



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**BUILDING STRONG®**

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## **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FORMER ERIE ARMY DEPOT ORDNANCE REMOVAL PROJECT UPDATE**

**PORT CLINTON, OH (October 14, 2009)** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues the cleanup of unexploded ordnance from the beach area near the Former Erie Army Depot. On Thursday, October 8th, 1,296 items of material potentially presenting an explosive hazard were detonated or explosively vented. Two items were munitions/explosives of concern and 1,294 items were materials/debris with no explosive hazard. Scheduled detonations will continue to take place on Thursdays, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., throughout the remaining four weeks of the cleanup.

This surface removal action will reduce the risk to the public and the environment from unexploded ordnance washed up onto the beach from the former impact area in Lake Erie. Unexploded ordnance found during this removal is destroyed in place or in designated areas by detonation. Experts use hand held ordnance detection devices to search the area. When metal is detected, the area is excavated by hand to the extent necessary to fully identify, remove, and destroy any partially exposed munitions and explosives.

In 2007, the Corps signed an Action Approval Memorandum outlining surface removal for the beach area at the Former Erie Army Depot. This removal is being performed under Economy Act Authority and is funded through the Office of Economic Adjustment (2008 funds). This overall effort is being fully coordinated with officials from the Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio National Guard, and the affected property owners.

Residents are reminded of “the three Rs” of unexploded ordnance safety: recognize, retreat and report. In the unlikely event they recognize any type of old suspected military related metal objects, they should never touch or attempt to move the item but should note its location, safely retreat from the area and report it to local law enforcement or call 911.

More information about this clean-up project, including the schedule and project updates, may be found at [www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/ead.html](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/ead.html) or by contacting the Army Corps of Engineers at 800 833-6390 (option 4).

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### **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BUFFALO DISTRICT**

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