



**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 offers public workshop on investigation of former Pinecastle Jeep Range**

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host a public workshop to provide details and receive input about the remedial investigation scheduled for the former Pinecastle Jeep Range. The workshop will be held on Thursday, March 27 at 7 p.m. at the Springhill Suites Hotel, 5828 Hazeltine National Drive, Orlando.

Following a brief presentation, an informal open house format will allow an opportunity for the public to share specific ideas and concerns about the upcoming investigation.

“The workshop gives us the chance to listen to the community and learn about what is important to them,” said Wandell Carlton, project manager. “The community’s input is crucial to ensuring a comprehensive and effective investigation.”

A contract was awarded this month to Parsons of Norcross, GA to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on the former Pinecastle Jeep Range, Orlando, Fla. The site was used by the Department of Defense for bombing demonstrations and small arms training during World War II.

During the RI/FS, Parsons will 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 30 days prior to finalization and a Record of Decision.

“This is part of the deliberate, methodical process mandated by law for the cleanup of formerly used defense sites,” said Wandell Carlton, Pinecastle Jeep Range project manager in the Corps’ Jacksonville District. “This investigation 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.”

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](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil) and click on the Pinecastle Jeep Range link or contact the Corporate Communication Office at 1-800-291-9413 or 904-232-1576.

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