



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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

PORT CLINTON, OH (October 28, 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 22nd, 537 items of material potentially presenting an explosive hazard were detonated or explosively vented. Two of these items were munitions/explosives of concern and 535 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 next two 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. To date, this removal has recovered 1,946 items with no explosive hazard. Only four of the items recovered to date were munitions/explosives of concern. The recovered items weigh approximately 10,800 pounds

This removal is being performed under Economy Act Authority and is funded through the Office of Economic Adjustment (2008 funds). 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. 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 or by contacting the Army Corps of Engineers at 800 833-6390 (option 4).

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