



**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 hosts public information meeting for Orlando Range & Chemical Yard**

*Property was formerly used by the Department of Defense*

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District will host a public information meeting to describe plans for an upcoming Site Inspection of the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard Formerly Used Defense Site, and to answer questions and receive input from the community. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday evening, July 17 at the Engelwood Neighborhood Center, 6123 LaCosta Drive, Orlando.

The approximate 2,100-acre site is located in Orange County, about 3.5 miles northeast of the Orlando International Airport, northwest of Curry Ford Road and South Goldenrod Road (formerly Narcoosee Road).

The Corps will conduct a Site Inspection (SI) under the Military Munitions Response Program to determine whether future cleanup actions may be warranted at the site. The public information session is an important component of the planning process, as public input will be taken into consideration as the Site Inspection work plan is developed.



As part of a 2005 scoping study, known as the Chemical Warfare Materiel Scoping Study, the Corps had determined there was no evidence to indicate chemical warfare materiel was present at the site. However, as a precautionary measure from that study, the Corps, in consultation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, recommended a follow-on Site Inspection that would include sampling for chemical agent and agent breakdown products. Given there was not an immediate threat to human health and the environment, the follow-on Site Inspection for this site received a lower priority than others being addressed under the Department of Defense risk-based Military Munitions Response Program.

During recent research of historical records, the Corps found new information that indicated a bombing range may have been located on the southern end of this site, in an area previously thought to only contain a small arms range. As a result, the Corps has raised the priority for the Site Inspection for the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard.

The Site Inspection of the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard is one of the first steps mandated by law in the cleanup process. Results of the Site Inspection will then be used, in coordination with the regulatory community and stakeholders, to determine whether further action is warranted.

The cost of the Site Inspection at the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard Formerly Used Defense Site is estimated at \$1.2 million.

The Orlando Range and Chemical Yard site was used by the Department of Defense from 1943-1946 as part of the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics. It served as a post-graduate facility for demonstration, training and testing in developing new tactics and training personnel. Historical records indicate that demonstrations using military munitions and of chemical warfare were conducted at this site. Demonstrations with military munitions included the use of small arms, and potential use of incendiary devices, white phosphorous munitions, smoke pots, smoke grenades, and other munitions.



Chemical Warfare demonstration exercises included the use of chemical agents for decontamination exercises, Chemical Agent Identification Sets, and training with simulated agent substances (molasses residium). During the initial Chemical Warfare Material Scoping Study, no evidence of munitions or chemical warfare materiel was found on the site.

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 visit [www.saj.usace.army.mil](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil) and click on the Orlando Range and Chemical Yard link.

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