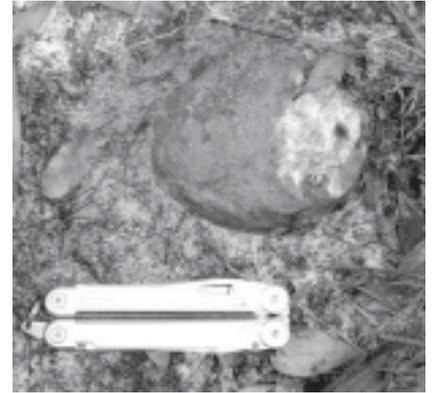
objects buried in the ground will be further investigated when school schedules allow. The Corps also provided educational information to parents, children and teachers to promote the use of the 3Rs of ordnance safety: Recognize, Retreat and Report.

Environmental Investigation

The Corps of Engineers completed an Archive Search Report/ Preliminary Assessment for the former Pinecastle Jeep Range in 1997. In 2004, an addendum to the Archive Search Report was completed. This report included historical records and aerial photographs to aid in determining the presence of any existing hazards from previous military activities.

In late August 2007, additional Pinecastle Jeep Range historical materials were found covering the periods of 1947 and 1953. This information provided data that more precisely defined the bombing range and impact areas. These reports included information on the altitude of the planes, flight speed, and pilot experience, which allows for more accurate calculations in determining the specific probable bomb impact area.

The map (on back page) shows the newly defined target area. The number of acres originally reported as bombing ranges in the Archive Search Report have been reduced. This is supported by an aerial



This is an example of ordnance used by the military during target practice.

photograph from 1948 that shows scarring from the eight bombing ranges.

What this means for residents and landowners is that several areas previously suspected to be within the target range are not part of the former bombing ranges.

Restoration Advisory Board Public Information Session

Thursday, September 27

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel
8978 International Drive

For more information, contact:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
Public Affairs Office

(904) 232-1576 or toll-free
1-800-291-9405

www.saj.usace.army.mil

A Piece of History

In 1943, the U.S. government leased 11,833 acres of land in Orlando (Orange County) for use as a weapons demonstration range for testing and training troops. The range was an off-post site of the Pinecastle Army Airfield. The facility included small arms firing, air tactics evaluations and training demonstrations of strafing, practice bombing, air-to-ground rocket firing and high explosive bombing.

The Pinecastle Jeep Range was used for visual demonstrations of equipment and tactics taught to Soldiers in the classroom.

The Army conducted these demonstrations regularly during World War II from 1944 through October 1945. In 1946, Pinecastle Jeep Range was declared surplus property and all leases were terminated by December 1947.

The property is currently owned by local government and private individuals for residential, school, highway/expressway, landfill and undeveloped pasture uses.

Safety Precautions

Safety is always the Corps' top priority. It is important to remember that even after 60 years, a piece of ordnance can explode and cause serious injury if it is touched, moved or disturbed. It is vitally important that anyone who discovers a potential ordnance item follow the simple "3 Rs" of safety:

- **Recognize** the item may be dangerous;
- **Retreat** and do not touch it;
- **Report** its location by calling 9-1-1 immediately.

The former Pinecastle Jeep Range is located approximately 5 miles east/northeast of the Orlando International Airport, the western portion of the former Pinecastle Range was used by the military primarily for target practice during WWII. The yellow circles indicates the original target areas covering 1,544 acres as defined in the Archive Search Report.

The Corps of Engineers recently found information from 1947 and 1953 ordnance clearance reports. The data used in the reports better defines the bombing target areas. The newly defined target area, outlined in pink, covers 828 acres.

