



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

# NEWS RELEASE

Release No.: 07-68

For Release: November 28, 2007

P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Contact: Amanda Ellison

Phone: 904-232-1576

Email: Amanda.D.Ellison@usace.army.mil

FAX: 904-232-2237

---

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

---

## **Corps responds to munitions found in Warwick subdivision at Vista Lakes**

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District learned today that a private contractor working for Lennar Homes discovered a second munitions item, which was determined to be inert, located within the Warwick subdivision at Vista Lakes. The munitions item, an M40, 23-pound practice bomb, was disposed of by Patrick Air Force Base earlier today. Due to this recent discovery, the Corps of Engineers will extend its investigation.

The investigation will be conducted under a Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study, set to begin early 2008. Investigations will determine the extent of potential munitions contamination, and will include areas in and around where munitions have been found, to include within the Warwick subdivision. “We had already taken the necessary steps to begin the process that would allow us to recommend that Warwick be included in our upcoming investigation, and Lennar was aware that further items may be present,” said Mike Fulford, the Corps’ Deputy District Engineer for project management. “In response to public concerns and at the request of the Florida congressional delegation, we are working as expeditiously as possible. In the meantime, it is important to remember that buried munitions do not pose an immediate risk to public safety if left undisturbed.”

Prior to the investigation, the Corps will provide technical information for local construction contractors working in the vicinity of the Pinecastle Jeep Range to educate them about potential explosive hazards.



The Corps' cleanup efforts currently under way include the Odyssey Middle School grounds, and a portion of the Mockingbird, LLC property closest to the school. Work is scheduled to begin in the Tivoli Gardens subdivision by early 2008. As with previously completed work and work currently under way, a phased approach will prioritize and address the areas that pose the greatest risk to public safety.

Safety is always the Corps' top priority. Should anyone encounter or suspect they have encountered munitions, it is vitally important that they follow the simple "3 Rs" of munitions safety: **Recognize** the item may be dangerous; **Retreat** and do not touch it; **Report** its location to the local Sheriff's Office immediately.

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 subsequently terminated on Dec. 4, 1947.

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

###