



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

NEWS RELEASE

Release No.: 0817
For Release: March 6, 2008
P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Contact: Amanda Ellison
Phone: 904-232- 1576 FAX: 904-232-2237
Email: Amanda.D.Ellison@usace.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awards contract for investigation of former Pinecastle Jeep Range

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a \$3.4 million contract to Parsons of Norcross, Ga. to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on the former Pinecastle Jeep Range, Orlando, FL. This site was used by the Department of Defense for bombing demonstrations and training with small arms ammunition during World War II.

During the RI/FS Parsons will further investigate the presence of munitions and other potential hazards on the 12,500-acre site to characterize the nature and extent of potential hazards and their associated risks to humans and the environment. The RI/FS will provide data that will be used to determine if further cleanup actions are necessary and to develop a Proposed Plan for the required cleanup. Once developed, the Plan will be published for public review and comment for at least a 30-day period prior to finalization and a Record of Decision.

“This is part of the deliberate, methodical process mandated by law for remediation (cleanup) of formerly used defense sites,” said Wandell Carlton, project manager for the Corps Jacksonville District. “This study will ensure a better understanding of how the military used the site, the types of munitions or contamination that may be present and where the potential hazards exist, so appropriate action is planned and taken.”

The RI/FS, Proposed Plan and Record of Decision steps of the process are normally accomplished prior to any cleanup taking place. However, the discovery last summer of military



munitions on the surface of private (Mockingbird LLC) property adjacent to Odyssey Middle School by the property owner's contractor led the Army to conduct a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) to address any immediate potential hazards to the public. The TCRA included installation of a temporary fence between the school and adjacent private property where the munitions were found; a surface sweep and soil sampling on school grounds; excavation, removal and demolition of military munitions, and removal and disposal of cultural and munitions debris recovered on the school grounds, Mockingbird property and within two residential areas.

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.

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.

For more information about the former Pinecastle Jeep Range, please visit our web site at www.saj.usace.army.mil and click on the Pinecastle Jeep Range link or contact the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1576 or 1-800-291-9413.

###