



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

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SUSPENDS WORK AFTER MILITARY MUNITIONS DREDGED FROM MIAMI RIVER

MIAMI, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District has temporarily suspended its Miami River dredging project after a second discovery of World War II-era military munitions in material dredged from the river by the Corps' contractor, Weston/Bean Joint Venture.

On April 27, several 50-caliber shell casings and 40-mm practice rounds, each about five inches long, were found in dredged material that was being processed prior to disposal. The munitions had been located underwater and under several feet of sediment. In accordance with standard protocol, the munitions were disposed of by the Miami-Dade Bomb Squad. Dredging was temporarily suspended, immediately west of the 12th Avenue Bridge, adjacent to a boatyard which made military vessels during WWII.

Corps and U.S. Navy ordnance experts assessed the situation while the contractor implemented recommended precautionary measures. With munitions experts on site to ensure continued safety of the dredge operators, 2.5-in. Plexiglas was retrofitted around the operators' cabin and dredging resumed the week of May 12.

On May 20, a 3-in. projectile and a 3-in. illumination round (flare) were found in dredged material and the Miami-Dade Bomb Squad was alerted. Dredging has again been temporarily suspended pending further assessment by Corps munitions experts and development and approval of required



safety plans. The potential presence of additional munitions does not present a hazard to navigation or the environment, and the river remains open to navigation.

“As always, safety is our number one priority,” said Col. Paul L. Grosskruger, Jacksonville District commander. “We are proceeding cautiously to ensure the full protection of our workers as well as waterway users and the general public, and we are committed to completing this project in the safest, most efficient and expeditious manner possible.”

The purpose of the estimated \$86 million dredging project is to dredge approximately 5.5 miles of the river, to a depth of 15-17 feet facilitating commercial navigation while improving the natural environment. The project commenced at the salinity dam at the end of the federal channel in September 2004 and is currently 50 percent complete.

Dredged material from the Miami River is processed at a site near N.W. North River Drive prior to disposal at the Central Landfill in Pompano Beach. The existing stockpile of approximately 3,000 cubic yards of dredged material will be carefully inspected by Corps munitions experts to ensure it is clear of munitions prior to placement in the landfill.

Military munitions, regardless of age, have the potential to be dangerous. In this case, potential munitions are located underwater and under several feet of sediment, so it is unlikely that waterway users or the general public will come in contact with them. In the unlikely event that anyone should 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 local law enforcement immediately.

For further information, please call the Jacksonville District Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1667.

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