



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

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Investigations conclude at Warwick subdivision at Vista Lakes *No munitions or munitions debris found*

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District has completed its investigation of the Warwick subdivision in Vista Lakes and no munitions or munitions debris were discovered. The Corps excavated and removed more than 1,500 pounds of construction debris and miscellaneous metal debris from the subdivision.

The Corps expanded its Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) to investigate properties on the eastern portion of the Warwick subdivision after a private geophysical contractor investigating the western portion of the Warwick subdivision for Lennar Homes recovered two munitions that were determined to be inert practice bombs. The Corps' investigation was concentrated in the area immediately adjacent to the former Pinecastle Jeep Range Formerly Used Defense Site and inside the bomb target circles that extended outside of the former installation.

Results of this completed TCRA investigation for the Warwick subdivision will be considered in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being performed by the Corps and included in the RI/FS report. In other areas of the former Pinecastle Jeep Range, the Corps will investigate for the presence of munitions and other potential hazards during the RI/FS field work, starting in June. Under the RI/FS, residential subdivisions built on the former installation will be investigated first, followed by investigation of the undeveloped lands. The RI/FS will characterize the extent and nature of any explosive hazards present, and the associated risks to human health and the environment.



Information collected during the RI/FS will be used to fully characterize the former Pinecastle Jeep Range and determine where further remedial actions may be necessary. The Corps will develop a Proposed Plan for the required cleanup, which 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, project manager. “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 we may plan appropriate action.”

The RI/FS, Proposed Plan and Record of Decision steps of the cleanup process are normally accomplished prior to any cleanup taking place. However, the discovery last summer of military munitions on the surface of private property adjacent to Odyssey Middle School by the property owner’s contractor led the Army to conduct a TCRA to reduce or remove immediate risks. 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 any military munitions discovered; and removal and disposal of cultural and munitions debris recovered on the school grounds, Mockingbird property and within two residential areas, including the Warwick subdivision.

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 1-800-291-9413 or 904-232-1576.

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