



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Jacksonville District

# NEWS RELEASE

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers holds public workshop to discuss munitions removal at the former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range**

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public workshop to discuss details of the Phase II military munitions removal effort at the former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range, located in S.W. Hernando County, about 3.5 miles west of Brooksville and north of Highway 50. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, June 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Central High School, 14075 Ken Austin Parkway, Brooksville, Fla. 34613. Attendees will learn about the history of the site, details of the military munitions removal action, impacts to the community, and the benefits of the cleanup action.

The Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range was used by the Department of Defense during World War II as an infantry and turret gunnery training area. It was officially closed at the end of the war and the property has since been subdivided and developed for residential, commercial and agricultural use.

This is the second military munitions removal project on the former gunnery range. Residents impacted by this effort are in the area between Sunshine Grove Rd. and Melanie Ave. and south of Ken Austin Pky. Planning and acquisition of rights-of-entry from property owners are currently under way. Surveying, clearing vegetation and digital geophysical mapping will begin in mid-to-late June, with removal and disposal of located munitions scheduled to begin in late July.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is managing the cleanup of the site under the Formerly Used Defense Sites program. During the successful Phase I of the project, completed last summer, more than 5,500 metal anomalies, or irregularities, were located and investigated. Over 280 bazooka type rockets were found. Of this total, 230 of the rockets were determined to be inert practice rounds. The remaining 50 plus rockets contained



explosives. In addition, more than 1,500 pounds of munitions related scrap and more than 11,000 pounds of non-munitions metal scrap were safely removed. All recovered military-related items were found buried at various depths, ranging from several inches to approximately 3 feet beneath the surface of the ground.

Although most of the military munitions items recovered were practice or inert, all of the recovered items looked very similar, yet some contained dangerous explosives. All munitions-related items were safely disposed of by Corps munitions response contractors.

Residents are reminded that, in the unlikely event they see any type of suspected old military related metal objects they should never touch or attempt to move the item but should note its location and notify local law enforcement or call 911.

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