

APPENDIX H
KEY PROJECT CORRESPONDENCE
&
PROJECT-RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE ALABAMA 35807-4301

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

22 March 2001

A-E Contracts Division

SUBJECT: Limited Notice to proceed with field investigations for the Former Camp Butner, NC, Contract DACA87-95-D-0018 T.O. 0067.

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Mr. Silkebakken,

You are authorized to proceed with survey tasks only and to mobilize 5 people only to the Former Camp Butner. No geophysical mapping is authorized at this time. Mr. Bob Selfridge is still reviewing proveout data and will not be finished until early next week. At that time you will be given authorization to mobilize the rest of your employees to start the geophysical mapping of the site.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a change to your contract that has not been negotiated and agreed to, then do not proceed with performance. Instead, formally notify me of the basis of your position and await instructions. I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the mode of further performance, and plan for its funding; (2) countermand the alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is considered to have occurred. Proceeding with performance without first notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roland Belew at commercial (256) 895-1553.

Sincerely,


LYNDA BONDS
CONTRACTING OFFICER

C.F.
Commander,
U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington,
ATTN: CESAW-TS-PE (John Baden)
PO Box 1890, Wilmington NC 28402-1890



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807-4301

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

27 March 2001

A-E Contracts Division

SUBJECT: Notice to proceed with field investigations for the Former Camp Butner, NC, Contract DACA87-95-D-0018 T.O. 0067.

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Mr. Silkebakken,

Your revised work plan dated February 2001 has been back checked and found to be acceptable. The data collected from your field prove out the week of 12 March 2001 has been analyzed and is also found to be acceptable. You are authorized to proceed with full field mobilization to perform site characterization at the former Camp Butner. You may proceed on 1 April 2001. Be sure to keep a corrected copy of the work plan and your copies of the rights of entry on site with you. Further more you are directed to notify the Huntsville Project Manager of in writing of the date you plan to do intrusive operations so that a Huntsville Safety employee can be present.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a change to your contract that has not been negotiated and agreed to, then do not proceed with performance. Instead, formally notify me of the basis of your position and await instructions. I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the mode of further performance, and plan for its funding; (2) countermand the alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is considered to have occurred. Proceeding with performance without first notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roland Belew at commercial (256) 895-1553.

Sincerely,

CHUN S. TUCKER
Contracting Officer

January 16, 2002

TO
DON SILKEBAKKEN

US Army Engineering & Support Center
ATTN: CEHNC-OE-DC, Roland Belew
4820 University Square
Huntsville, AL 35816-1822
256-895-1553

Subject: Proposed Phase I Geophysical Anomaly Ranking Methodology and Anomaly Selection Strategy
Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
Former Camp Butner, North Carolina
Contract DACA87-95-D-0018, Delivery Order 0067

Dear Mr. Belew:

Parsons ES conducted the Phase I geophysical survey (approximately 100 acres) in support of the Camp Butner EE/CA between March 26, 2001 and July 13, 2001 using the EM-61 MK2 geophysical survey instrument. This letter is intended to document the project team concurrence of the Phase I Camp Butner Anomaly Ranking Methodology and associated Anomaly Selection Strategy as presented by Parsons ES in Huntsville on January 10 and 11, 2002. The process outlined below is intended to be a blueprint for the selection of the anomalies for intrusive investigation at the site. The ranking process developed for this project, and presented during the project review meeting of 10 January, 2002, was accepted without modification by all team members. This ranking process was applied to the population of 10,743 anomalies detected in the Phase I geophysical data, and resulted in the following breakdown of anomalies by rank:

- Rank 1 Anomalies: 3,893 total
- Rank 2 Anomalies: 3,624 total
- Rank 3 Anomalies: 2,268 total
- Rank 4 Anomalies: 958 total

The anomalies were then categorized by area and area-specific anomaly selection criteria were formulated by the project team. The area specific selection criteria considered both the anomaly rank and the type or types of UXO targets that are anticipated in each area. The area-specific selection criteria are summarized below. The attached spreadsheet summarizes the specific anomalies in each category (or subcategory) by site. From these lists the Parsons ES lead geophysicist will identify the proposed selections to USAESCH for final approval prior to commencement of intrusive activities. USAESCH will add discretionary QA selections for inclusion to the list.

For the purposes of the anomaly selection process, an anomaly response was considered distinguishable above background if it was 1.5 times greater than the upper background threshold as determined by the interpreting geophysicist. By definition, Rank 4 are of known sources.

{

Mr. Roland Belew

Page 2

January 16, 2002

(utilities, corner spikes, QC spikes, surface fences, etc) and were excluded from further consideration. In the event a UXO item is encountered, intrusive investigation of the grid will immediately cease, the remaining anomalies identified for intrusive investigation will be banked, and the grid will be considered contaminated.

Area 1 – Cantonment Area and Vicinity

Suspected or potential UXO: Mostly small arms but 2.36-rocket found near water tower.

Anomaly Selection Criteria:

- Rank 1 anomalies: 100%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 50%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 or channels 1 and 2: 10%
- Rank 2 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 10%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 50%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 or channels 1 and 2: 10%
- Rank 3 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 10%
- Rank 3 anomalies with anomalous responses: 10%

Area 2 – Ammunition Storage Area & Dump

Suspected or potential UXO: 20mm-155mm HE Projectiles, 60mm-240mm mortars, 2.36-rockets.

Anomaly Selection Criteria:

- Rank 1 anomalies: 100%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 25%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 or channels 1 and 2: 10%
- Rank 2 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 25%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 25%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 or channels 1 and 2: 10%
- Rank 3 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 10%
- Rank 3 anomalies with anomalous responses: 10%

Mr. Roland Belew

Page 3

January 16, 2002

Area 3 – Grenade Training Ranges

Suspected or potential UXO: MKII Hand Grenades

Anomaly Selection Criteria:

- Rank 1 anomalies: 100%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 and 2, 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 100%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 only: 10%
- Rank 2 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 25%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 and 2, 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 100%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 only: 10%
- Rank 3 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 25%
- Rank 3 anomalies with anomalous responses: 10%

Area 4 – Ammunition Training Ranges & Impact Areas

Suspected or potential UXO: 20mm-155mm HE Projectiles, 60mm-240mm mortars, 2.36-rockets.

Anomaly Selection Criteria:

- Rank 1 anomalies: 100%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 and 2, 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 100%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 only: 10%
- Rank 2 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 25%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 and 2, 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 100%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 only: 10%
- Rank 3 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 25%
- Rank 3 anomalies with anomalous responses: 10%

Area 5 – Remaining Land

Suspected or potential UXO: None suspected but 20mm-155mm HE Projectiles, 60mm-240mm mortars, 2.36-rockets are all potential.

Anomaly Selection Criteria:

- Rank 1 anomalies: 100%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 and 2, 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 25%
- Rank 2 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 only: 10%
- Rank 2 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 25%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channels 1 through 3 or 1 through 4: 25%
- Rank 3 anomalies with above-background responses on channel 1 or channels 1 and 2: 10%
- Rank 3 anomalies with no channels distinguishable above background: 25%
- Rank 3 anomalies with anomalous responses: 10%

Mr. Roland Belew

Page 4

January 16, 2002

When less than 100% of a given group of anomalies is to be investigated, the selection will be made on a case-by-case basis for each grid or transect, and will be performed by one of the project geophysicists and based on professional judgment.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information, please contact me at (678) 969-2384 or (404) 606-0346 (cell).

Sincerely,

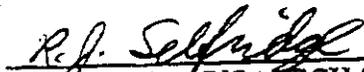
PARSONS ENGINEERING SCIENCE, INC.



Don Silkebakken, P.E.
Project Manager

cc: Andrew Schwartz/Laura Kelley (Parsons)
Bob Selfridge/Dan Plugge/Kevin Healy (USAESCH)
Project File (738001)

Concurrence:


Bob Selfridge (USAESCH Sr. Geophysicist)

~~Kevin Healy (USAESCH TM)~~


Dan Plugge (USAESCH Project Geophysicist)


Roland Belew (USAESCH PM) 1/14/02



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807-4301

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

26 February 2002

Design Center for
Ordnance and Explosives Team

SUBJECT: Authorization to remobilize to complete
geophysical mapping at the Former Camp Butner, North
Carolina, Contract DACA87-00-D-0038 Task Order 0019.

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

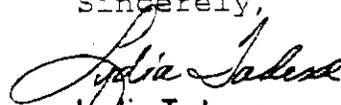
Mr. Silkebakken,

You are authorized to remobilize to the site to complete geophysical mapping started last year. This mapping was not completed due to depletion of funds. New funds could not be added to Contract DACA87-95-d-0018, Task Order 0067 so a new task order under the subject contract was issued. You are not authorized to perform any intrusive investigations, only to collect geophysical mapping data. This data will be analyzed by Huntsville Center and then you will be given authorization to re-mobilize later in the year after selection of anomalies to dig has been completed. You are directed to notify Mr. Roland Belew when you plan to start actual fieldwork.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a change to your contract, do not proceed with performance. Instead, formally notify me of the basis of your position and await instructions. I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the mode of further performance, and plan for its funding; (2) countermand the alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is considered to have occurred. Proceeding with performance without first notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

If you have any questions, please contact
Mr. Roland Belew at commercial (256) 895-1553.

Sincerely,



Lydia Tadesse
Contracting Officer

Copy Furnished:

Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington,
ATTN: CESA-W-TS-PE (John Baden), P.O. Box 1890,
Wilmington NC 28402-1890



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P O BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807-4301

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

July 10, 2002

Design Center for Ordnance
and Explosives Directorate

SUBJECT: Mag and Dig Characterization change to Work Plan
for the Former Camp Butner, North Carolina, Contract DACA87-
95-D-0018 Task Order 0067

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Dear Mr. Silkebakken:

This letter is in reference to your email dated July 1, 2002, in which you request to make a change in field operations to modify the geophysical mapping operations to include mag and flag and dig technology. You submitted in this email what you call Standard Operating Procedures for Analog Detection and Removal Actions. This is not the correct procedure for a change in field operating procedures. You must revise the existing work plan to reflect the proposed changes. The revised work plan will then be reviewed and approved for the change. The revised document should identify the revision date on the cover, include a cover letter stating what changes were made and an errata sheet showing what pages in the document were changed. You left 2 copies of the work plan in Mr. Belew's office on July 9, 2002. These copies had the original approval date of February 2001 on the cover and your original cover letter dated March 6, 2001, however, they had maps in them dated July 2002, but with no text changes referring to the proposed mag and flag and dig changes.

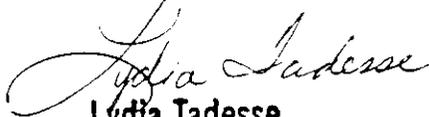
You are directed to provide 2 complete revised copies of the work plan to me as soon as possible. The revision must include an explanation for the revision as well as a means of pointing out and easily finding the changes in the revised document. The footer of every page that was changed must reflect the current date of the revision as well as the front cover.

You may proceed with intrusive investigations for those areas that were geophysically mapped under phase 1 and phase 2 field efforts, but you may not proceed with mag and flag characterization until you receive notification from me that you are authorized to do so. You may proceed to the site no earlier than July 28, 2002 for non-mag and dig work. After the mag and flag work plan changes are approved, I will issue you another letter authorizing you to proceed with that portion of the work.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a change to your contract that has not been negotiated and agreed to, then do not proceed with performance. Instead, formally notify me of the basis of your position and await instructions. I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the mode of further performance, and plan for its funding; (2) countermand the alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is considered to have occurred. Proceeding with performance without first notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roland Belew at commercial (256) 895-1553 or via cellular phone at (256) 426-3717.

Sincerely,



Lydia Tadesse

Contracting Officer

Copy Furnished:

Commander,

U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, ATTN: CESAW-TS-PE
(Mr. John Baden), P.O. Box 1890, Wilmington, North Carolina
28402-1890



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807-4301

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

July 15, 2002

Design Center for Ordnance
and Explosives Directorate (200-1c)

SUBJECT: Authorization for Mobilization to the Former Camp
Butner, North Carolina, Contract DACA87-95-D-0018 Task Order 0067

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Mr. Silkebakken,

You are authorized to mobilize two people to the former Camp
Butner on 23 July 2002 to perform logistics in advance of the
main crew mobilizing on 28 July.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a
change to your contract that has not been negotiated and agreed
to, then do not proceed with performance. Instead, formally
notify me of the basis of your position and await instructions.
I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the mode of further
performance, and plan for its funding; (2) countermand the
alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is considered to
have occurred. Proceeding with performance without first
notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roland Belew at
commercial (256) 895-1553 or via cellular phone at (256) 426-
3717.

Sincerely,

EDNA SHERIDAN
CONTRACTING OFFICER

Copy Furnished:
Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, ATTN: CESAW-
TS-PE (John Baden), P.O. Box 1890,
Wilmington North Carolina 28402-1890



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807-4301

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

July 31, 2002

Design Center for Ordnance
and Explosives Directorate

SUBJECT: Approval to use Mag, Flag, and Dig Intrusive
on 35 acres at the Former Camp Butner, North Carolina,
Contract DACA87-00-D-0038 Task Order 0019

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

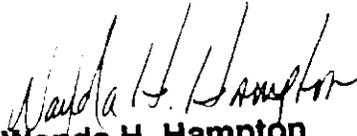
Dear Mr. Silkebakken:

Your revisions to Mr. Jim Walker's comments are acceptable. Your revisions to the work plan inserts are acceptable. You may proceed with mag and flag operations at this site.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a change to your contract that has not been negotiated and agreed to, then do not proceed with performance. Instead, formally notify me of the basis of your position and await instructions. I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the mode of further performance, and plan for its funding; (2) countermand the alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is considered to have occurred. Proceeding with performance without first notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roland Belew at commercial (256) 895-1553 or via cellular phone at (256) 426-3717.

Sincerely,


Wanda H. Hampton
Contracting Officer

JOB NO.	741291 01
FILE DESIGNATION	
CALL DATE	08 19/02
TIME OF CALL	11:30 AM

INTERVIEW MEMO

INTERVIEWEE:	Bill and Bradley Jones	Local Resident(s)	PHONE NO: 919-693-7949
	(Name)	(Affiliation)	*919-405-9751 (Pager)
INTERVIEWER(S):	Don Silkebakken John Baden	Parsons PM CESAW PM	PHONE NO: 678-969-2384
	(Name)	(Company)	

Summary of Events Prior to Discussion

John Baden of CESAW had been trying to interview Mr Bill Jones for some time and he was never in. He travels and works long hours and Mr. Baden had spoken to others in his family but not Mr. Jones. Others had told Mr. Baden that Mr. Jones knew a lot about the historical Camp Butner operation as he lived along range road (at his current residence) when he was a child.

Summary of Discussion

Mr. Baden and Mr. Silkebakken drove out to Mr. Jones' house in hopes of finding him home. He lives on the corner of old NC 75 (parallels East Range Road) and Enon Road in a house circa 1880. Mr. Jones has a number of shop buildings located adjacent to his house and we located him working in one building and he agreed to talk to us.

I showed Mr. Jones a set of topo maps of the site which included firing fan, proposed grid, and other information. He detailed very specifically memories from his childhood as well as ordnance-related findings over the years. He provided his phone number and invited us back at any time to discuss further. He also introduced us to his younger brother Bradley who later took us on a tour of their property and pointed out things we had discussed. The items below summarize the discussions:

- Bill stated when he was a boy he often observed night firing from his house. He observed the heavy artillery, mostly 155mm, originating not from the northern firing fans as we have been led to believe but from what remains the National Guard property. Thus firing north generally at the Mock German Village. He said the 155mm rounds make a whistling sound distinctive from the 105mm rounds and he was sure that much of the firing was with 155mm. He said there was a fair amount of night fire and could see the illumination rounds very well from his house. His house was just outside the range road and was thus spared from demolition and government seizure for Camp Butner. He stated his father had a pass to go on the Camp anytime there was no live fire and he often went as well. Although young at the time he was adamant regarding the direction of fire based on where his home is located and where he observed firing. The Jones family owns upwards of 2000 acres north or Enon and east of Moriah. They owned much of the property before the Camp was established and were able to get it back and then some as a result of his father's connections.
- Upon looking at the maps, Bill stated to his knowledge the large firing point at the northern site extreme (pointed due south) was not used for 155mm firing.

PHONE CALL MEMO

Page 2

August 29, 2002

- The large firing fan (with firing point along East Range Road) Bill stated was used for 2.36-inch bazooka training and stated numerous rockets had been found historically several thousand feet or so west of this point.
- Bill and Bradley both spoke of an old well that exists on their property that was filled up with 2.36 rockets many years ago. Bradley drove us to the location which is near one of his relative's homes. He pointed to a location and said it was within 30 feet of the spot. He said we were welcome to investigate it further with our equipment. If we are interested we need to let him know when so he can alert his relatives we are coming. **NEED TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS - JOHN.**
- Bill confirmed the location of the Mock German Village on Moriah and that it was a target for heavy artillery firing (from now NCNG). Bill pointed on the map to a large area (totally undeveloped) where they have historically found many 155mm rounds during road grading and logging of their property. He commented on a 155mm placed on a rock by loggers a couple of years ago. Coincidentally, an intact 155mm round was found in that area on a rock several days later and detonated by Ft. Bragg EOD.
- Bradley drove John and I throughout much of the Jones' property and pointed out areas where craters were located and where his family has found ordnance or ordnance debris. This information was documented on the field office site maps.
- Bradley drove us to a location where two suspect howitzer firing points were located just south of the old Jone's house. These concrete structures have been the source of recent local debate as to what they were. Some believe they had something to do with an adjacent cemetery (on the opposite side of the road). Both Bill and Bradley believe the structures held howitzers based on the angled shape and apparent track marks. If this is true, no historical firing fans are shown originating from this area. Further, the firing points would actually be outside of the Camp Butner boundary.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807-4301

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

August 13, 2002

Design Center for Ordnance
and Explosives Directorate (200-1c)

SUBJECT: Government QA Dig List for the Former Camp Butner, North
Carolina, Contract DACA87-00-D-0039 T.O. 0019

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Mr. Silkebakken,

Your proposed dig sheets for the entire site (except the 35 acres to be sampled using mag and dig technology) have been reviewed. Huntsville Center geophysicists have also prepared for you a list of anomalies you are to also dig as part of our quality assurance process. The government selected digs are attached here.

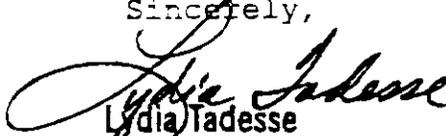
Government comments on Quality Control (QC) concerns on some of the above digs were addressed by Mr. Greg Vann on 1 August 2002. The government concerns are related to an apparent lack of QC by Parsons Engineering during data analysis. These concerns will be addressed in another letter no later than 19 August 2002 by Mr. Bob Selfridge.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a change to your contract that has not been negotiated and agreed to, then do not proceed with performance. Instead, formally notify me of the basis of your position and await instructions. I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the mode of further performance, and plan for its funding; (2) countermand the alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is considered to have occurred. Proceeding with performance without first notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roland Belew at commercial (256) 895-1553 or via cellular phone at (256) 426-3717.

Sincerely,


Lydia Tadesse
Contracting Officer

Copy Furnished:

Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington,
ATTN: CESAW-TS-PE (Mr. John Baden), P.O. Box 1890, Wilmington
North Carolina 28402-1890

August 14, 2002

US Army Engineering & Support Center
ATTN: CEHNC-CT-E, Lydia Tadesse
4820 University Square
Huntsville, AL 35816-1822

Subject: Contract DACA87-00-D-0038. Delivery Order 0019
Request to Use Open Front Barricades
Former Camp Butner Site, near Durham, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Tadesse:

Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc. (Parsons) is currently conducting intrusive fieldwork for EE/CA investigation at the former Camp Butner site near Durham, North Carolina. In order to reduce the amount of evacuations required to ensure the appropriate minimum separation distances (MSD) for each area, Parsons' requests approval to use open front barricades (OFBs) where feasible. The OFBs ("Bud Lights") were constructed in accordance with USAESCH specifications and are currently stored at the site location. Appendix E of the approved project Work Plan includes the signed documentation and requirements for use and resulting modification of the MSD for this engineering control per Ms. Michelle Crull. The OFBs will not be used in areas where the most probable munition (MPM) is larger than the maximum rating for the OFB or where other more efficient means of conducting the investigation are available.

Written documentation of approval is required per approved Work Plan sections 5.1.9.4, 7.2.5, and 7.8.6.4. If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information, please contact me at (678) 969-2384 or (404) 606-0346 (cell).

*Received
16 Aug 02
Roland Belew*

Sincerely,

Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc.

Don Silkebakken
Don Silkebakken, P.E.
Project Manager

*Concern with above
request but not for
less than like
200ft restriction limit.
W/L*

cc: Roland Belew (CEHNC-OE-DC)
Ken Stockwell, (Parsons)
Project File (741291)

Lydia Tadesse
Lydia Tadesse 8/16/02
Contracting Officer

August 16, 2002

US Army Engineering & Support Center
ATTN: CEHNC-CT-E, Lydia Tadesse
4820 University Square
Huntsville, AL 35816-1822
256-895-1169

Subject: Contract DACAS7-00-D-0038, Delivery Order 0019
Request for Re-Evaluation of Approved MSD
Former Camp Butner Site, Butner, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Tadesse:

Parsons is currently conducting intrusive field investigations in support of the EE/CA investigation at the former Camp Butner site near Durham, North Carolina. The Final EE/CA Work Plan was approved on 27 March 2001 under contact DACA87-95-D-0018, DO 0067 and intrusive fieldwork was initiated on July 29, 2002.

Investigation of Area 3 - Grenade Training Ranges has progressed for two days and yielded only numerous non-OE scrap to include bolts, plow parts, horse shoes, etc. No ordnance scrap of any kind has been recovered. The current Minimum Separation Distance (MSD) approved for this area is based on a Most Probable Munition (MPM) MKII hand grenade with MSD equal to 650 feet (see Work Plan map Figure 2.4). Area 3 encompasses 5 acres of mostly undeveloped pastureland. However, several moderately traveled roads are partially within the MSD. Parsons believes a reduction to the MSD is justified and requests approval to employ the one hazardous fragment per 600 square feet criteria for a this MPM (until such time as unexploded ordnance is encountered) thus reducing the MSD to 400 feet. This will alleviate some road guard and evacuation requirements. The on-site USAESCII Safety Officer, Jimmy Walker, concurs with the request and can substantiate the findings.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information, please contact me at (678) 969-2384 or (404) 606-0346 (cell).

Sincerely,

Concur R. Belew 8/16/02
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc.

Don Silkebakken, P.E.
Project Manager

cc: Roland Belew (CEHNC-OE-DC)
Wayne Galloway (CEHNC-OE-S)
Ken Stockwell (Parsons)
Project File (741291)

CEHNC-OE-S (200-1c)

19 August 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR CEHNC-OE-DC (Roland Belew)

SUBJECT: Minimum Separation Distance, Contract Number DACA
87-95-D-0018, Delivery Order 0067, Area 3, Camp Butner, Durham,
NC

1. References:

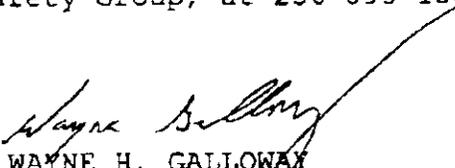
a. CEHNC-OE-CX, Interim Guidance Document 00-01, 2 March
2000.

b. Memo, Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc,
16 August 2002.

2. Your request to reduce the Minimum Separation Distance (MSD)
for intrusive work at Area 3, Camp Butner, Durham, NC, is
approved. You may use the 1/600 MSD for the MK II HE Hand
Grenade. The 1/600 distance is 400 feet.

3. This reduced distance is based on the MK II HE Hand Grenade
having the greatest 1/600 distance for the known munitions
located. No UXO are anticipated in this area. Should UXO or
any live munition be located, all intrusive work shall stop,
this office notified, and this approval reevaluated.

4. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to
Mr. Greg Parsons, OE Safety Group, at 256-895-1589.


WAYNE H. GALLOWAY
Chief, Safety Group
for Ordnance and Explosives Directorate

CF:
OE-DC Read
OE Read
OE-S Read
ED File/Read

WHP Parsons/jc/1589/1/600-Former Camp Butner

Minimum Separation Distances
Former Camp Butner
Mk II Grenade
12 October, 2000

REQUESTED BY: Roland Belew
PREPARED BY: Sherene Rizvi

This form shows calculated distances only. It does not constitute approval. Concurrence of CEHNC-OE-S is required to determine the applicable distance for a specific site.

In accordance with (IAW) OE Center of Expertise Interim Guidance Document 00-01, use of the range to no more than 1 hazardous fragment/600 sq ft as the minimum separation distance for accidental detonations requires written justification, a risk analysis, calculation of this distance by CEHNC-ED-CS-S, and concurrence of CEHNC-OE-S.

CALCULATIONS FOR UNINTENTIONAL DETONATIONS

Maximum Fragment Range = 650 ft
Range to No More Than 1 Hazardous Fragment/600 sq ft = 400 ft
Range to 0.9 psi Overpressure = 27 ft

IAW OE Center of Expertise Interim Guidance Document 00-01, the minimum separation distance for intentional detonations may not be less than the default distance provided in DoD 6055.9-STD or the maximum fragment range or the K328 overpressure distance.

CALCULATIONS FOR INTENTIONAL DETONATIONS

Maximum Fragment Range = 650 ft
K328 Overpressure Range = 174 ft

The primary fragmentation characteristics used in the calculation of the values listed above were computed IAW CEHNC-ED-CS-S-98-1. The maximum fragment range was calculated using the maximum weight fragment and the initial velocity from these characteristics in the computer software TRAJ. The range to no more than 1 hazardous fragment/600 sq ft was calculated IAW CEHNC-ED-CS-S-98-2.

SANDBAG ENCLOSURE FOR INTENTIONAL DETONATIONS

Required Sandbag Thickness = 12 in. with 6" standoff between munition and sandbags
Sandbag Throw Distance = 25 ft
Minimum Separation Distance = 200 ft

Minimum Separation Distances
Former Camp Butner
Mk II Grenade
12 October, 2000

The required sandbag thickness and the sandbag throw distance were calculated IAW CEHNC-ED-CS-S-98-7. The minimum separation distance is based on the largest of the sandbag throw distance or 200 ft or the K328 distance for the total NEW (munition plus donor charge). A copy of HNC-ED-CS-S-98-7, "Use of Sandbags for Mitigation of Fragmentation and Blast Effects Due to Intentional Detonation of Munitions" must be available on site. This report may be downloaded from the USAESCH homepage at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/oew/tech/AnalyticalTools/analindx.htm>. The first time you access the site you will have to register. You will be notified by e-mail when your login and password have been activated. You must have a login and password to download the report.

MINIMUM SEPARATION DISTANCES WHILE USING MOFB DURING INTRUSIVE ACTIVITIES

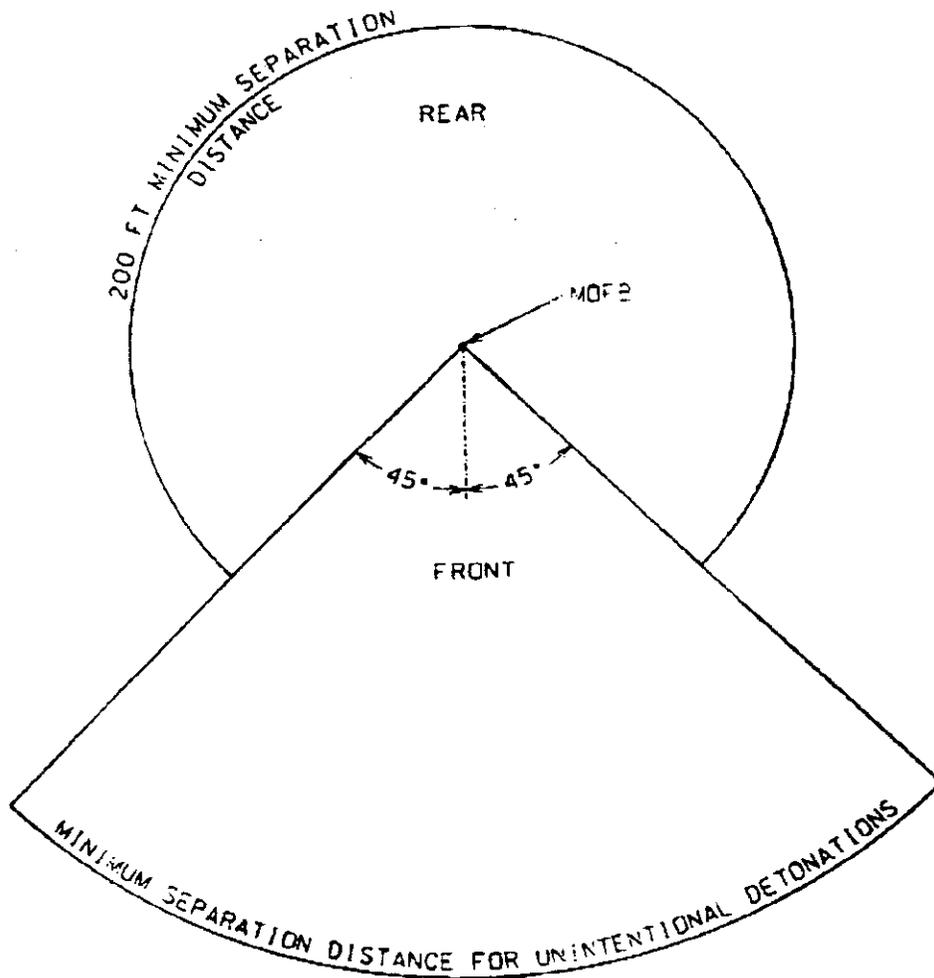
Design of the Miniature Open Front Barricade (MOFB) is in accordance with HNC-ED-CS-S-98-8, "Miniature Open Front Barricade". This document was approved by the DDESB. This report may be downloaded from the USAESCH homepage at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/oew/tech/AnalyticalTools/analindx.htm>. The first time you access the site you will have to register. You will be notified by e-mail when your login and password have been activated. You must have a login and password to download the report. DDESB has placed certain restrictions on the approved usage of the MOFB. These are listed in the approval letter in the front of the report.

Thickness of Aluminum Required to Prevent Perforation = 1.00 in

The MOFB is designed to defeat fragments to the rear and sides of the MOFB in the case of an accidental/unintentional detonation during intrusive activities. The fragment distances to the front of the MOFB are the same as the fragment distances without the MOFB (see figure). The MOFB is not designed to reduce the effects of blast overpressure. The MOFB may not be used for intentional detonations. The minimum separation distances to the rear and sides of the MOFB must be maintained based on the expected throw distance of the MOFB itself.

Minimum Separation Distance to sides and rear = 200 ft
Minimum Separation Distance to front = 650 ft
K50 distance = 27 ft

Minimum Separation Distances
Former Camp Butner
Mk II Grenade
12 October, 2000



MINIMUM SEPARATION DISTANCE FOR UNINTENTIONAL DETONATIONS
USING MINIATURE OPEN FRONT BARRICADE DURING INTRUSIVE ACTIVITIES

SIGNATURES:

Steven M. Rizzo 10/12/00
Subject Matter Expert

William A. Rhee 12 Oct 00
CEHNC-ED-CS-S Branch Chief



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807-4301

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

August 16, 2002

Design Center for Ordnance
and Explosives Directorate

SUBJECT: Approval of workplan modifications at the Former Camp
Butner, North Carolina, Contract DACA87-00-D-0038 T.O. 0019

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Dear Mr. Silkebakken,

Your corrections to your 31 July 2002 work plan revisions
have been reviewed and are acceptable as attached. You may
proceed with your work based on these revisions.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a
change to your contract that has not been negotiated and agreed
to, then do not proceed with performance. Instead, formally
notify me of the basis of your position and await instructions.
I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the mode of further
performance, and plan for its funding; (2) countermand the
alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is considered to
have occurred. Proceeding with performance without first
notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roland Belew at
commercial (256) 895-1553 or via cellular phone at (256) 426-
3717.

Sincerely,

Lydia Tadesse
Lydia Tadesse
Contracting Officer

Enclosure

Copy Furnished:
Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, ATTN: CESAW-
TS-PE (Mr. John Baden), P.O. Box 1890, Wilmington North Carolina
28402-1890



Record of Changes/Revisions

Page Number	Paragraph #	Change	Reason for Change	Date
viii	NA	Add Appendix M reference to TOC	Addition of Appendix M to document.	7/9/02
Appendix M	New	SOP for Mag and Flag/Mag and Dig Survey	Adverse terrain and vegetation in some areas.	7/9/02
3-12	3.11.2.2	30 anomalies per acre to 75 anomalies per acre	Project modification	7/9/02
4-5	Table 4.2	For Area 4 and 5 added Mag and Flag to Type of Survey.	Adverse terrain and vegetation in some areas.	7/9/02
4-6	4.2.2.6	Added reference to new Appendix M	Revision of field procedure	7/9/02
4-8	4.3.2.3	Added reference to new Appendix M	Revision of field procedure	7/9/02
6-12	6.6.4.1.4	Added reference to new Appendix M	Revision of field procedure	7/9/02
6-14	6.6.8.1	Added reference to new Appendix M	Revision of field procedure	7/9/02
7-1	7.2.2	Added reference to new Appendix M	Revision of field procedure	7/9/02
Figures 6.1-6.8	NA	Figures Updated	Figures updated to show actual grid locations	7/9/02
Global	Global	HFA to USA	Change in UXO Subcontractor	7/9/02

Parsons

Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc.
5390 Thangia Parkway • Suite 100 • Norcross, Georgia 30092 • (770) 446-4900 • Fax (770) 446-4910 • www.parsons.com

October 17, 2002

US Army Engineering & Support Center
ATTN: CEHNC-CT-E, Lydia Tadesse
4820 University Square
Huntsville, AL 35816-1822
256-895-1169

Subject: Contract DACA87-00-D-0038, Delivery Order 0019
Request to Maintain Explosives Onsite
Former Camp Butner Site, near Durham, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Tadesse:

Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc. (Parsons) is temporarily demobilizing from the EE/CA investigation at the former Camp Butner site near Durham, North Carolina on July 29, 2002 today (October 17, 2002). Remobilization for the Time Critical Removal Action is planned for January 2003 and will utilize the same explosive magazines and storage area. Parsons request approval to maintain explosives at the current approved magazine storage location located within the North Carolina National Guard Base property.

We have coordinated with the NCNG POC at the headquarters location, less than 2 miles from the magazine storage area, and they have agreed to perform daily inspections (Monday thru Friday) in accordance with the approved project Work Plan of the magazines, locks, and seals to identify any attempts of unauthorized access in accordance with ATF procedures. They have also agreed to perform the necessary documentation of this activity as part of their regular inspections of their storage areas.

Approval of this procedure will save the government money associated with reshipment and purchase of new explosives during the remobilization.

Please advise if this request is approved this afternoon or otherwise we will dispose of the explosives onsite as part of today's demobilization effort.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information, please contact me at (678) 969-2384 or (404) 606-0346 (cell).

*Concur with above request
WB 10/17/02*

Lydia Tadesse
Lydia Tadesse 10/17/02
Contracting Officer

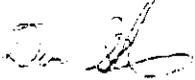
{

Parsons

Ms Tadsse
Page 2
October 17, 2002

Sincerely,

Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc.



~~D. Stinson, P.E.~~

Project Manager

cc: Roland Belew (CEHNC-OE-DC)
Wayne Galloway



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807-4301

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

December 6, 2002

Design Center for Ordnance
and Explosives Directorate

SUBJECT: Approval of Sampling Recommendations for the Former Camp
Butner, NC, Contract DACA87-00-D-0038 T.O. 0019.

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Mr. Silkebakken,

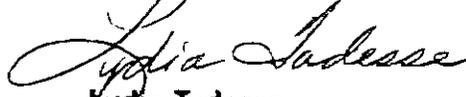
This letter is in reply to the Teleconference meeting conducted 4 November 2002 regarding field sampling on the subject task order. Parsons Engineering has recommended that no further sampling be done and presented the reasons why. The minutes of that conference call are enclosures 1 and 2. The Parsons presentation is enclosure 2. Your recommendation was presented to Ms. Shanon Crabb who is on contract with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville. Ms. Crabb concurs with your recommendation that the area investigated exceeds the minimum area required to satisfy the statistical requirements of UXO Calculator. Therefore your request not to collect additional field data is approved.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a change to your contract, do not proceed with performance. Instead, formally notify me of the basis of your position and await instructions. I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the mode of further performance, and plan for its funding; (2) countermand the alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is considered to have occurred. Proceeding with performance without first notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

- 2 -

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roland Belew at commercial (256) 895-1553.

Sincerely,


Lydia Tadesse
Contracting Officer

2 Enclosures

Copy Furnished:

Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, ATTN: CESAW-
TS-PE (Mr. John Baden), P.O. Box 1890, Wilmington NC 28402-1890



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTSVILLE CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35807-4301

REF: TO
ATTENTION OF

March 13, 2003

Design Center for Ordnance
and Explosives Directorate

SUBJECT: Delivery of Blast Containment Structures to the
Wilmington Corps of Engineers Resident office in Falls Lake N.C.
on the Former Camp Butner, NC, Contract DACA87-00-D-0038 T.O.
0023.

Mr. Don Silkebakken
Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.
5390 Triangle Parkway, Suite 100
Norcross, Georgia 30092

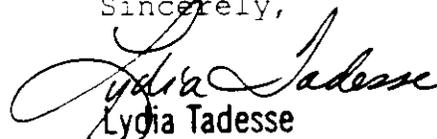
Dear Mr. Silkebakken,

This letter is to confirm that you were asked to move the
blast containment structures to the Wilmington Corps of Engineers
Resident Engineers warehouse after completion of your ordnance
removal at Lake View Subdivision. The units will remain there
and be available for future ordnance removals at former Camp
Butner.

If you believe certain comments included herein constitute a
change to your contract, do not proceed with performance. In-
stead, formally notify me of the basis of your position and await
instructions. I may (1) confirm that it is a change, direct the
mode of further performance, and plan for its funding; (2) coun-
termend the alleged change; or (3) notify you that no change is
considered to have occurred. Proceeding with performance without
first notifying me of your position will be at your own risk.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Roland Belew at
commercial (256) 895-1553.

Sincerely,


Lydia Tadesse
Contracting Officer

PROJECT-RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

GOVERNMENT ANALYZING RISKS | TOWN AWAITS WORD

Residents upset in Butner over old ordnance

Locals say tales are common of people finding shells while hunting or planting gardens

BY HUNTER LEWIS

Special to The Daily Record

BUTNER — Durham police officers Kimberly and Danny Cash thought they had brought their dream home six years ago — that is, until their 9-year-old son picked up a live bazooka round while raking leaves in their front yard in November.

Since then, the Cashes have found three more shells or pieces of them, including a live M77mm rocket engine still unexploded and safely declassified Wednesday by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"This is an 80-year home that just turned into a disaster," said Kimberly Cash, clutching her 2-year-old son, Taylor, on Thursday.

The Cashes' finds are not uncommon around Butner. Scrambled in the area of 5,000 of people standing across old bullets and shells, some as big as 155 mm, while plowing their fields or hunting in the forests in this part of southern Granville County.

The Army built a 60,000-acre base here in the 1940s to house and train 40,000 soldiers for World War II. Along with barracks, an Army hospital and a prisoner-of-war camp were a grenade range and 15 ammunition training ranges. And the Cashes' home — unbeknownst to them when they bought it — sits just outside the target zone for one of those old ranges.

The Cashes won't let their six children walk in the woods or play on their play ground anymore.

"We can't let them feed the chickens or the dogs because we don't know what's under the ground," she said. "It's going to bite someone to die to make this an issue. I don't feel safe being here."

Since the spring of 2006, Parsons Inc., an engineering firm hired by the Corps, has studied and surveyed the 60,000 acres of the former Camp Butner to determine how contaminated the land is with unexploded ordnance.

By January, Corps and Parsons officials say, they will have a detailed document, called an engineering evaluation report, that will explain the dangers and cost to clean up hundreds of shells and bombs.

To scrape the area, Parsons workers mark several 100-by-100-foot grids. Then with hand-dug Geopack (P3014414) hydraulic and an industrial-strength axial detector, workers scan the grid. Since Aug.



Taylor Cash, now 10, found a live bazooka round in the yard of the home he shares with his parents and five siblings in November. The Cash family recently had parts of their yard checked after another round was found and detonated [where the sand is on the right edge of the photo].

Please see **SMELLS** | B3

SHELLS

FROM PAGE B1

5, they have found more than 1,000 pounds of horseshoes, plow blades and nails — and at least 200 fragments, fuses or entire shells of explosive devices.

Loggers found a live 155 mm shell Thursday in the woods north of the Cashes' home. The 37 mm shell found Wednesday inside one of these grids sat 11 yards from the Cashes' front door.

Corps officials assure the family and the other people living on old Camp Butler property that their land will be rid of at least 95 percent of explosives once the cleanup is finished.

But Cash and her neighbors in the 13-acre Lakeview Estates subdivision want their property cleaned up now.

"I don't want to live here, and I don't want to go home," Cash said. "My family could be sleeping on top of 80 mm shells."

Roman and Frances Vos moved next door to the Cashes in 1997. They said they bought their home for the "quiet and serenity."

"When we bought the property, [the fact that this was once an ammunition range] was not disclosed to us," Roman Vos said. "If I had of known, we would have passed."

The Voses have hired a lawyer to uncover why there was no disclosure of the munitions.

Frances Vos, a retired Umstead Hospital nurse, said she was tired of "old-timers in the area saying, '[the munitions] have always been there.'"

"Sometimes in America, people



THE HERALD-SUN | HERB RYAN REPORT

Kimberly Cash demonstrates where the head of a bazooka round would have been on an old round that her sons found detonated in their yard in Butler.

say, 'Oh, it's always been that way,'" she said. "But when a kid gets blown up, they say, 'Now we have a problem.'"

In 1983, two 8-year-old boys in San Diego died when a 37 mm shell they brought home and tinkered with exploded. And a 9-year-old child blew off an arm two years ago when he picked up a live shell. The San Diego incident spurred legislative action, and in the late 1980s, a federal program was created to start cleaning up areas around old military training grounds.

John Baden and Roland Belew, officials with the Corps who have worked on several cleanup projects nationwide, assured the Cashes and the Voses at a meeting Thursday night that they will focus their immediate attention

on the Lakeview neighborhood.

"I'm sympathetic," Belew said. "We're here to help, and we will do so as fast as we can."

Baden and Belew could not set a timetable for how long the immediate roundup of surface ordnance would take. Their first hurdle is securing money from the federal government to fund the cleanup. No small feat, they said, because there is little money to be found.

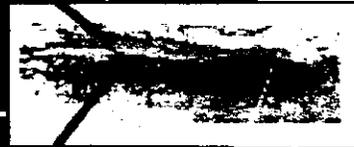
But Kimberly Cash urged them to hurry.

"If it was your children, would you let them stay in my house?" she asked.

Corps officials urge people who discover ordnance to stay away from it and call local authorities.

On the Net: www.parsons.com
www.projecthoop.com

Camp Butler 2.36 inch shoulder fired
Anti tank UXO – This policeman mowed
Over it with his riding mower, then his
9 year old son picked it up and dumped it on
Porch. Ft Bragg EOD came and demo'd it in
Back yard. March 2002.



DURHAM

ACTION B

OBITUARIES	B2
SCHOOLS	B4
MOVIES	B5
COMICS	B6

Ron Landfried, day editor
419-6630; rlandfried@heraldsun.com
Mark Schultz, night editor
419-6646; mschultz@heraldsun.com

WWW.HERALDSUN.COM

As a new school year gets under way, the feds comment on drug testing and counseling for students | B4

After recent slayings at look at the culture st

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:
LABOR DAY

Students hear dangers of debt

Attorney general

This time around Banks said
on Sunday. For complete details, see DT

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:
LABOR DAY

COURTS MONDAY
County offices

... said that he worked for
four weeks picking cucum-
ber and tobacco. He told his boss
he had a pain in his side and
he was to be taken to a hospital but
he refused, Chai said.
Chai said that I was probably
and I should just take some
rest," Chai said.
Chai took a taxi to the hos-
pital the next day, he had to have
surgery for appendicitis. He was
in the hospital for two weeks and
told his boss there was no money to pay
for his care.
Chai told of other abuses he
experienced from his boss while
working on the farm.
"He could threaten us, and he
could come to our trailers with
a gun and say he could kill us
and we wouldn't take anything
from him," Chai said. "He
always threatens us, and I
don't know why. We were work-
ing."
Chai said he became involved
with the National Farm
Labor Organizing
Committee, which helped him
and other workers recoup
some of the money.
Chai said he will be
speaking to students at Sunday's
meeting at the organization.
Chai said he will be
speaking to a group with members on
the Durham Students Against Sweat-
shops.

Old shells raise new legal questions

Live ordnance on WWII firing range creates problems for new homeowners in Butner

BY HUNTER LEWIS
hlewis@heraldsun.com 419-6651

BUTNER — Live shells turning up in a housing subdivision built on an old Army artillery range raise questions about who's to blame.

"This is a unique legal situation," said Dan Flebotte, a Durham attorney representing Kimberly and Danny Cash, who live in Lakeview Estates.

In November, the Cashes' 9-year-old son picked up a live bazooka round while raking leaves in their front yard. Since then, three more shells or pieces of them have been found there, including a live 37 mm high-explosive shell uncovered and safely detonated two weeks ago by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The latter find is part of an extensive survey by Parsons Inc., an engineering firm hired by the Corps. Parsons was hired to determine how many shells remain and how much danger

they pose to residents of the site of the former Camp Butner. Such discoveries have been relatively common since the Army training camp closed more than 50 years ago.

"We're looking into the responsibility of the U.S. government, of prior owners' disclosure and of the effective scope of title insurance that frequently insures [homeowners] from environmental issues," Flebotte said.

Flebotte cautions that it's too early to tell who is legally responsible for what could be scores of remaining explosives.

"But it's a very serious situation," he said.

As a real estate lawyer with 25 years of experience including 7,500 property transactions, Flebotte says he had never previously heard of a dispute over abandoned munitions on U.S. residential property.

In land issues, North Carolina is known as a caveat emptor, or "buyer

beware" state. That puts the onus on the buyer to uncover defects or to hire a home inspector to ensure a house is free of problems such as a leaky roof or faulty furnace.

When the Army pulled out of Butner in 1950 and sold the land, the deed mentioned unexploded shells. Over time, as the land was parceled out and sold, the original deed was not consulted, Flebotte said.

"As a real estate lawyer, we're only required to do a title search 40 years back," he said. "Any lawyer involved in [Lakeview Estates] would go back 40 years and not see there are live bombs. Enough time passes where things are not seen."

The Cashes bought their modular home from Jim Willette in 1996. They and neighbors Roman and Frances Vos say Willette never disclosed that the 13-acre subdivision was once the target area of one of eight artillery ranges.

Willette would not discuss the matter, and his lawyer, Tom Burnette of Oxford, could not be reached for comment. please see SHELLS | B3

STREET SMARTS

Lanes will be open for trip home

Street Smarts is a weekly column...

Old explosives, new jitters in Butner

Former Army post can't bury its past

BY RICHARD STRADLING
STAFF WRITER

BUTNER - Nearly 60 years ago, Army soldiers preparing to fight World War II fired a 37 mm shell over the Camp Butner artillery range, where it landed in the soft earth. Two weeks ago, contractors for the Army came back to detonate the shell under a pile of sandbags about 35 feet from Kimberly and Danny Cash's house.

The shell is one of five pieces of live ammunition that the Army Corps of Engineers has found since it began searching the old artillery range last month. The corps is sampling a fraction of the 40,000-plus acres that were part of Camp Butner to determine whether anything the Army left behind poses a danger to people who live there now.

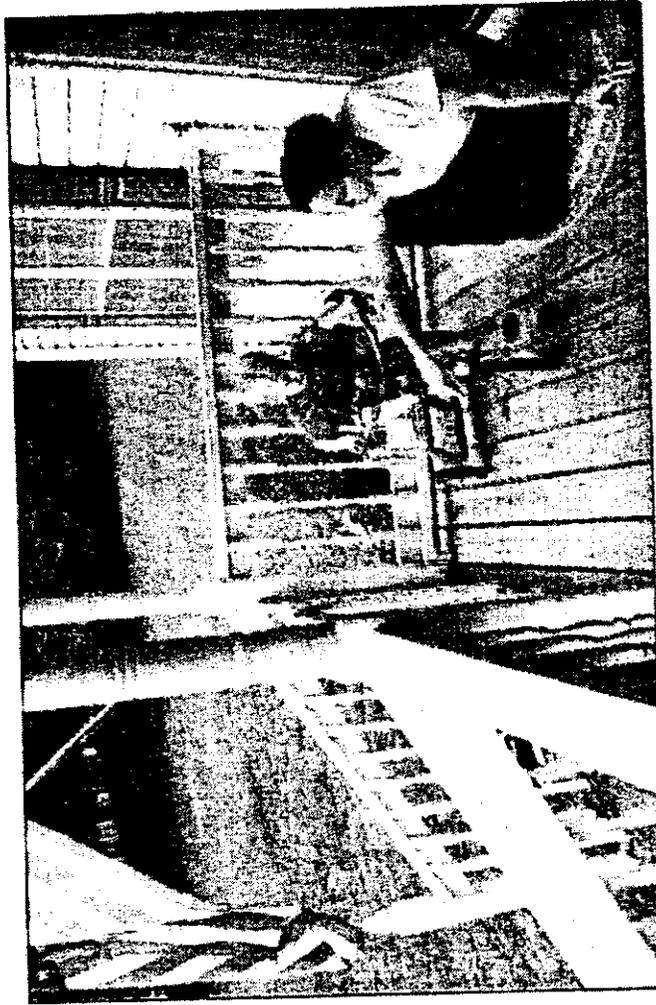
People have been turning up bullets and rusted fragments of

new homeowner or backhoe operator hits a live round like the one found in their yard.

The Cashes, both Durham police officers, said they bought their house on two acres in 1998 because they wanted to give their children room to run. They said they had no inkling the land could have been part of an artillery range until Taylor Cash, 9, raked up an intact bazooka round last fall. Then, in May, Danny Cash uncovered a portion of a bazooka shell just behind the house.

Now the couple confine their six children, ages 5 months to 11 years, to the porch or the concrete driveway, afraid to let them use their trampoline, swing set or the white gazebo where the Cashes were married. Rejuvenated by recent rains, the unmowed grass is nearly knee high.

"We're really considering leaving the property, walking away," Kimberly Cash said. "I will never feel safe in this house again."



Kimberly Cash watches her son Justin as he plays on the front porch of the family home. The yard is now off-limits.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHER STONEMAN

grenades and shells in their woods, fields and yards since the Army closed Camp Butner in 1947 and sold more than half the land back to its original owners.

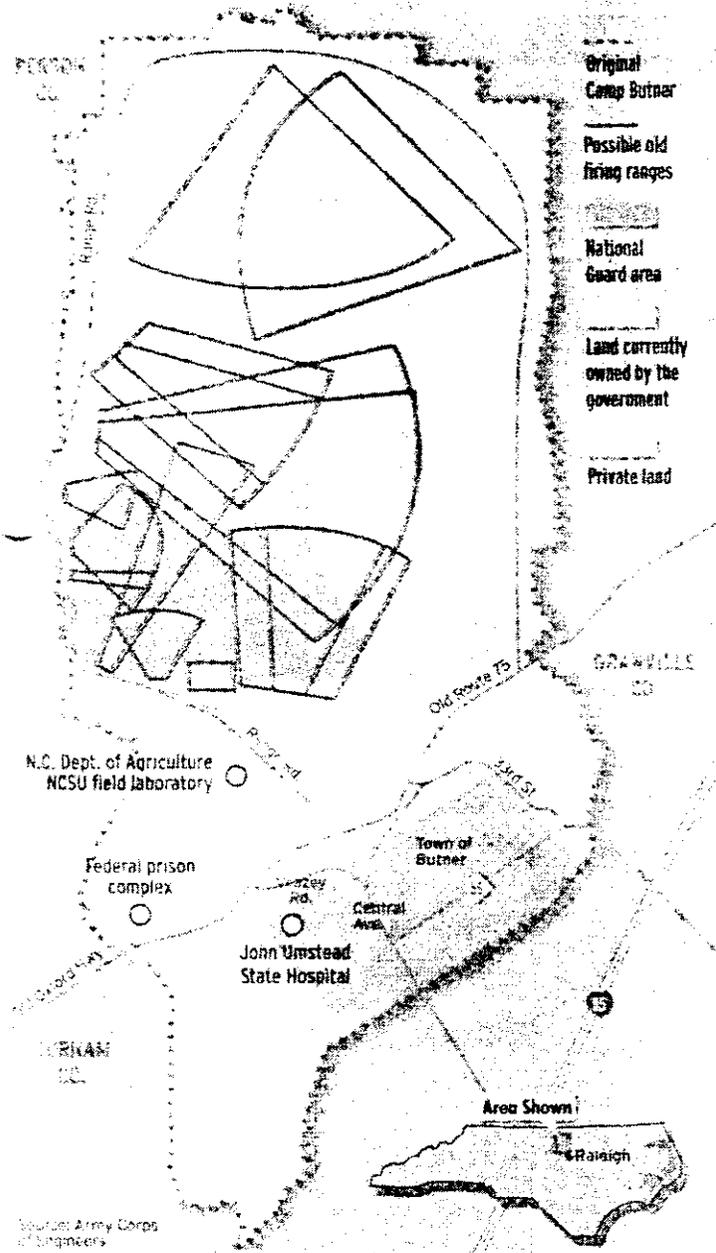
But now the tree-lined country roads of the old camp are attracting a new wave of residents

from the Triangle who might not know about the camp's past. The population of the Butner area has grown about 40 percent to about 14,000 since 1990, and dozens of new homes peek out from the woods. The Cashes worry that it's just a matter of time before a

SEE BUTNER, PAGE 14A

FORMER CAMP BUTNER

Established in 1942, Camp Butner covered 40,384 acres. Most of the land went back to private use after the base was closed in 1947. The Army Corps of Engineers is concentrating its search for explosives and other debris on the old artillery ranges, except for the N.C. Army National Guard training area.



WOODY VONDRACEK / The News & Observer

BUTNER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

She fears a repeat of what happened in San Diego in 1983, when a tank shell on a former Army training range exploded in a subdivision, killing two 8-year-old boys. That incident helped prompt the Army to begin assessing what might be buried at more than 250 former military properties.

Last month, contractors hired by the corps began combing Butner using magnets and a global positioning system to search for what they call anomalies, "objects you wouldn't expect to see in the ground," said corps spokeswoman Penny Schmitt. The search, which will continue through November, covers the federal prison complex, John Umstead Hospital and various other state institutions, but excludes the 4,750-acre N.C. Army National Guard training camp.

The corps will report its findings next July, along with a recommendation of whether the Army should do more to clean up the area and an estimate of what it might cost. So far, in addition to the shell next to the Cash house, the corps has found and detonated 57 mm, 105 mm and 2.36-inch shells, Schmitt said.

Clarence Riley isn't surprised. In 1949, Riley earned 90 cents an hour on a crew of civilians that helped the Army clear shells and debris from the old Butner artillery ranges. He remembers coming across a shell that was 3 feet long and as big around as a five-gallon bucket.

"When they blew that one, you could hear it for five or six miles," said Riley, 73, who still lives on the family farm outside the former camp. "We got a right good ways back from that."

Riley said the crew inevitably left explosives behind, because they cleared only what they could see.

"We weren't going to rake all that ground to see what was under the leaves or the vines," he said. "There's still some spots up there that I would hesitate to go in."

The Army has spent about \$2.3 million on the Butner study so far; the final cost depends on how much the engineers uncover. The Army doesn't have money for cleanup, though, which is why the Cashes remain in limbo.

When the Army sold Butner



Kimberly Cash holds the nonexplosive portion of shell her husband found.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHER STONEMAN

back to its original owners, it placed covenants on the deeds restricting use of the land to the surface only, according to a 1993 corps report. Over the years, any mention of the artillery range and what might lie in the soil was dropped from many deeds, Schmitt said.

Some residents are ambivalent about the Army's legacy. Claude Campbell has lived inside the boundaries of the old camp for eight years but had not thought much about it until recent news accounts of the corps study. He recently moved into a new house along a stretch of Range Road that is lined by new homes and signs advertising land for sale.

"I guess it doesn't concern me," said Campbell, who runs the electronic systems at the federal prison. "I don't know if they did any bombing down this way."

But B.J. Elmore thinks it's a miracle no one has been killed on the range.

Elmore, who works for Xerox in Research Triangle Park, has lived off Range Road for 9½ years and keeps two exploded mortar rounds on her bookshelf. They look like rusted pipes with fins and one end "peeled back almost like a banana," she said. She stubbed her toe on one and hit the other with a lawn mower.

"We know it's here," she said. "We take a chance every time we dig a hole in the ground to put a fence post in. You never know."

Staff writer Richard Stradling can be reached at 829-4739 or rstradli@newsobserver.com.

Go To Section

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More live rounds found near Butner

Associated Press

BUTNER — Kimberly and Danny Cash had no idea when they bought their house here that it rested on the edge of a World War II-era target range.

Then, while the two Durham police officers were raking leaves in their front yard last November, their 9-year-old son discovered a live bazooka shell.

Since then, the Cashes have found three more shells or pieces of them, including a live 37 mm high-explosive shell uncovered and safely detonated Wednesday by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "This is my dream home that just turned into a disaster," Kimberly Cash said.

Stories abound in this town of 5,000 of people stumbling across old bullets and shells, some as big as 155 mm, while plowing their fields or hunting in the forests in this part of southern Granville County.

The Army built a 40,000-acre base in Butner in the 1940s to house and train 40,000 soldiers for World War II. Along with barracks, an Army hospital and a prisoner-of-war camp were a grenade range and 15 ammunition training ranges.

And the Cashes' home — unbeknownst to them when they bought it — sits just outside the target zone for one of those old ranges. They won't let their six children walk in the woods or play on their playground anymore.

"We can't let them feed the chickens or the dogs, because we don't know what's under the ground," she said. "It's going to take someone to die to make this an issue. I don't feel safe being here."

Roman and Frances Vos moved next door to the Cashes in 1997. They said they bought their home for the "quiet and serenity."

Vos has hired a lawyer to determine why there was no disclosure about the munitions.

"When we bought the property, the fact that this was once an ammunition range was not disclosed to us," Roman Vos said. "If I had of known, we would have passed "

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Since the spring of 2000, Parsons Inc., an engineering firm hired by the Corps, has studied and surveyed the 40,000 acres of the former Camp Butler to determine how contaminated the land is with ordnance and explosives.

By January, Corps and Parsons officials say, they will have a detailed document, called an engineering evaluation/cost analysis, that will explain the dangers and cost to clean up hundreds of shells and casings.

To sample the area, Parsons workers mark several 100-by-100-foot grids. Then with handheld Global Positioning Systems and an industrial-strength metal detector, workers scan the grid. Since Aug. 5, they have found more than 1,000 pounds of horseshoes, plow blades and nails – and at least 200 fragments, fuses or entire shells of explosive devices.

Loggers found a live 155 mm shell Thursday in the woods north of the Cashes' home. The 37 mm shell found Wednesday inside one of these grids sat 11 yards from the Cashes' front door.

Corps officials assure the family and the other people living on old Camp Butler property that their land will be rid of at least 95 percent of explosives once the cleanup is finished. They held a public hearing Thursday night to discuss the ordnance problem.

Kimberly Cash and her neighbors want quick action.

"If it was your children, would you let them stay in my house?" she asked.

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Associated Press

BUTNER -- Kimberly and Danny Cash had no idea when they bought their house here that it rested on the edge of a World War II era target area.

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Since then, the Cashes have found three more shells or pieces of them, including a live 37 mm high explosive shell uncovered and safely detonated Wednesday by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "This is my dream home that just turned into a disaster," Kimberly Cash said.

<http://www.news-observer.com/front/story/1666491p-1688285c.html>

Brunswick County

Nourishment Program Helps Tourism, Turtles

By Don Bordner

Last fall's beach nourishment projects attracted both vacationers and sea turtles to the South Brunswick County beaches, according to members of the Brunswick Beaches Consortium (BBC). The state recently reported area rentals and tourism held their own this summer, which the consortium credits much to nourishment projects. Preliminary sea turtle nesting reports indicate a significant increase in nesting activities along the South Brunswick County beaches, according to consortium members. While members smiled at the positive news, they buckled down to prepare for upcoming beach nourishment projects and Coastal Resource Commission (CRC) appointments at their monthly meeting Aug. 15. Glenn McIntosh of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers updated consortium members on the status of the Wilmington Harbor Project and provided a brief outline of claims for more funds for additional work required during the project by dredging company Bean-Stuyvesant.

<http://www.brunswickbeacon.com/headline%20web%20page/brunscoc.html>

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granville

October rains fill lakes, hamper harvests in Person, Granville

After months of dry days and parched crops, Mother Nature has lent the region a wet October hand, ending short-term drought and making harvesting a muddy chore.

North Carolinians join Washington march against war

WASHINGTON -- The North Carolina flag stood out in a sea of posters, banners and signs in a crowd of more than 100,000 people who gathered at the Mall in Washington on Saturday to protest the war against Iraq and President Bush's pre-emptive strike doctrine.

Pharmacy to open South Granville facility

CREEDMOOR -- The Professional Pharmacy of Oxford has announced plans to join the South Granville Medical Center in Creedmoor. The pharmacy, an Oxford mainstay, will lease about 2,000 square feet and offer a complete prescription service and health care products for its first satellite location.

Creedmoor in crossfire from hunters, land owners

CREEDMOOR -- When the leaves begin to fall, complaints about trespassing deer hunters begin to rise. The first volley was fired at the Creedmoor Town Commission's meeting earlier this week when two residents pleaded with the commissioners to help stop hunters with dogs from trespassing on their property. The landowners say the dogs and hunters endanger their families and farm animals.

Jobless rate dips in most counties

DURHAM -- The unemployment rate decreased in 90 North Carolina counties in September, including Durham, Granville, Orange and Person, the N.C. Employment Security Commission reported Friday.

Area colleges will show off biotech work at State Fair

RALEIGH -- Representatives from area colleges will be at the North Carolina State Fair through Sunday to showcase training their schools can provide for those interested in the growing field of biotechnology.

Granville native tells county history

DURHAM -- All brawn and no brains? With a buzz haircut and broad shoulders, Lewis Bowling, a professor of physical education at



The Herald-Sun/Kevin Seifert
Caution tape surrounds the Cash's home at 653 Lakeview Drive in Butner while their lawn begins to overgrow on Thursday. The Cash family abandoned the home for their safety as munitions left from the days of Camp Butner continue to be discovered in their yard.

Butner residents warned of World War II ordnance

BUTNER -- Having found 12 unexploded artillery shells around Butner during the past few months, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers warns residents and visitors to the area not to search and dig for the World War II ordnance.

Creedmoor board approves zoning change

CREEDMOOR -- Building near Creedmoor's streams and Lake Rogers just got tougher. On Tuesday night, The Creedmoor Commissioners approved new zoning ordinances for new development. The change widens natural buffers -- a designated space of vegetation -- to extend out 100 feet from the town's stream banks. The change was made to bring the town's zoning laws up to snuff with the state's Division of Water Quality regulations.

Granville panel OKs half-cent sales-tax hike

OXFORD -- Granville County's residents and visitors will pay a half-cent more in sales tax beginning Dec. 1. The Granville County Commissioners approved the tax increase Monday night on the heels of a quiet public hearing.

Creedmoor relaxes water restrictions

CREEDMOOR -- Creedmoor officials have softened the city's water restrictions after last week's heavy rains filled Lake Rogers to the brim. Under mandatory water conservation measures since the summer, the city will move back to voluntary conservation with the exception of watering lawns, plants and gardens.

granville calendar

october				
	27	28	29	30 31
november				

home :
granville
county :
story

- Local News
- Granville
- Person
- Chatham
- Sections
- Nation/World
- State
- Sports
- Business
- Weather
- Opinion
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Butner residents warned of World War II ordnance

By Hunter Lewis : The Herald-Sun
hlewis@heraldsun.com
Oct 24, 2002 : 10:10 pm ET

BUTNER -- Having found 12 unexploded artillery shells around Butner during the past few months, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers warns residents and visitors to the area not to search and dig for the World War II ordnance.

"We are aware that quite a few people are exploring with metal detectors, either on their own property or in other areas," said Colonel Ray Alexander, commander of the Corps' Wilmington District. "We are extremely concerned that this could lead to a death or a serious injury."

Ranging in size from 155 mm shells shot from long cannons to shells shot from bazookas, the ordnance dates back to 1942, when the Army built Camp Butner, a training facility for 40,000 troops.

Until recently, Danny and Kimberly Cash lived in the target area of one of 15 artillery ranges. They have found at least five shells or pieces of them, including a live 37 mm high-explosive shell uncovered and safely detonated by the Corps in August.

But last month, after "sleepless nights and constant stress," they walked out of their home, packed their six kids into the their Chevrolet Suburban and moved to an apartment in Creedmoor.

The Cashes, who are Durham police officers, left behind a mortgage and what they thought was their dream home. Safety was more important than "financial ruin," Kimberly Cash said.

Their grass has grown shin-high. Yellow caution tape surrounds their property. Posted signs warn not to trespass.

On a recent visit back to her home in Lakewood Estates, a small subdivision south of Stem, Cash saw tire tracks and dug-up dirt in her front yard.

"We moved our children and ourselves to a safe location, but this does not protect the ignorant, complacent or stupid," Kimberly Cash said, speaking of "treasure hunters" with metal detectors and shovels.

In November, an engineering firm contracted by the Corps will survey the 26-acre tract in what is called a Time Critical Removal Action. During the three-month, \$685,000 process, engineers will explore the area around the Cashes' neighborhood with metal detecting equipment and Global Positioning devices. If they detect metal objects, the engineers will mark and remove anything down to six inches deep.

The project stems from a \$2 million spot survey over the 45,000-acre area where the engineers tested small plots of land and identified the 26-acre tract for further study.

"The earlier survey turned up enough explosive material in the [Lakeview] area that justified a removal," said Corps spokeswoman Penny Schmitt. "[Engineers] really didn't need to wait any further."

But the Corps wants locals and visitors to refrain from looking for the shells.

"If you detect something, there is an overwhelming temptation to see," she said.
"Digging can be extremely dangerous."

Of the five families living off Lakeview Drive, the Cashes are the only ones to move. But next-door-neighbor Frances Vos said that doesn't mean she is not concerned.

"I'm concerned not only what we're living on, but the future," she said. "The new subdivisions going up. The logging. Wake up. I really fear sometime, somewhere there is going to be a death. I really do."

Vos referred to two San Diego boys killed in 1983 when they fiddled with an old shell found where a base once stood.

But for many who live in this bucolic part of southern Granville County, the old shells are just as much a part of the landscape as the thick oaks and rolling hills. Stories abound in this area of residents stumbling across old bullets and shells while plowing their fields or hunting.

Edward Eakes, 46, and Billy "Red" Wayne, 40, grew up down the road from Lakeview Estates long before Roberts Chapel Road was paved and before the hills were dotted with homes. Eakes, who rents a small white home just south of Lake Holt and the Cashes' neighborhood, said the engineers marked a few spots in the woods behind his land last week where ordnance may be buried.

But the shells don't bother him.

"I like it here," Eakes said. "The bombs ... don't bother me a bit. You got to worry more about people shooting you while you're pumping gas. These bombs ain't going to bother you unless you dig them up."

Wayne agreed.

"Ain't no telling what you'll find out here," he added. "It's been here for years and years."

It is this mindset that bothers Vos.

"A lot of this stuff is just swept under the carpet," she said. "The people have a mindset of 'it's always been here, nobody's got killed.' I want to scream to the state of North Carolina, 'Hey, in Granville County and parts of Person County there is live ammo. They have dumped piles of ammo in this area.'"



granville



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Granville native tells county history

DURHAM -- All brawn and no brains? With a buzz haircut and broad shoulders, Lewis Bowling, a professor of physical education at N.C. Central University, doesn't buy into the tired stereotype. In July, Arcadia Publishing released Bowling's "Images of America: Granville County," a 128-page pictorial retrospective of life in Granville County.



Creedmoor board approves zoning change

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october						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
november						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

Granville residents warned of water restrictions

OCTOBER 11 -- OXFORD -- Authorities were still on the lookout Friday night for two men who invaded the mobile home of a Vance County sheriff's deputy, beat his wife and set the home on fire.

U.S. 501 in prison on DOT list

OCTOBER 10 -- ROXBORO -- Person and Granville County officials put their highway wish lists on the table for the Department of Transportation this week, but Granville leaders may not be

Local News

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Granville

Butner residents warned of World War II ordnance

Sections

By Hunter Lewis : The Herald-Sun

www.thesun.com

Oct 24, 2002 11:10:10 pm ET

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Resources

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Dangerous pieces of history in the ground

Updated: 10/26/2002 3:23:02 PM
By: News 14 Carolina Web Staff

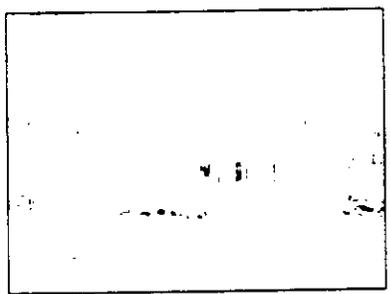
Treasure hunters in Butner should think twice before pulling anything out of the ground.

In recent months, 12 unexploded World War II artillery shells have surfaced around the town once known as Camp Butner, an Army training facility.

Caution tape and 'No Trespassing' signs now surround at least one home on Lakeview Drive whose owners have opted to pack up their kids and move out for safety's sake. "We're all concerned," said Lakeview resident Roman Voss. "This whole area was part of the military firing range. They found live ammo over there, I've found a couple of pieces of ammo in my yard, and I understand another neighbor over here, former neighbor, has picked all kinds of stuff out of their yard."

Despite the danger, the Army Corps of Engineers said people have been searching for shells with metal detectors and shovels and they're concerned someone could be killed.

An engineering firm along side the Army Corps of Engineers will begin removing the shells. "They're supposed to start clearing the property, get all of this brush out of here, and then do a six inch, metal detector type search and pull out anything they find, any old metal, nails and of course any ordinance and if they find anything significant they might be back after the first of the year and do a more thorough search," Voss said.



The people who lived in this house moved when live shells were found around their property.

About 23 acres of land make up the residential area around the Lakeview subdivision in Butner.

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Army to comb Butner land

By RICHARD STRADLING, Staff Writer

BUTNER -- The Army will soon send a cleanup crew into a small Butner subdivision where two live rounds of ammunition dating back to World War II have turned up in the last year.

Army contractors will go through the 16-acre Lakeview subdivision and the surrounding 10 acres inch by inch, investigating every piece of metal in the top half-foot of soil. The subdivision was built on land used as an Army artillery range during the war and returned to private use in 1947.

Residents of the six-home subdivision are anxious about what might be under their lawns. Lakeview residents Danny and Kimberly Cash and their six children have already moved to an apartment in Creedmoor after the Army found a live 37 mm shell buried in their yard in August.

"We're not real sure when they get in here what they're going to find," said Frances Vos, who lives next door to the Cashes. "This is a hot spot."

In August, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractors began surveying what was once Camp Butner, a 40,384-acre Army training camp from 1942 to 1947. The Army wants to know if debris left on the camp's artillery ranges 55 years ago poses any danger today. It has found 16 live rounds so far.

The Corps plans to report its findings next summer but decided that the Lakeview subdivision couldn't wait because the two live rounds were so close to people's homes, spokeswoman Penny Schmitt said. In addition to the shell the Army found, 9-year-old Taylor Cash raked up an intact bazooka round last fall.

"It was apparent we needed to go right ahead and clear that area," Schmitt said.

People have been finding bullets and rusted pieces of artillery shells on Camp Butner land for decades. But a new wave of residents from the Triangle, attracted by the area's forests and fields, are learning of the camp's legacy for the first time as they build or buy new homes.

The state and federal governments still use much of the Butner land for a federal prison complex, an N.C. Army National Guard training camp and other institutions.

But the Army sold more than half of it back to its original owners. It placed covenants on the deeds restricting the land to "surface use only," according to a 1993 Corps report, but many of those covenants were dropped over the years as property changed hands, Schmitt said.

The Army suspended its search of Butner on Oct. 17 because of a lack of money but should resume after Congress passes a new federal budget. The Army has \$300,000 to start cleaning up the Lakeview subdivision but needs \$385,000 more to complete the work, Schmitt said.

Army contractors will begin early next month by clearing brush over the 26-acre area and methodically going over the ground with sophisticated metal detectors. After mapping the area, they'll begin removing metal objects, probably in January, and will likely continue through April if money is available.

Don and Mary Ann Moore have lived in Lakeview for 3 1/2 years and would like to stay after the Army cleanup is complete. They love the tranquility but aren't sure it's worth the risk.

"When we were planning the house, you could literally hear the sound of bat wings at twilight. That is how quiet it is here," Don Moore said. "To imagine that if you took a stroll through the woods you could blow yourself up is disturbing."

The Cashes, both Durham police officers, said they moved out in part because Army representatives clearly were nervous about walking in their yard.

"If they weren't comfortable being there, I wasn't going to keep my children there," said Kimberly Cash, whose children range from 7 months to 13 years.

Army officials told the Cashes that they will remove the vast majority of debris from their yard and they will eventually get it all. Kimberly Cash said she expects they eventually will sell the house - to someone who doesn't mind the mess.

"I don't think I, in good conscience, can go back," Cash said. "My kids are more important than that to me."

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[BACK]

Corps Warns Of Dangers Of Exploring

by David Rogers
News Editor

The US Army Corps of Engineers is warning people to refrain from amateur efforts to detect and find unexploded ordnance at the former site of Camp Butner.

"We are aware that quite a few people are exploring with metal detectors, either on their own property or in other areas," said Colonel Ray Alexander, Commander of the Wilmington District.

"We are extremely concerned that this could lead to a death or a serious injury." Metal detectors by themselves won't set off buried unexploded ordnance, Col. Alexander said, but striking a shell, hand grenade or bazooka round with a digging implement could

"The 37 mm rounds are particularly sensitive," he said. "Hitting one with a shovel could be fatal."

Since the summer, the Corps has found 12 unexploded artillery shells dating back to World War II. Residents of Lakeview Estates, a subdivision off of Roberts Chapel Road, have discovered that the area in which their homes are located is a prime location for finding unexploded ordnance.

The area in which they live was used as part of firing ranges for soldiers at Camp Butner during World War II.

Camp Butner was established in 1942 as a 40,384-acre training and housing facility for World War II troops. The training grounds included approximately 15 firing ranges, a grenade range, a 1000-inch range, a gas chamber and a flame-over training pad.

The site was also home to

one of the Army's largest general and convalescent hospitals and the War Department's Redeployment Center.

In 1947, the War Department closed Camp Butner and the land was sold to public and private interests. The general hospital was acquired by the state and named the John Umstead Hospital.

The North Carolina National Guard was given 4,750 acres of the Camp to be used for training. Some of the land was developed into residential property and farming. Some is North Carolina state land.

Over the past few months, awareness of the potential for unexploded ordnance in the area has been heightened as the US Army Corps of Engineers conducted an Engineering Evaluation on the site.

About a dozen explosive objects were found during the investigation, some of them on residential property.

"We understand that people are very concerned about the potential for explosive objects on their property.

"As the father of teenagers, I also know that young people can be curious and might want to investigate," Col. Alexander said.

"We ask that people take the right steps if they happen to find anything that looks suspicious, but we also ask that people not dig for possible ordnance. We don't want to see anyone hurt or killed."

Steps To Take

What should you do if you find a suspicious object?

- Don't touch or attempt to move the object
- Call your local law enforcement office. They know how to identify ordnance and who to contact

• Don't dig for objects you have "seen" with a metal detector

"We appreciate property owners' willingness to work with us during the Engineering Evaluation, and we want to make sure that they and any visitors to the former Camp Butner site stay safe," Col. Alexander said.

Based on findings to date during the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis conducted by the Corps, the 26-acre area near Range road which encompasses the Lakeview Estates

subdivision has been identified for a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA). Property owners in this area have been notified according to the Corps.

During this action, the entire 26 acres will be surveyed, and any objects found to a depth of 6 inches below the surface will be investigated and if necessary removed.

The survey portion of the TCRA will end in November 2002, and the investigation portion will begin in January 2003.

Other actions may be recommended later based on more complete findings of the Engineering Evaluation.

Penny Sennatt of the US Army Corps of Engineers is the contact person for anyone having questions about the removal project. She can be reached at 812-251-4626.

Home No Longer Safe

The home of Danny and Kimberly Cash of Lakeview Estates is located in the target area of one of the Camp Butner artillery ranges.

The subdivision, which they are slated to be the subject of a Time Critical

The Cashs' nine-year-old son Taylor found a bazooka round while raking leaves in the family's yard last November.

Since that time, the family has found three more shells or pieces of them, including a live 37 mm high-explosive shell, uncovered and safely detonated by the Corps on August 21.

After the discovery of the 37 mm shell in August, Kimberly Cash says that she no longer felt it was safe for her family to stay in the house.

"We had a lot of sleepless nights from worrying. We were under constant stress," she said. In the first days of September, the family decided that the risk was worth it and moved to an apartment in Creedmoor.

Though the move has helped the family in a financial way, the couple says that safety for themselves and their children was more important than money.

Kimberly Cash maintains that she is disappointed with the response that she has received from the Corps for pleas for help in dealing with the situation.

"I have never been able to get a straight answer from the Corps officials, whether prudent buyers should stay in property or leave," she stated.

"I asked them if they would they stay in house or leave, and if they would they would children pray in house. They never would answer me," she said.

Cash also says that the Corps has "given her the around" when she has requested a letter from the Corps stating that it is safe for the family to return to their house.

"I have asked them to

BSMS Honor Roll

(continued from page 3B)

s Of Dangers Of Exploring For Ordnance

agreement office. They know that identifying ordnance and what to do about it.

- Do not dig for objects you have seen with a metal detector.

"We appreciate property owners' willingness to work with us during the Engineering Evaluation and we want to make sure that they and any visitors to the former Camp Butler site stay safe," Col. Alexander said.

Based on findings to date during the Engineering Evaluation Cost Analysis conducted by the Corps, the 20-acre area near Range road which encompasses the Lakeview Estates subdivision has been identified for a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA).

Property owners in this area have been notified according to the TCRA.

During this action, the entire 20 acres will be surveyed and any objects found to a depth of 6 inches below the surface will be investigated and if necessary removed.

The survey portion of the TCRA will end in November 2002 and the investigation portion will begin in January 2003.

Final decisions may be recommended later based on more complete findings of the Engineering Evaluation.

Public Summit of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is being held on Saturday, October 26, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Center, 2714 P. 20.

Home No Longer Safe

Kimberly Cash and her husband, Taylor, have been forced to leave their home in Creedmoor because of the discovery of a live 37 mm high-explosive shell in their yard.

The Cash's nine year old son Taylor found a live bazooka round while raking leaves in the family's yard last November.

Since that time, the family has found three more shells or pieces of them, including a live 37 mm high-explosive shell uncovered and safely detonated by the Corps on August 21.

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"We had a lot of sleepless nights from worrying and were under constant stress," she said. In the first days of September, the family decided that the risk wasn't worth it and moved to an apartment in Creedmoor.

Though the move has put the family in a financial bind, the couple says that safety for themselves and their six children was more important than money.

Kimberly Cash maintains that she is disappointed with the response that she has received from the Corps for her pleas for help in dealing with the situation.

"I have never been able to get a straight answer from the Corps' officers as to whether prudent people should stay on property like ours or leave," she stated.

"I asked them if they were me, would they stay in my house or leave, and I asked them, would they let their children play in my yard. They never would answer me," she said.

Cash also says that the Corps has "generated the fear of a bomb" when she has requested a letter from them stating that it is not safe for her family to live in their

our bank justification to freeze our mortgage until the situation is settled.

"As it is, we are paying a mortgage as well as apartment rent and also paying double light bills, etc. We will not be able to continue to do that for very long," she added.

Cash says she is also concerned about "treasure hunters" going on the family's property and being hurt or killed by unexploded ordnance.

"People are digging in our yard," she said. "We went home recently and there were tire tracks in our yard and dug up dirt. That is just ignorance," she exclaimed.

Cash says that many longtime residents of the area don't appear to take the threat of the old ordnance exploding very seriously.

"I know of people who use this old ordnance for doorstops and bookends," said Cash. "I really am afraid that is going to take someone away to focus everyone's attention on this problem."

Even though the Corps says that the Time Critical Removal for the Lakeview Estates area will begin in November, Cash says that Parsons, the contractor that the Corps contracted to actually do the surveys and

Family, Friends Day

The Synama Grove Baptist Church, 3100 Taylor Road, is extending its worship hours on Saturday, November 2, 2002, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Pastor, Rev. Dan Worth Timberlake, will deliver the message, "The Power of the Holy Spirit," following the service.

The pastor is available for counseling.

removals is still waiting to hear from Parsons.

"The Corps says that they will be able to get the area cleared by the end of the year, but they are not sure when that will happen."

Kimberly Cash says that she is still waiting to hear from the Corps about when the area will be cleared.

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Some of the people who live in the area are still waiting to hear from the Corps about when the area will be cleared.

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Neighbor Council

continues from page 20

The Neighbor Council is a group of people who live in the area and are interested in the area's future.

The Neighbor Council is a group of people who live in the area and are interested in the area's future.

Curl's Corner

continued from page 10

THE DAILY CALL

60 CENT
SCHEDULED BY N.Y.

The Independent Voice of the Capital Region

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 25, 2002

By church, a few monks and nuns sang hymns and prayed. Israeli forces allowed about 15 church bells ring Sunday but

For too many generations they have pacified and accommodated themselves to the most extreme, fanatical, violent elements of Islam, and those elements have now turned on us and the rest of the world.

Added McCain: "The Saudi royal family has been engaged in a Faustian bargain for years to keep themselves in power."

Still, none of the lawmakers knew whether the princess had

See LAWMAKERS, Page A1

Lifestyles...A9-10
Obituaries...B7
Arts...A7
Opinion...A11
Classified...C6-10
Sports...C1-5
Comics...C11
Television...A8
Horoscope...A10
Your Money...B8

See LAWMAKERS, Page A1

INDEX

Annie's Mail...A10
Lifestyles...A9-10
Obituaries...B7
Arts...A7
Opinion...A11
Classified...C6-10
Sports...C1-5
Comics...C11
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Group warns of unexploded bombs in U.S.

By MIGUEL BUSTILLO
Los Angeles Times

The federal government has understated the scale of the safety problem posed by old bombs and chemical and biological weapons buried at former military sites throughout the United States, according to documents disclosed by a group that airs accusations from whistle-blowing bureaucrats.

In one of the documents, a brief paper for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new enforcement director, John

"The source [of the documents] is someone in a position to provide it."

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Jeff Ruch
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Yet many of the sites have already been converted to civilian uses despite the presence of bombs, and the Department of Defense has been taking "ill-advised shortcuts to limit costs" on many cleanups, according to the paper, which was leaked along with other related documents by an EPA official to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

National Forecast

High pressure will bring partly sunny skies to northern areas of the Northeast, while a weak area of low pressure will be moving just south of the region penetrating cloudiness and the chance of a few isolated rain and snow showers that will hugst into the overcast.

Arctic cold will sink into the region following the storm.

National cities

City	High	Low
Albuquerque	47	30
Anchorage	39	30
Atlanta	62	42
Atlanta City	55	42
Baltimore	55	37
Boston	47	36
Cincinnati	40	27
Cincinnati	45	34
Dallas-Ft.Worth	34	10
Denver	36	21
Detroit	43	33
Hartford	43	33

National cities

High pressure will bring partly sunny skies to northern areas of the Northeast, while a weak area of low pressure will be moving just south of the region penetrating cloudiness and the chance of a few isolated rain and snow showers that will hugst into the overcast.

Oliver

Oliver...
The Associated Press

GREENBUSH • RT. 9 WILTON

ALL LIGHTS ON
CHRISTMAS TREE
20% OFF

Map shows today's weather at noon

Continued

Group warns of bombs on U.S. bases

Continued from Page A1

Environmental Responsibility. He described his organization as an "information laundromat" that protects conscientious public servants from retribution.

Among the documents is an EPA survey of closed military bases in 2000 that found that more than half of the sites polled — including Fort Ord on California's Monterey Peninsula — either had located chemical or biological weapons or suspected that they were present.

Fort Ord previously reported that it had found such weapons on site and, along with two other California sites — the Salton Sea Test Base in Imperial County and Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo — reported the

presence of unexploded munitions.

Military officials are conducting cleanups of all three California sites.

The EPA survey found that the military often had used open burning and detonation techniques to get rid of munitions without proper environmental permits, and had failed to erect fencing or warning signs at half of the old sites still containing munitions, even though many are close to housing, parks and other civilian locations.

Most of those findings were either modified or omitted from the final EPA report, which was later made public, a comparison shows. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility said its source at the EPA con-

tends that the omissions were made under pressure from the Department of Defense, which had paid for the survey. Defense officials in Washington did not respond to requests for comment.

In addition to the findings on chemical and biological weapons, the survey criticized unproven cleanup methods and the Department of Defense has been unable to determine how to clean up sites. It concluded that the Department of Defense has relied too heavily on statistical sampling to determine the likely presence of toxins.

The EPA draft said the Department of Defense also should have been examining historical records and conducting more visual inspections of the old firing ranges.



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NEWS UPDATE

Project to clean up old ordnance at WWII military camp near Butner

1-6-03

News & Record

Posted 5:42 p.m.

BUTNER (AP) -- A \$600,000 project to clean up old ammunition at the site of a World War II military camp near Butner is scheduled to begin Tuesday.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Monday that the project, expected to run through mid-February, will include a survey of 26 acres and a clean-up where items are found.

Previous surveys of the land found unexploded shells and bullets left from training exercises in the 1940s.

Initial evaluation of the land was conducted last spring and summer and numerous objects were found at Lake View Subdivision.

Ground will be cleared to a depth of six inches and families living near the area where work is conducted will be housed in motels if necessary, said corps spokeswoman Penny Schmitt.

She said the contractor will scan land with a sophisticated metal detector that can detect anything from "bazooka rounds to tractor parts, nails and horse shoes."

Camp Butner was established in 1942 as a 40,384-acre training and housing facility for World War II troops. The training grounds included some 15 firing ranges and a grenade range as well as a hospital for returning troops.

The camp was closed in 1947 and land was sold to the state and private interests. Some 4,750 acres were given to the North Carolina National Guard and other parts were used for residential development and farming.

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"Because some explosive objects were found in people's yards very close to homes, the risk to this neighborhood justifies this clearance action," said Col. Ray Alexander, commander of the corps' Wilmington district.

[Modest Losses](#)

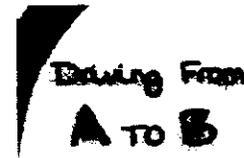
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Posted on Mon, Jan. 06, 2003

Project starting to clean up old ordnance
 Associated Press

BUTNER, N.C. - A \$600,000 project to clean up old ammunition at the site of a World War II military camp near Butner is scheduled to begin Tuesday.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Monday that the project, expected to run through mid-February, will include a survey of 26 acres and a clean-up where items are found.

Previous surveys of the land found unexploded shells and bullets left from training exercises in the 1940s.

Initial evaluation of the land was conducted last spring and summer and numerous objects were found at Lake View Subdivision.

Ground will be cleared to a depth of six inches and families living near the area where work is conducted will be housed in motels if necessary, said corps spokeswoman Penny Schmitt.

She said the contractor will scan land with a sophisticated metal detector that can detect anything from "bazooka rounds to tractor parts, nails and horse shoes."

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The camp was closed in 1947 and land was sold to the state and private interests. Some 4,750 acres were given to the North Carolina National Guard and other parts were used for residential development and farming.

"Because some explosive objects were found in people's yards very close to homes, the risk to this



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Updated Monday, January 27, 2003

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FROM THE OBSERVER

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- State
- Sports
- Business
- Weather
- Opinion
- Technology
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Corps clearing ammo in 26-acre Butner area

By Hunter Lewis : The Herald-Sun
hlewis@heraldsun.com
Jan 7, 2003 : 11:37 pm ET

BUTNER -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began digging Tuesday in a rural neighborhood labeled "high risk" after workers and residents found two unexploded artillery shells and several pieces of exploded shells.

The 26-acre area, including Lakeview Estates, a subdivision of six homes near Lake Butner, sits in what was the line of fire of an old World War II artillery range. The firing range was one of 15 that existed in the 1940s, when the 40,000-acre Camp Butner housed and trained about 40,000 U.S. Army troops for combat.

The \$600,000, five-week survey and dig off Lakeview Drive follows a spot survey the corps did last spring and summer on the old Army installation. The investigation revealed about 12 explosive objects, including some in the subdivision.

Engineers began focusing on Lakeview Drive in late 2001 when 9-year-old Taylor Cash picked up an exploded bazooka shell and placed it on his family's porch.

In August 2002, the corps found and detonated a live 37 mm round in the Cashes' front yard. Also in August, loggers found a live 155 mm shell in the woods north of the Cashes' home.

"When we find two [unexploded] items, yes, we consider that risk high," said John Belew, project manager with the corps. "There's no way that you cannot say there's a risk there if you find two live items in a person's yard."

Fearful of what may lie beneath their home and in their yard, Kimberly and Danny Cash moved their six children to a Creedmoor apartment in the fall.

"You want to go to sleep feeling like you'll be there and wake up in the morning," said Kimberly Cash, a Durham police officer.

In what is called a Time Critical Removal Action, engineers will clear brush and use heavy-duty metal detectors to locate old shells in the neighborhood down to 6 inches below the surface. If an unexploded shell is found, the corps will alert residents and move them to a hotel. Engineers will then uncover the shell -- which may range in size from a shell shot from a bazooka to one shot from a long cannon -- and detonate it beneath wood and a pile of sandbags.

No shells were detonated Tuesday, but Butner Public Safety officers stopped traffic outside of the subdivision for 15 minutes so workers could dig near Robert's Chapel Road, Belew said.

If the current survey reveals evidence of widespread contamination of explosives, the corps will continue with a deeper dig, Belew said, though he "doubts seriously that [the corps] will need to."

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Residents warned of WWII ordnance: Ammo found in Butner area still could be deadly (October 25, 2002)
Old shells raise new legal questions: Live ordnance on WWII firing range creates problems for new homeowners in Butner (September 2, 2002)

EXTERNAL SITES

Army Corps of Engineers survey efforts



The discovery of the old shells raises legal questions as to who is responsible, if anyone, for disclosing what some call contaminated land. When the Army pulled out of Butner in 1950 and sold the land, the deed mentioned unexploded shells. But over time, as the land was parceled out and sold, the original deed was not consulted.

On Dec. 10, 1983, two 8-year-old San Diego boys were killed when they found an abandoned, World War II-era mortar round and detonated it against a rock. In 1989, the families of the two dead boys received a total of \$6.3 million in settlements with San Diego County, city and the developers and builder of the community where the boys died.

Officials have repeatedly warned locals not to dig or search for old shells. People who find a suspicious object should not touch or try to move it. Instead, they should report it to their local law enforcement agency.

On the Net:

View the Corps' survey efforts at www.projecthost.com

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Corps clearing ammo in 26-acre Butner area

BY HUNTER LEWIS

News@heraldsun.com; 419-6651

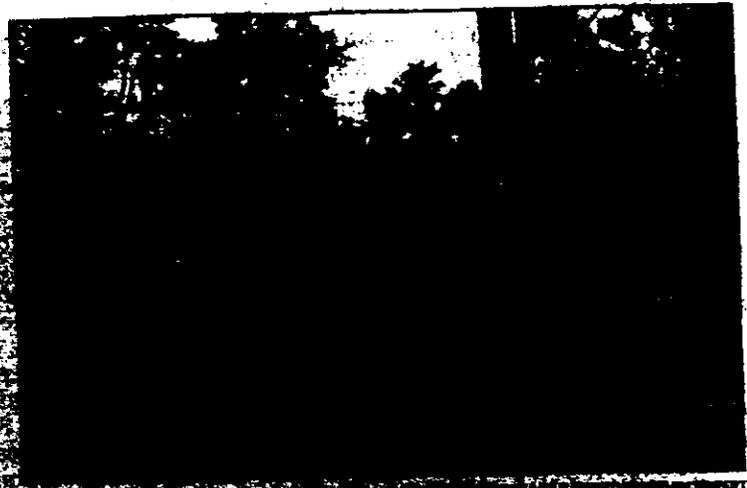
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The \$600,000, five-week survey and dig off Lakeview Drive follows a spot survey the corps did last spring and summer on the old Army installation. The investigation revealed about 17 explosive objects, including some in the subdivision.

Engineers began excavating Lakeview Drive in late July when 9-year-old Taylor Cash picked up an exploded bazooka shell and placed it on his front porch.

In August 2002, the corps found and destroyed a live 155 mm round in the Cashes' back yard. Also in August, workers found a live 155 mm shell in the woods north of the Cashes.



The Corps of Engineers cleared the neighborhood.

BUTNER

FROM PAGE A1

home.

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The discovery of the old shells raises legal questions as to who is responsible. If anyone is closing what some call contaminated land. When the Army pulled out of Butner in 1950 and sold the land, the corps located unexploded shells that were found as the land was parcelled out and sold, the original deed was not consulted.

On Dec. 10, 1983, two 8-year-old San Diego boys were killed when they found an abandoned World War II-era mortar shell and detonated it in their back yard. The families of the two dead boys received a total of \$6.5 million in settlements with San Diego County, city and the developers and builder of the community where the boys died.

Officials have repeatedly warned locals not to dig or search for old shells. If you find a suspicious object, do not touch or try to move it. Instead, they should report it to their local law enforcement agency.

View the Corps' survey efforts at www.projecthost.com

THE HERALD-SUN

1-8-03

DURHAM, NC

H avid Rogers
News Editor

The US Army Corps of Engineers began work to survey and clear unexploded ordnance from property at Lake View Subdivision near Butner on January 7, 2003.

Previous surveys of the area found unexploded ordnance remaining from training exercises conducted in the 1940's. The current clearance action will continue until mid-February 2003.

Since the summer, the Corps has found 12 unexploded artillery shells dating back to World War II. Residents of Lakeview Estates, a subdivision off of Roberts Chapel Road, have discovered that the area in which their homes are located is a prime location for finding unexploded ordnance.

The area in which they live was used as part of firing ranges for soldiers at Camp Butner during World War II.

The approximately 26 acres to be cleared were surveyed earlier as part of an Engineering Evaluation of the Camp Butner area conducted last spring and summer.

During that evaluation, the number of objects found in that subdivision led the Corps to recommend that a removal action be taken in the neighborhood.

During the clearance action, the ground will be cleared to a depth of six inches. Residents will be accommodated away from the area if it is necessary to remove potentially explosive objects.

"The Department of Defense policy on unexploded ordnance is that we use our limited resources to address the highest risks first," said Wilmington District Commander Col. Ray Alexander.

"Because some explosive objects were found in people's yards very close to homes, the risk to this neighborhood justifies this clearance action. The effort will cost more than \$600,000.

Camp Butner was established in 1942 as a 40,384-acre training and housing facility for World War II troops. The training grounds included approximately 15 firing ranges, a grenade range, a 1000-inch range, a gas chamber and a flame-thrower training pad.

The site was also home to one of the Army's largest general and convalescent hospitals and the War Department's Redeployment Center.

In 1947, the War Department closed Camp Butner and the land was sold to public and private interests. The general hospital was acquired by the state and named the John Umstead Hospital.

The North Carolina National Guard was given 4,750 acres of the Camp to be used for training. Some of the land was developed into residential property and farming. Some is North Carolina state land.

Over the past few months, awareness of the potential for unexploded ordnance in the area has been heightened as the US Army Corps of Engineers conducted an Engineering Evaluation on the site.

About a dozen explosive objects were found during the investigation, some of them on residential property.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is warning people to refrain from amateur efforts to detect and find unexploded ordnance at the former site of Camp Butner.

"We are aware that quite a few people are exploring with metal detectors, either on their own property or in other areas," Alexander.

"We are extremely concerned that this could lead to a death or a serious injury." Metal detectors by themselves won't set off buried unexploded ordnance, Col. Alexander said, but striking a shell, hand grenade or bazooka round with a digging implement could.

"The 37 mm rounds are particularly sensitive," he

Ordnance Clearance Starts At Lakeview

The Butner-Creedmoor News
COMMUNITY NEWS
1-09-03

said, "kicking one with a shovel could be fatal."

"We understand that people are very concerned about the potential for explosive objects on their property.

As the father of teenagers, I also know that young people can be curious and might want to investigate," Col. Alexander said.

"We ask that people take the right steps if they happen to find anything that looks suspicious, but we also ask that people not dig for possible ordnance. We don't want to see anyone hurt or killed!"

Steps To Take

What should you do if you find a suspicious object?

- Don't touch or attempt to move the object.
- Call your local law enforcement office. They know how to identify ordnance and who to contact.
- Don't dig for objects you have 'seen' with a metal detector.

"We appreciate property owners' willingness to work with us during the Engineering Evaluation, and we want to make sure that they and any visitors to the former Camp Butner site stay safe," Col. Alexander said.

Based on findings to date during the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis conducted by the Corps, the 26-acre area near Range road which encompasses the Lakeview Estates subdivision was identified for a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA). Property owners in this area have been notified according to the Corps.

During this action, the entire 26 acres was surveyed, and any objects found to a depth of 6 inches below the surface will be investigated and if necessary removed.

The survey portion of TCRA ended in November 2002, and the investigation portion will

begin on January 1.

Other actions may be recommended later based on more complete findings of the Engineering Evaluation.

Penny Schmitt of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the contact person for anyone having questions about the removal project. She can be reached at (910-251-4626.

Home No Longer Safe

The home of Danny and Kimberly Cash of Lakeview Estates is located in the target area of one of the Camp Butner artillery ranges.

The Cash's nine year old son Taylor found a live bazooka round while raking leaves in the family's yard in November, 2001.

Since that time, the family has found three more shells or pieces of them, including a live 37 mm high-explosive shell uncovered and safely detonated by the Corps on August 21, 2002.

After the discovery of the 37 mm shell in August, Kimberly Cash says that she no longer felt it was safe for her family to stay in the house.

"We had a lot of sleepless nights from worrying and were under constant stress," she said. In the first days of September, the family decided that the risk wasn't worth it and moved to an apartment in Creedmoor.

Though the move has put the family in a financial bind, the couple says that safety for themselves and their six children was more important than money.

In a prior article, Kimberly Cash maintained that she has been disappointed with the response that she has received from the Corps for her pleas for help in dealing with the situation.

"I have never been able to get a straight answer from the Corps officials on whether prudent people should stay on property like

ours or leave," she stated. "I asked them: if they were me, would they stay in my house or leave, and I asked them would they let their children play in my yard. They never would answer me," she said.

Cash said in the article that she was concerned about "treasure hunters" going on the family's property and being hurt or killed by exploding ordnance.

"People are digging in our yard," she said. "We went home recently and there were tire tracks in our yard and dug up dirt. That is just ignorance!" she exclaimed.

Cash says that many old time residents of the area don't appear to take the threat of the old ordnance exploding very seriously.

"I know of people who use this old ordnance for

doorstops and benches," said Cash. "I really am afraid that is going to take someone dying to focus everyone's attention on this problem."

Some Lakeview residents, including the Cashes and Roman Vos, say that they were not told before purchasing their property that it was part of a former army range. Both families have hired an attorney seeking to find out why they were not informed and to see if any other action can be taken to rectify their situation.

Cash also stated that she was concerned about other subdivisions going up in the area around Lakeview Estates and said, "I really fear that sooner or later there is going to be a death—it shouldn't take someone getting killed to do something about this."

Ordnance Clearance Starts At Lakeview

The Butner-Creedmoor News
COMMUNITY NEWS
1-09-03

[\[back\]](#)



Corps clearing ammo in 26-acre Butner area

By Hunter Lewis, The Herald-Sun
January 7, 2003 11:37 pm

BUTNER -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began digging Tuesday in a rural neighborhood labeled "high risk" after workers and residents found two unexploded artillery shells and several pieces of exploded shells.

The 26-acre area, including Lakeview Estates, a subdivision of six homes near Lake Butner, sits in what was the line of fire of an old World War II artillery range. The firing range was one of 15 that existed in the 1940s, when the 40,000-acre Camp Butner housed and trained about 40,000 U.S. Army troops for combat.

The \$600,000, five-week survey and dig off Lakeview Drive follows a spot survey the corps did last spring and summer on the old Army installation. The investigation revealed about 12 explosive objects, including some in the subdivision.

Engineers began focusing on Lakeview Drive in late 2001 when 9-year-old Taylor Cash picked up an exploded bazooka shell and placed it on his family's porch.

In August 2002, the corps found and detonated a live 37 mm round in the Cashes' front yard. Also in August, loggers found a live 155 mm shell in the woods north of the Cashes' home.

"When we find two [unexploded] items, yes, we consider that risk high," said Roland Belew, project manager with the corps. "There's no way that you cannot say there's a risk there if you find two live items in a person's yard."

Fearful of what may lie beneath their home and in their yard, Kimberly and Danny Cash moved their six children to a Creedmoor apartment in the fall.

"You want to go to sleep feeling like you'll be there and wake up in the morning," said Kimberly Cash, a Durham police officer.

In what is called a Time Critical Removal Action, engineers will clear brush and use heavy-duty metal detectors to locate old shells in the neighborhood down to 6 inches below the surface. If an unexploded shell is found, the corps will alert residents and move them to a hotel. Engineers will then uncover the shell -- which may range in size from a shell shot from a bazooka to one shot from a long cannon -- and detonate it beneath wood and a pile of sandbags.

No shells were detonated Tuesday, but Butner Public Safety officers stopped traffic outside of the subdivision for 15 minutes so workers could dig near Robert's Chapel Road, Belew said.

If the current survey reveals evidence of widespread contamination of explosives, the corps will continue with a deeper dig, Belew said, though he "doubts seriously that [the corps] will need to."

The discovery of the old shells raises legal questions as to who is responsible, if anyone, for disclosing what some call contaminated land. When the Army pulled out of Butner in 1950 and sold the land, the deed mentioned unexploded shells. But over time, as the land was parceled out and sold, the original deed was not consulted.

On Dec. 10, 1983, two 8-year-old San Diego boys were killed when they found an abandoned, World War II-era mortar round and detonated it against a rock. In 1989, the families of the two dead boys received a total of \$6.3 million in settlements with San Diego County, city and the developers and builder of the community where the boys died.

Officials have repeatedly warned locals not to dig or search for old shells. People who find a suspicious object should not touch or try to move it. Instead, they should report it to their local law enforcement agency.

On the Net:

View the Corps' survey efforts at www.projecthost.com

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[\[back\]](#)

- Careernet 17
- Great Getaways
- Modern Home
- Autonet 17
- Politics
- Military
- Consumer
- Traffic
- Sports
- Community
- Recipes
- Schools
- Personals
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- Yellow Pages
- Law
- TV Listings

News

Weather

Health

Entertainment

NBC 17

[<<back to home](#) | [News](#)

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Ammunition Cleanup Project Begins In Butner

POSTED: 1:28 p.m. EST January 8, 2003

BUTNER, N.C. -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun a \$600,000 project to clean up old ammunition at the site of a World War II military camp near here.

The project, which began Tuesday and is expected to run through mid-February, will include a survey of 26 acres and a clean-up of the items, according to the corps.

Previous surveys of the land found unexploded shells and bullets left after training exercises in the 1940s.

Public safety officers stopped traffic outside the Lakeview Estates subdivision for about 15 minutes Tuesday so workers could dig, said Roland Belew, project manager with the corps.

Engineers were clearing brush and using metal detectors to locate shells to a depth of 6 inches below the surface. No shells were detonated Tuesday, Belew said.

If an unexploded shell is found, the corps will alert residents and move them to a hotel. Engineers will then uncover the shell and detonate it beneath wood and a pile of sandbags.

If the survey reveals evidence of widespread contamination of explosives, the corps will continue with a deeper dig, Belew said, although he indicated it was unlikely.

Engineers began focusing on the subdivision in late 2001 when 9-year-old Taylor Cash picked up an unexploded bazooka shell and placed it on his family's porch.

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The corps round and detonated in August a live 37 mm round in the Cash's front yard. Loggers also found a five 5 mm shell that month in the woods north of the home.

"When we find two unexploded items, yes, we consider that risk high," Belew said. "There's no way that you cannot say there's a risk there if you find two live items in a person's yard."

Kimberly and Danny Cash moved Taylor and their five other children to a Creedmoor apartment in the fall.

"You want to go to sleep feeling like you'll be there and wake up in the morning," Kimberly Cash said.

Camp Butner was established in 1942 as a 40,384-acre training and housing facility for World War II troops. The training grounds included some 15 firing ranges and a grenade range as well as a hospital for returning troops.

The camp was closed in 1947 and land was sold to the state and private interests. About 4,750 acres were given to the North Carolina National Guard and other parts were used for residential development and farming.

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INDEPENDENT



Blasts from the Past

Aging bombs in Butner's backyard – and newly leaked EPA documents – ignite concerns about unexploded ordnance.

BY JON ELLISTON

Danny and Kimberly Cash thought they had found an ideal spot to settle and raise their six children. When they said their wedding vows at a gazebo outside their new home in 1997, it was, for both of them, a second try at marriage, and it seemed just the place to start a new life: The Cashes were the first occupants of Lakeview Estates, a modest but scenic subdivision a few miles north of Butner. "We moved out there to keep our kids kind of isolated from what we do in our profession," Kimberly explains; both she and Danny are Durham police officers. "We pounded the streets in Durham, so we didn't want to live there, too."

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COVER FEATURE For a time, the home in the country seemed to fit the bill.

There was room for the kids to roam around fields, forests and waterways, to grow up safely away from the bustle of the Bull City. But then, in 1999, there came a subtle warning sign of potential problems when two three-foot wide sinkholes opened up on their property. The Cashes asked around, but no one offered an alarming explanation, so they paid the holes little mind.

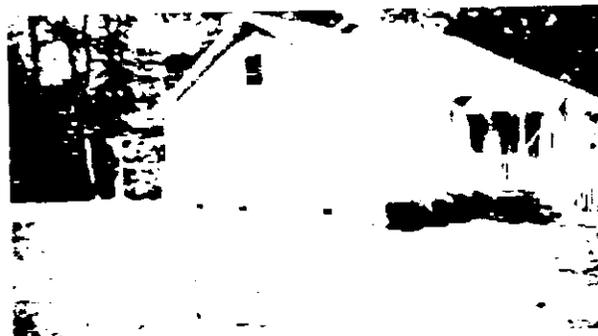




Photo By Jan Elliston

Last August, Army contractors found a live bazooka round in the Cash family's yard and detonated it in place after covering it with sandbags.

"It really was our dream house," Kimberly says, "a foundation for our family." All that changed on the afternoon of Nov. 11, 2001, when her son Taylor hollered, "Look what I found!"

Taylor, then eight, had been raking leaves on the edge of the yard when he heard his rake scrape metal, and picked up something he'd never seen before. He was scurrying with it toward the house when his 10-year-old brother, James, yelled a warning. Taylor dropped the item on the grass, a few feet from the concrete driveway.

The metal object, the Cashes would soon learn from the military, was exactly what it looked like: A live bazooka round, with part of its fins and all of its payload intact. Local authorities called Fort Bragg, which promptly dispatched a bomb squad. When the soldiers arrived, they donned protective gear, wrapped the round in a Kevlar blanket, carried it to their vehicle and drove off at a crawl to the nearby National Guard post. There, they used explosives to detonate the round.

Back at the Cash house, the questions came in waves. Danny and Kimberly fired off e-mails to the Defense Department, she says, asking: "Is this an isolated event? Should we be concerned? Can you come out here and have a look at our site? What should we do?" When answers were not forthcoming, the Cashes went into investigative mode, and started devoting their rare spare moments to finding the truth about Butner's thinly buried secret: unexploded ordnance (or UXO, in military shorthand).

Around Butner, this was anything but an isolated incident. The bazooka round in the yard, the Cashes learned, was one of thousands of pieces of UXO that are believed to lie on and beneath the surface of their community. That's because the family's homestead sat on part of the Army's former Camp Butner, a 40,000-acre, World War II-era training facility that hosted 15 munitions ranges in its heyday. Sixty years ago, infantry units pounded the soil here to prepare for fighting the Nazis. To practice urban warfare, the Army even built a mock German village, the bullet-ridden and cratered remains of which still sit just off a public road north of Butner.

explosive remnants in the Carolina countryside. The affected land straddles portions of Durham, Person and Granville counties, in a traditionally rural area that is one of the next frontiers of Triangle growth. Today, subdivisions are sprouting on the former bomb ranges.

"The bombs were there before we were there, but we were never told any of this information," Kimberly Cash says. "We didn't know the history." Now that they do know, the Cashes aren't sticking around to witness further discoveries. In October 2002, after additional munitions turned up in their neighborhood--including several more on their property--they decided to move.

"The stress level was way too high," she says. Suddenly their own yard was an off-limits danger zone, and "every time the kids would jump in the house, I was now nervous." Though they still have to make the mortgage payments, leaving Lakeview Estates seemed like the only thing to do. The family relocated to an apartment complex in Creedmoor, but they're still preoccupied by their bout with bombs, and still asking questions. Who, they wonder, is responsible for their plight? More directly, who, if anyone, is liable?

It's taken awhile to try to find out, but recently the Cashes, along with three of their former neighbors, hired a Raleigh law firm, Abrams & Abrams, to look into potential litigation. Margaret Abrams, a partner at the firm, declined to discuss the matter, citing the firm's policy of not commenting on pending cases. Her clients say the attorneys have told them they have legitimate and actionable legal grievances--though not, perhaps, against the government.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for cleaning up former military sites, is currently conducting a multimillion dollar spot survey of the 26,000 acres that are most likely to contain UXO, and recently oversaw an ordnance cleanup, down to 6 inches beneath the surface, on 26 acres in and around Lakeview Estates. During the cleanup they discovered and disposed of six additional explosive rounds.

But still the military has accepted no culpability in the matter. Corps officials note that the Army, which transferred most of its land back to private hands after the war, in most cases did so only after adding deed restrictions that forbade digging and developing. On many properties, however, farmers and developers ignored the restrictions, and over the years, as the lands were sold and re-sold to new owners, the warnings were dropped from replacement deeds. To complicate matters further, some at-risk areas--including the lots at Lakeview Estates--never

started the deed restrictions, despite the fact that they were littered with ordnance. (The property that is now Lakeview, it appears, sat just next to, but not directly on, a target range.)

The Cashes and some of their former neighbors think that the man who sold them their land, Jim Willett, of Willett Investments, should shoulder some blame. They say that Willett, who lives next door to Lakeview Estates on a 50-acre plot his family has owned for decades, kept information about the ordnance hazards to himself, though they believe he'd known about them for years.

Not so, says Willett, though he qualifies his denial a bit. "I've never seen a bomb," Willett told *The Independent* in a telephone interview last week. "When the fields were cleared for pastures for cows and horses, you'd occasionally come across some ordnance, some real decayed bazooka or something of that nature. But they [the Army] come out here and found some and they took care of it, they exploded them. They come out and cleaned it up completely, and gave us a clean bill of health." Besides, Willett says, "We purchased the land just like any other land, with a clean deed and a clean title. I was unaware that there was any ordnance, any more than what's on my property."

The recent furor at Lakeview is much ado about nothing, Willett says, expressing a view that is not uncommon in a community where scattered munitions--duds and live ones--have been a fact of life for decades. "There is no risk," he says flatly. "I don't know that anybody's ever been killed, I don't know of anyone who's ever been hurt. I guess the biggest hazard we have out here is deer. I hit one last night."

Miraculously, there has been only one injury, and no deaths, reported from the many mishaps with Camp Butner's leftover ordnance. But the lurking risks remain real, here and at hundreds of other retired ranges, as civilians increasingly find themselves on former military lands that were not sufficiently cleared. The scenario can be deadly: In 1983, two eight-year-old boys in San Diego found a 37-mm shell in their subdivision--which, like Lakeview Estates, was built on a World War II artillery range--and as they played with it, the shell exploded, killing both boys.

The Cashes have several news reports about the incident in their files. Reading them, they're reminded of how close the family came to experiencing a similar tragedy. In addition to the shell Taylor raked up, in August 2002, Army contractors found another shell of the same type while searching Lakeview Estates. It was located three inches beneath the surface of the Cashes' yard, 30 feet from their front door. Like the one in San Diego that proved fatal, and like the one Taylor discovered, the round was still live.

A 'sleeping giant'

Due in large part to cases like that of the Cash family, a long-unnoticed homeland security threat with leftover ordnance is finally getting some attention. Similar problems have been encountered in dozens of states, and the number of danger sites suggests that civilian sprawl and former bomb ranges will remain a troublesome mix for the foreseeable future. The Defense Department has issued rough estimates that there are already some 1,500 former defense sites in the United States that require cleanup of dangerous materials, and that ordnance could linger at some 16 million acres of old training grounds.



Photo By Jon Elliston

UXO refugees: Danny and Kimberly Cash, and their six children, abandoned their home when bombs turned up in their yard. Taylor Cash (kneeling, at right) discovered the first one while raking leaves.

"UXO contamination is the sleeping giant of the military cleanup program," says Lenny Siegel, director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight, a California-based research group that serves as a clearinghouse for military pollution information. "It's basically been a local story," he says, but one that is unfolding in hundreds of localities across the country. "Very rarely does someone try to put it together nationally."

Siegel and other experts say there is a new groundswell of concern brewing around the issue. However, as concerned individuals and interest groups, and even some government agencies, are taking steps to raise national awareness. Last November, the issue received a rare spate of media coverage when Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit that supports government whistleblowers, released scathing Environmental Protection Agency documents about the Pentagon's mishandling of the UXO

threat. Among them was an internal briefing paper, prepared in the summer of 2002, which warned the EPA's enforcement director that "cleanup of UXO on military ranges has the potential to be the largest environmental cleanup program ever to be implemented in the United States."

The document cited the military's "failure ... to comply with existing regulations" concerning ordnance cleanup. Further, it decried the "disturbing trend for the [military] services and the Corps of Engineers to limit their responses or take ill-advised short-cuts to limit costs." Another document, from April 2000, described an EPA survey of 206 former ranges, reporting that the ranges "pose potentially significant threats to human health and the environment." Many of the dangerous sites, the document noted, are now occupied and trafficked by civilians: "Although most ranges are in rural or remote areas, or are near small towns, there are residences in close proximity to most of the ranges. In addition, 33 percent are on or near surface water, wetlands, or floodplains, thus potentially exposing ecological receptors and making cleanup more difficult. UXO has been found at most of the ranges in this survey, and at 50 percent of the ranges the presence of chemical or biological weapons is known or suspected."

Following up on the publicity of the leaked documents, Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D-N.J.), one of Congress' leading voices on ordnance cleanup issues, pressed for the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works to hold hearings to assess the threat. "It is the government's responsibility to examine the status of these cleanups and to ensure that they proceed quickly and safely," he said. "There is no excuse for taking shortcuts when it comes to protecting the health and safety of Americans from hazardous environmental risks."

Hearings would help, but what is most desperately needed, cleanup advocates say, is definitive data on the scope of the problem. As the EPA's assessments noted, official estimates have thus far been hazy, because, despite years of prodding by Congress, the Defense Department has yet to produce an inventory of its former training sites. Hard numbers should finally become available this spring, as the Pentagon is slated to complete a long-delayed, comprehensive listing of the places where training left explosives behind.

That inventory, more than anything else, could convince politicians and their constituencies of the size and severity of the problem at hand. So says Jeff Swanson, a UXO expert for the Interstate Technology Research Council, which trains and consults state and federal employees involved in military cleanup projects. "If there's a watershed now," Swanson says, referring to

the recent wave of interest in ordnance contamination. "the flood is going to be when this listing comes out, and local communities find out, first of all, that they're living next to problem sites that they didn't know about, and second, that there is not sufficient planning or resources to clean them up and make them safe."

More worry than cleanup

After it has identified all the risk areas, the Defense Department will face the gargantuan task of picking priority cleanup sites and funding years of survey and clearance operations. Based on its track record so far, the military has given ordnance cleanup advocates little hope that the process will be quick or thorough. But despite its shortcomings in assessing the problem, the Defense Department has begun to take some concrete, if incomplete, steps toward addressing it.

The department's budget for "UXO response" in fiscal year 2003 is \$252 million. While most of that will go to current survey and cleanup efforts like the one near Butner, roughly \$20 million will be spent on research and development of munitions detection and cleanup technologies, which have been found lacking during many recent cleanups. Among the more promising approaches introduced in recent years is aerial detection of buried ordnance. Helicopter-mounted metal-detection gear, for example, was developed to assist cleanups of huge training ranges in Alaska. And several Pentagon-funded research projects are looking for ways to track and mitigate groundwater contamination on and near former ranges--a worry above and beyond the threat of the old bombs exploding. There's even a "green munitions" campaign underway to develop non-toxic ammunition and training ordnance.

The advancement of such technologies, however, has done little to stem the worries in communities like Butner, where the slow flow of cleanup funds has left many residents angry. A key problem, say experts from both inside and outside the government, is that the Corps of Engineers' cleanup budget falls far short of its needs.

"If you talk to the Army, they say it's going to take them between 70 and 200 years to address the [UXO] problem at formerly used defense sites," Siegel says. "It's totally inadequate. By the time you deal with the high-priority sites, there's hardly any other money around to address the other sites. It's not the fault of the Corps people in the field, or the Corps people at headquarters, who say there's not enough money. It's people at the Defense Department and Congress who won't put enough in to do the job."

penny Schmitt, spokesperson for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers branch in Wilmington, which is overseeing the work at the former Camp Butner, makes a very similar case when asked why it's taken so long to begin the partial cleanup there. "The principal factor in how fast we can work is funding," she says. "We can only get work done when we have money. There are something more than a thousand sites nationwide that need to be addressed, and we have spent more than \$3 million at this site. There's competition for those funds, and the funding is scarce."

Frankie Vos, a retired nurse who lives in Lakeview Estates on property adjoining the Cashes' with her husband and her elderly parents, says she thinks the government's skimping is putting her family at risk. "They're putting a price on our safety," she says. "You're talking about people's lives, people out here who have children and don't even know about this. What's a life worth?"

Denying the danger

The history of the Camp Butner site suggests that military policies and budgets aren't the only reasons the former training grounds make for uneasy living grounds. Local civilians, as well, have played a role in overlooking, downplaying, and sometimes even denying the danger.

As it abandoned its training areas after the war, the military claimed it had done its best to clean up explosives. "Dedudding operations have recently been completed on the ranges at Camp Butner," the Army Corps of Engineers announced in an April 1950 press release. "Tons of practice missiles were gathered and disposed of and several thousand high explosives duds were destroyed in place. The duds were comprised of hand grenades, rifle grenades, rockets and Howitzer shells up to 240 millimeter. Any one of the duds could have caused serious injury or tragedy to the persons disturbing it." The release hinted that the bombs could long grace the Butner landscape. Thousands of acres were being sold back to private citizens, but with a major caveat: "There are several areas that will be disposed of with a restriction placed on them against sub-surface use. These areas received a heavy concentration of fire of high explosive shells and there is a great possibility of unexploded duds remaining underground."

In many cases, the warnings and restrictions went ignored. Throughout the 1950s and '60s, as farmers plowed into former range areas, several tractor blades were damaged when they struck and ignited buried bombs. Hikers and hunters came across hundreds of explosives, and many handled the items. One farmer later said that he'd chucked more than 70 rounds into a pile, without incident. There was a close call in the summer of 1958, when someone took a pile of scrap metal that included a mortar

yard melted the pile down, the shell exploded, sending flaming debris over neighboring buildings. No one was hurt, according to local news reports.

It wasn't until the 1970s that reports surfaced of an UXO casualty at Butner, and details of the incident are few. In 1976, a former game warden told the *Durham Morning Herald* about a hunter from Chatham County who had found a shell near Butner a few years before. The hunter, who is not named in the newspaper article, reportedly took the shell home, where it exploded, injuring his arm.

The prospect of such accidents kept the Camp Butner ranges on the military's radar long after World War II. Army demolition teams from Fort Bragg made annual visits until the late 1960s, and their reports indicate that they disposed of an average of 13 live explosives each year. But that, it appears, was more of a scattershot effort than a comprehensive plan for removing the old bombs, for many remained. So common were the UXO findings, potentially lethal items came to seem benign. People even displayed shell remnants on their mantelpieces and used them as doorstops, as though they were some kind of bizarre local folk art.



Courtesy Of Army Corps of Engineers

This Army photo shows the variety of munitions found on Camp Butner's former training ranges.

But the problem, while submerged in the local consciousness, keeps rearing its head. The 1983 deaths of the two boys in San Diego was a reminder of the genuine dangers. Shortly after that, the Defense Department began surveying selected sites thought to harbor similar risks. An April 1990 Corps of Engineers report on Butner affirmed that "ordnance is a major problem," and that former target zones rife with munitions "are not fenced or marked

as dangerous areas.

Today, the dangers on a given property can be hard to gauge, given that many homeowners are living on contaminated lands with "clean" deeds, which had been prepared by title lawyers and insurers as the properties changed ownership over the years. And even many of those who are aware of the problem tend to minimize the dangers. That's understandable, says Frankie Vos, because discussion of buried bombs can hurt property values. Nonetheless, she thinks such people are making the wrong calculus. "Anybody dealing with real estate in this area is going to more than likely shrug it off," she says. "It's all about the dollar bill. I know some of the old-timers in the community will say, 'Well, it's always been here.' And I get so sick of hearing that, because it shouldn't be here. It shouldn't be anywhere."

Lives on hold

The Corps of Engineers' work at Butner is far from complete. At present, the Corps' contractor, Atlanta-based Parsons Engineering Science, is winding up work on an evaluation, using 200 statistical sampling plots, of more than 20,000 acres that may contain ordnance. In the 26 acres at Lakeview Estates, they're scanning the land again, this time using gear that should detect any suspect objects buried as low as four feet. To do similar in-depth surveys and cleanups elsewhere, the Corps will have to request and be granted additional Defense Department funds, a process that can take years.

Meanwhile, some residents living at nearby trouble spots say they're not getting the help they need to determine if their land is safe. Amy and Wyatt Blalock, a married couple in their thirties, bought a house a few miles north of Lakeview in January 2000. At the time, they say, they'd heard nothing about ordnance problems in the area, from the person who sold them the property or anyone else. Then, on Sept. 18, 2002, Wyatt was stepping out of his truck in the driveway when he turned his ankle on a cylindrical brass object. It turned out to be a detonator for a training round.

"So I got my brother-in-law's metal detector, because I wanted to sweep the yard," he says. "And within the first five minutes, I found a 155 mm shell, about two feet from the corner from one of our barns. It was 35 feet from our back door, and it was in the basketball court where [the previous owners'] kids were dribbling balls on top of it." The Army informed the Blalocks that the item was a white phosphorous shell, and strongly advised against looking for additional ordnance.

Despite such clear and present dangers, the Blalocks say, Corps

the government will fund a cleanup of the site, given the budget constraints. "Now this is putting our whole life on hold," Wyatt says. "We had a lot of plans for the house and the land, and we don't want to proceed with that, if the place is not safe to live. And we were basically told that it's not safe to plant a flower garden."

"We're stuck," Amy adds. "We can't leave. I could not even look at myself in the mirror if I were to sell this house without disclosing it, like it was done to us."

"We sympathize," says Penny Schmitt, the Corps spokesperson in Wilmington, about complaints the Army is doing too little, too late. "This is something that really gets at people's sense of their security in their own homes. We can't do everything that people wish we could do, and we understand very much their wishes, but we have to work within the limitations of the resources that we have."

Lenny Siegel says that even as public awareness of the problem rises, the funding shortages that have plagued UXO cleanup efforts may well continue. "The Defense Department is of two minds," he says. "There are people on the inside who recognize the problem and really would like to see funding not only for the cleanup but for the research. And then there are people who want to use the money for other things. And particularly whenever it looks like we're going to war, it's easier to get money to create more problems than to solve them."

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Backyard Bombs Cause Granville County Couple To Tread Lightly

BUTNER, N.C. -- A Granville County couple made a terrifying discovery this week when they stumbled across a bomb in their backyard.

The bomb was found near an area where explosives have been found before. But the discovery had W.C. and Amy Blaylock feeling like hostages in their own home.

They've been forced to live a cautious lifestyle, they said, in which they never know where to put their feet.

Over time, the Blaylocks have realized that their sprawling 10-acre estate is a virtual mine field. Since 2000, the Army has found eight live shells on the land where Camp Butner used to sit.

The most recent discovery is a foot-long munition, believed to be left over from training exercises performed during World War II.

W.C. Blaylock stepped right on it Thursday night.

"I landed on what felt like a turnip," he said. "But then I looked down, and, knowing what I know about this area, I just got away."

Said Amy Blaylock: "He could have been killed."

The Blaylocks also found a bomb last September that created a hole in the ground just 30 feet from their kitchen.

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In the 18 months they've lived here, they've also found bullet shells and weapons casings.

The Army has told the Blaylocks to watch where they step and to call emergency officials if they find anything that appears dangerous.

Saturday, the Army Corps of Engineers will come out to the Blaylock residence and remove the explosive from their property.

"We want them to clean it up," Amy Blaylock said. "We want it in writing that it's going to be safe, that our kids will be safe."

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Granville County Families Wary Of 'Hot Zone' Of Former Army Training Ground

Unexploded Army Munitions Discovered In Residents' Yards

BUTNER, N.C. -- Bombs from a different era have a Granville County family fearing each step may be their last -- after another family left their home due to the potential danger.



Unexploded artillery shells and other Army munitions have been found in Granville County yards

Many families in the area live on land that used to be a World War II-era Army training ground. Now they're finding some of the leftover explosives.

W.C. and Amy Blaylock bought a home in January 2002. Then they discovered they could be surrounded by unexploded Army munitions from a time when their land was part of Camp Butner.

"We were told we were in a hot zone," Amy said. "A heavy artillery range is what the Army Corps of Engineers told us that we lived in."

W.C. stepped on a 150-millimeter high explosive in the woods near his home last week. Saturday,

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an army explosives team removed it.

Six months ago, the Blaylocks found a similar shell next to their shed.

The Blaylocks live 10 miles from the Lakeview subdivision, where another family found two live shells last summer.

"Living here, we feel we are in imminent danger," Danny Cash said at the time.

The Army Corps of Engineers committed to searching the Cash's subdivision for more ordnance. But Kim and Danny Cash and their six children left, anyway, for safety's sake. They now rent an apartment in Creedmoor.

The Cashes are planning to sue those who sold them the land, as well as Government entities that kept them in the dark about the potential danger on the property. They're fighting for themselves and others like the Blaylocks, who are waking up to the same horror.

"We fully intend to stay here," W.C. Blaylock said, "and we expect something to be done about the problem in the ground."

The Army Corps of Engineers has funding to search for ordnance in the Lakeview Estates subdivision. But they have no plans to search the land where the Blaylocks live.

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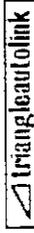
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Army Corps of Engineers expands war munitions search in two locations

BY HUNTER LEWIS

hlewis@heraldsun.com; 419-6651

Jun 28, 2003 : 8:47 pm ET

BUTNER -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expanded its search for World War II-era munitions last week in a subdivision where at least eight live shells have been found, and on a Rougemont couple's property about eight miles away, where two additional live shells were found.

Corps official Roland Belew said the team surveyed two acres of Norma Reilly's property in Butner's Lakeview Estates and about three acres of Wyatt and Amy Blaylock's 10-acre property in Rougemont.

The Corps won't know for sure whether more shells or other metal objects, such as old plows or horseshoes, are embedded in the soil, however, unless it decides to dig for them, he said.

Engineers used sophisticated metal-detecting equipment to probe six inches below the surface and pinpointed any buried metal with global-positioning devices. The Corps performed similar surveys in the 26-acre Lakeview Estates in January and March.

Belew said the Corps will use the surveys to develop a plan of action, called a draft engineering evaluation and cost analysis, by late September that will explain the extent of the ground contamination around Butner and what the Corps intends to do about it. The plan could involve a multimillion-dollar cleanup and a program to educate the public about the dangers of old shells.

In the 1940s, soldiers fired thousands of shells on 15 munitions ranges in the area near where Granville, Durham and Person counties meet. The 40,000-acre base, Camp Butner, housed and trained some 40,000 U.S. Army troops for combat in World War II.

Lakeview Estates sits on the edge of a 37 mm munitions range. The Blaylocks' land was once a mock German village pounded by 105 mm and 155 mm shells.

When the Army turned the land back over to the state and private residents in 1947, it

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disclosed the leftover shells in the deed. But over time, as the land was parceled out and sold to private homeowners, that deed was not consulted.

Roman and Francis Vos moved into the modest subdivision in 1997, and they knew nothing about the shells until their neighbor's 8-year-old son picked up a live bazooka round in 2001 while raking leaves in his yard.

"When we purchased this land, there was no disclosure of [shells]," said Francis Vos, 56. "Are the new homeowners being told about this when they're coming in?"

Vos said she put up a sign outside the subdivision in December that read: "Beware, Live Bombs." Someone took the sign down by the next morning, she said. Vos said local real estate agents and developers feared mention of the explosives would drive down property values and hurt the county's tax base.

"It's amazing to me that the county, the state, that nobody I know of is saying, 'Look, we've got to put a stop to this,'" she said. "It's all about the money, money, money."

Durham police officers Kimberly and Danny Cash, whose son Taylor found the live bazooka shell, moved their six children to a Creedmoor apartment in fall 2002 after the Corps found two more live shells in their yard.

Kimberly Cash said her family received at least one angry phone call a day from residents who told her to stop making a big deal of the ground contamination. Some teachers at Butner-Stem Elementary School even asked her why she continued to pursue the issue, she said.

"These are well-educated people who are turning their backs," Cash said.

Members of the Cash family, afraid for their safety, have since moved to northern Orange County, where they are renting a home while still paying the mortgage on their Lakeview Drive house.

About a mile from Lakeview Drive, several new houses and cleared lots boast "for sale" signs.

Mike Arrington owns 190 acres where some of the new homes sit. He bought the land last year and said his father farmed the land for 30 years and never found any old shells.

"I'm not concerned," he said. "I haven't heard of anyone finding anything except for about a mile away.

"Right now, I don't see a necessity to disclose it," he continued. "Everybody sees the newspaper. I didn't feel that by not mentioning that I'm being deceitful in any manner."

Uncle's sloppy habits

By BARRY SAUNDERS, Staff Writer

To Don Moore, buying a house in the bucolic Lakeview Estates subdivision in Butner took him a step closer to heaven.

Unfortunately for him and the handful of other Lakeview Estates residents, they now fear that every step they take could literally land them in heaven -- if they perchance step on or somehow detonate one of the unexploded bombs the Army left in the area when it was a training site during World War II.

Moore, an Air Force veteran and outdoorsman who thinks nothing of sitting for hours in a tree to get a good shot at a deer with his bow and arrow, moved to Butner from upstate New York.

"This is where I want to be," he said while sitting on his back porch, a placid lake visible a couple of hundred yards away. "It's a rural, tranquil area.

"It's so quiet at night that you can hear bats' wings flapping. ... This is heaven. But heaven has become tainted."

The taint affixed itself to Moore's heaven when a neighbor's 9-year-old son, while raking the front yard, raked up a 37 mm mortar round.

The Army Corps of Engineers started a search for munitions in the area soon thereafter. Moore said he and the neighbors whose child found the mortar, Danny and Kimberly Cash, were not satisfied with the corps' proposed cost-benefit analysis -- "They were going to weight the cost of searching for explosives against the cost of someone actually being blown up," he said.

The Cashes and their six children moved away, but they continue to pay the mortgage on a house in which they're afraid to live. The corps has expanded its munitions search, which should allow residents to sleep -- and walk -- better.

When the Army was running Camp Butner during World War II, soldiers launched thousands of rounds of ammunition into the local woods and fields. In recent years, at least eight live rounds have been found near people's houses, and the Army has agreed to survey the area to help figure out what to do next.

Aware of the area's history and of the possibility that live rounds were just beneath my feet, I approached Moore's house like Tiny Tim: tiptoeing through the tulips.

"Am I bitter?" Moore asked, repeating my question.

"Yes. This was supposed to be the last spot we were ever going to live. ... They found a blasting cap in my driveway. Now, we're on a powder keg," Moore said.

There's one thing about Moore's situation that I envy, but it's not enough to make me want to change places with him or his neighbors. He said, in essence, that he fears an explosion every time he mows his lawn, which was neatly trimmed.

Perhaps I can use that excuse -- a fear of going "Kablooey" -- the next time my persnickety neighbors stick a note in my door asking me to mow my lawn.

Picking up after yourself when you're done is one of the first things your parents teach you.

Too bad our ... Uncle Sam -- didn't get the message. If he had, Moore and his neighbors wouldn't be tiptoeing through the tulips every time they venture outside ...

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