



**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 to establish Restoration Advisory Board for former Pinecastle Jeep Range**

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District announced today that it will offer an opportunity for public involvement in the former Pinecastle Jeep Range project by soliciting interest in establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB is a community-based vehicle to provide a forum for two-way dialogue and information sharing. An initial information session to introduce and describe the RAB concept is being planned, and further details will be announced soon.

The Pinecastle Jeep Range is a former World War II military training and demonstration site that is being investigated by the Corps under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).

In July, surface munitions were removed from private property, owned by Mockingbird, LLC, adjacent to Odyssey Middle School in Orlando. Earlier this month, to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff, investigations were conducted on the school property prior to the opening of school. No items were found on the surface of the ground, and soil samples were free of munitions constituents. Analysis of data collected during a geophysical survey with a magnetometer, to detect buried ferrous metal objects for further investigation, is under way. “We were pleased to be able to accomplish our initial investigations at the Odyssey Middle School and assure the community that school could open on



time,” said Col. Paul Grosskruger, commander of the Jacksonville District. Further work on the Mockingbird property is scheduled to begin in September.

The Corps’ continuing investigation into historical records relative to the former Pinecastle Jeep Range has yielded additional information that may further define the affected areas. The Corps’ technical team has uncovered historical records that were previously not known to exist during the completion of the recent Site Inspection. These records are currently being analyzed further. Preliminary conclusions indicate that the area of concern on the former FUDS property may be smaller than initially anticipated. In the interest of safety, portions of this information received were shared with USA Environmental, the contractor performing investigations for the Corps, and with Mockingbird, LLC.

“These newly discovered historical records are significant, in that they help us to more thoroughly and specifically understand the boundaries of the former Pinecastle Jeep Range site and to plan the work needed to ensure continued public safety,” said Wandell Carlton, FUDS program manager. Based on this newly discovered information, it appears that much of the residential area previously shown to be within the range’s target area is not an area of concern. However, to address property owners’ concerns, the Corps is changing its approach to confirm that there are no munitions within the residential areas as soon as possible.

The Corps will use a phased approach, with the areas of greatest potential risk addressed first. Although it is unlikely that military munitions will be encountered in residential areas, it is vitally important that anyone who finds an item that they believe may be a military munition item follow the simple “3 Rs” of explosives safety: **Recognize** when you may have encountered a military munition item and understand that the item may be dangerous; **Retreat** and do not touch, move or disturb the item; and **Report** its location to the local Sheriff’s Office immediately by calling 911.



For more information about the former Pinecastle Jeep Range site or the upcoming RAB information session, please visit our web site at [www.saj.usace.army.mil](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil) or contact the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1667.

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