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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers begins work for Phase II military munitions cleanup at Brooksville

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun the Phase II cleanup of the former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range near Brooksville, Fla. Initial site work includes a geophysical survey of the properties within the Phase II area to identify and map where metal objects are buried. After analysis of the geophysical data, all targets of suspected military munitions will be excavated and removed. Residents impacted by the Phase II effort are in the general area West of Weeping Willow, along Pinewood Ave., Pine Cone St, and the North side of Greenwood St. Phase I of the cleanup in an adjacent area was completed by Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC) in June 2006

The former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range was acquired by the War Department in 1943 and was used by the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force for infantry and turret gunnery training. It was officially closed shortly after World War II and many ordnance sweeps and clearances have been conducted since then; however, inert practice items as well as ordnance items containing High Explosives may remain in the area. These items will typically be found beneath the ground's surface.

Cleanup is being addressed under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) initiative of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS), to clean up properties which were owned, occupied or under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense (DoD) and transferred prior to 1986.



During the successful Phase I of the project, a total of 284 bazooka rockets were located. Most of the items (230) were inert practice rounds and the remaining 54 ordnance items contained High Explosives (HE). All of the items were destroyed. In addition, more than 11,000 pounds of non-ordnance related scrap and more than 1,500 pounds of ordnance scrap were safely removed.

Residents are reminded that, in the unlikely event they see any type of old suspected 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.