



**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 continues work for Phase II military munitions cleanup at Brooksville**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue the Phase II cleanup of the former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range near Brooksville, Fla. Initial site work included a geophysical survey of the properties within the Phase II area to identify and map where metal objects and potential munitions are buried. After analysis of the geophysical data, all targets of suspected military munitions were excavated and removed.

Upon completion of work in the Step 1 area of Phase II in December of 2007, it was determined that work should proceed in the Step 2 area. Munitions and explosives of concern were found in properties in Step 1 that are located near the boundary of the Step 2 area. The Step 2 area is composed of two large properties, a 40-acre undeveloped parcel and a 20-acre pasture land with one resident.

Site preparation for digital geophysical mapping has begun, and a survey is under way to identify gopher tortoise burrows in the area. Other site preparation includes a grid survey and brush clearing. Removal operations are expected to begin next week.

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 munitions sweeps and clearances have been conducted since then; however, inert practice munitions as well as munitions containing High Explosives may remain in the area. These munitions will typically be found beneath the surface of the ground.

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 munitions (230) were inert practice rounds and the remaining 54 munitions contained High Explosives (HE). All of the munitions were destroyed. In addition, more than 11,000 pounds of non-munitions-related debris and more than 1,500 pounds of munitions debris were safely removed.

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 explosives safety: **Recognize** the item may be dangerous; **Retreat** and do not touch it; **Report** its location to the local Sheriff's Office immediately.

For further information please contact Amanda Ellison in the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1576.