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Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scheduled munitions removal to take place today on Pinecastle Jeep Range

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District announced today that several more pieces of WW II-era munitions have been uncovered on the former Pinecastle Jeep Range site and will be removed this afternoon.

The items, two M49 60 mm mortar shells and five M110 fuzes, were uncovered on the privately-owned property, approximately 500-800 feet south of the school. The action to blow them up in place today at approximately 4:30 p.m. is similar to what has taken place in the past several last weeks. The removal action will create a minor explosion with little or nothing to see or hear, and no danger to people in the area.

The Corps' cleanup project is under way, addressing the Odyssey Middle School grounds, Tivoli Gardens subdivision and the portion of the Mockingbird, LLC property closest to the school, to ensure continued public safety. A phased approach will address the areas of immediate concern that fell within the identified former bomb target circle areas.

“The munitions we are finding on site are consistent with its documented military use and are within the areas where we expected to find it,” explained Wandell Carlton, program manager for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites. “As we find these items, our contractor isolates them and schedules an appropriate time to blow them up in place. This is the safest and most effective way to remove the hazard from the property.”



“This is simply an extension of the work we completed that allowed Odyssey Middle School to open on time and with safety assured for all students, faculty and staff. The removal of munitions from the Mockingbird, LLC property and the installation of a permanent fence between that property and the school will create a safety buffer zone to provide further protection,” said Carlton. “At the same time, we are working hard to be ready to begin investigations in Tivoli Gardens, the only residential area of immediate concern, very soon.” Work on the remaining portions of the site will be addressed with a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, beginning later this year.

On behalf of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cleans up sites that were formerly used by the military. In 1943, the U.S. government leased 12,483 acres of land in Orlando (Orange County) as an off-post site of the Pinecastle Army Airfield, for use as a gunnery and demonstration range. The site was declared surplus property and all leases were terminated by December 1947.

Safety is always the Corps’ top priority. It is vitally important that in the unlikely event that potential ordnance items are encountered, to follow the simple “3 Rs” of safety: **Recognize** the item may be dangerous; **Retreat** and do not touch it; **Report** its location to the local Sheriff’s Office immediately.

For more information about the former Pinecastle Jeep Range, please contact the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1576.

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