



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

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work at Odyssey Middle School approximately 50 percent complete

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District announced today that although much has been accomplished on Odyssey Middle School grounds during the Thanksgiving break, work will be scheduled to continue during the next holiday break in December. “We are working diligently to ensure that our investigation and removal work on the school grounds is completed as expeditiously and safely as possible,” said project manager Wandell Carlton. “Public health and safety is our top priority, and our goal is to ensure a safe and peaceful environment in which students, parents and school staff may concentrate on the business of learning without further distraction, as soon as possible.”

A geophysical survey to identify areas where metal objects were buried beneath the ground’s surface was one of the tasks completed in August prior to the school’s opening for the 2007-08 academic year. Also completed at that time were a complete surface sweep of the school grounds, which confirmed that no surface munitions were present, and soil sampling that confirmed no munitions constituents were present. Excavation of areas previously identified during the geophysical survey, and safe removal of recovered items, was scheduled to take place this week while students enjoyed Thanksgiving break. Work in the school courtyard was completed, with the rest of this week’s work taking place behind the school, in and around the athletic fields. Workers must dig through two to three feet of fill dirt, sometimes using a backhoe, to reach the objects of the investigation.



More than 2,500 lbs. of cultural debris (i.e., wire, building materials, car parts) and 31 lbs. of munitions debris has been recovered from the school property this week. Among the munitions items found were several inert and/or fired 37mm projectiles, a 60mm projectile, a 75mm projectile, two 90mm projectiles and a 105mm projectile. Also found were several rockets, along with rocket debris, and a 100-lb. M75 practice bomb. Only two of the items, one 2.36-in. rocket and one 37mm projectile, contained explosives. Those items will be detonated on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 4 p.m. as planned.

The Corps' contractors estimate that work on the school grounds is approximately 50% complete as of today, requiring a return to continue and complete work there during the upcoming holiday break in December. Also scheduled to begin soon is investigation work in the Tivoli Gardens subdivision and a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study on the remaining portions of the Pinecastle Jeep Range site, as well as continuation of clearance work on the privately-owned Mockingbird, LLC property adjacent to the school.

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 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 local law enforcement officials by dialing 911.

For more information about the former Pinecastle Jeep Range, please visit our web site at www.saj.usace.army.mil or contact the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1576.

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