August 19, 2010

Programs and Project Management Division

Dear Property Owner:

On behalf of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Los Angeles District we are advising you of the results of the 5-year recurring review dated July 27, 2007 that was conducted for the Former Baywood Park Training Area (BPTA). A map is included in this package that indicates the boundaries of the Former BPTA. The intent of the 5-year recurring review was to determine if the response actions taken in the past continue to minimize explosive safety risks and continue to be protective of human health, safety, and the environment. Recurring reviews are conducted under the Long Term Management phase once a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) achieves Response Complete.

The findings of the 5-year recurring review indicated the following:

- General:
  - The public is largely unaware of the historical military use of the former BPTA and of the safety hazards associated with potential Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) encounters.
  - New park employees have not received MEC safety training.
  - Local children have not received MEC safety training
  - Historical military use of former BPTA property is not disclosed during real estate transitions.

- Areas A, B, D, E, H, and J:
  - Montaña de Oro State Park has acquired new property with abundant short-cut trails.
  - Three MEC warning signs are missing, and potential new warning sign locations have been identified.
  - MEC display case posters have faded significantly.

- Areas C, F, G, and I:
  - The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Bomb Task Force has responded to several MEC reports in these areas, considered to be "no MEC" areas. Bomb Task records contain too little information to evaluate whether the MEC encounters suggest previously unknown historical military munitions use or if the munitions were brought in from another location.

In accordance with the recommendations of the 5-year recurring review, the following actions have been accomplished or are underway:

A MEC Safety Brochure is included in this package to ensure that property owners on or adjacent to the Former BPTA are aware of potential MEC and what to do if MEC is discovered. Although the
Brochure is aimed mainly at the area of the BPTA that was known or suspected to be the MEC Area (areas A, B, D, E, H, and J), which are mostly in the current Montaña de Oro State Park, the same Three-R precautions (Recognize, Retreat, and Report) should be used any time a suspicious item is found.

- Four MEC safety awareness training sessions were provided to Montaña de Oro State Park employees. In addition to State Park employees, the training sessions were attended by representatives of the Morro Bay Police Department, Cal Fire, University Police at Cal Poly, and others.
- One MEC safety awareness training session was provided to the SLO Unified School District.
- Boundaries of the Former BPTA have been researched and information is being provided to local realtors as well as the SLO County Planning Office. The State of California “Disclosures in Real Property Transactions” Sixth Edition dated 2005 (a copy can be obtained at http://www.dre.ca.gov/pub_disclosures.html) states in Section IA7: “Ordnance Locations – Federal and state agencies have identified certain areas once used for military training and which may contain live ammunition. A seller of residential property (1 to 4 dwelling units) located within one mile of such a potential hazard must give the buyer written notice thereof as soon as practicable before transfer of title. This obligation depends upon the seller having actual knowledge of the hazard. (CAL. CIV. § 1102.15)”
- Key documents related to previous response actions at the former BPTA are available for viewing at the Information Repository, South Bay Branch Library, 2075 Palisades Ave, Los Osos, CA, 805/528-1862.
- Meetings were conducted among the Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District; the SLO County Bomb Task Force; the California Department of Parks and Recreation; and the California EPA, Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) an agreement to better define MEC response actions has been developed and is currently in place.

InfoPro Corporation is under contract to the Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers to conduct a new 5-year recurring review for the Former BPTA (areas A, B, D, E, H, and J which are mostly in the current Montaña de Oro State Park). This work will begin this fall. In order to conduct the new 5-year review it may be necessary to obtain Right of Entry to your property or to gather information by conducting a survey with you. These requests will be made at a later date.

Should you have questions or desire additional information please contact Mr. William Dam, Project Manager, Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers at (213) 452-3978 or by e-mail at william.l.dam@usace.army.mil. For questions concerning the FUDS Program, please contact me at (213) 452-3990 or by e-mail at jeffery.b.armentrout@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Jeffery B. Armentrout, P.E.
Chief, Environmental Programs Section
Montaña de Oro State Park offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the outdoors.

Much of the property of the current Montaña de Oro State Park consists of parts of the former Baywood Park Training Area (BPTA) that was used by the military to conduct live-fire training and testing with military munitions during WWII. Because of this training it is possible to encounter Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) both on land and in the sea. When encountered by the public, these munitions present a potential hazard that can easily end in tragedy. Although cleanup activities have been conducted, MEC is still being found in the Montaña de Oro State Park. MEC has also been found in other areas of the Former BPTA outside the boundaries of the Montaña de Oro State Park that were not suspected of being MEC areas. MEC can be bombs, rockets, grenades, and other things used by the military in training and combat. MEC, whether in one piece or in parts, may be dangerous to you, your family, your friends, and others.

MEC is sometimes called unexploded ordnance (UXO), Ammo, or duds. Whatever it is called, you should always remember that it is dangerous and could explode if you touch or move it.

Help protect yourself, your family and others by practicing the 3Rs.

Not long ago some children found some MEC near their home. Recognizing what it was, they carefully backed away from the area and went home to tell their parents. Their mother called the police. Because the MEC was too dangerous to move, it had to be blown up where it was found. The children were smart to follow the 3Rs. If they had touched the ammo, they could have been badly hurt or even killed. The community should be grateful to these children for following the 3Rs. Because they followed the 3Rs, the danger was removed and no one was hurt.
Recognize

Because MEC comes in a variety of shapes and sizes, it may be easy or hard to identify. If you find or think you have found MEC, remember that it is dangerous. Do not touch, move, or disturb it. Do not poke it with a stick or throw anything at it.

Never Touch, Move, or Disturb MEC

Recognizing when you have found MEC is one of the most important steps in protecting yourself, your family, and others. MEC is dangerous to anyone that may be near it. It should never be touched, moved, or disturbed. It’s important to know that MEC:

- Comes in many shapes and sizes. Some look:
  - New, while others look old and rusty
  - Like bullets or bombs
  - Like pointed pipes, soda cans, balls, or even an old car part
- May be easy or hard to identify
- Is dangerous, even if it is old or small

The military designs military munitions to hurt or kill people, and to damage equipment during a war.

All MEC, including its parts, can be very dangerous.

MEC is Designed to Be Dangerous MEC can be:
- Found almost anywhere
- Easy to see on the ground
- Partially or completely hidden by dirt or plants
- Underwater in lakes, streams, or the ocean
- Uncovered by heavy rain
- Difficult to identify because it can be covered with coral or other sea life

Retreat

Avoid getting hurt or killed by knowing when you may have found MEC and carefully leave the area. Do not run. Instead, slowly leave the area. If you can, leave the area the same way you came into it.

Never:
- Touch, move or disturb MEC
- Go near MEC—it could explode if you are too close
- Throw anything at MEC
- Explore areas where MEC is present

Although MEC can be found anywhere, it is usually found where it was used by the military in training. A simple way to avoid getting hurt or killed is to stay out of areas marked with warning signs or shown on maps as “restricted areas.” By doing so, you will avoid areas known or suspected to contain MEC. Hiking or wandering off approved trails on or near battlefields or training areas can lead to contact with MEC that can be deadly. MEC does not become safer with age—it often becomes more dangerous. Taking MEC as a souvenir can be a real danger to you, your family, and others.

Collecting MEC as a Souvenir is Dangerous and Has Caused Serious Injury and Death

MEC taken as a souvenir can kill. Even if it has been around for years, it may still be dangerous. Call 911 and report it before someone gets hurt.

Report

Protect yourself, your family, and others if you find what you think may be MEC by immediately calling 911 or telling an adult like a policeman, a teacher, or a parent. Give as much information as you can about what you saw and where you saw it. This will help the police and military experts find, evaluate, and destroy the MEC.

If you believe you have found MEC, report:
- Where you found it
- What it looked like:
  - How big or small
  - Its shape
  - Its color and any writing on it

DON’T FORGET:

Munitions are dangerous, and may not be easily recognizable!
Avoid military and former military ranges and disposal areas!
Never touch, move or disturb a munitions

REMEMBER THE 3R’S:

RECOGNIZE: Recognize when you may have encountered a munitions.

RETREAT: Do not touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

REPORT: Immediately notify the police if on land, or the U.S. Coast Guard, if at sea. Emergency contacts:
- On land: Call 911
- At sea: Use Channel 16 (156.800 MHz)

For additional information on these and related issues see the US Army’s UXO Safety Education Website:

https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/UXOSafety
Don't Forget

MEC is dangerous, and may not be easy to recognize!
Avoid areas the Military used for training!
Never Touch, Move, or disturb MEC!

REMEMBER THE 3Rs

**Recognize.** Realize that you may have found MEC

**Retreat.** Do not touch, move, or disturb MEC
carefully leave the area, but do not run

**Report.** Call 911