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News Release

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US Army Corps of Engineers to dredge at MOTSU

WILMINGTON, North Carolina—Maintenance dredging for the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point (MOTSU) will begin next week, according to Glenn McIntosh, Wilmington District Project Manager. “We have held our pre-construction meetings with the contractor,” McIntosh said, “and the project is now ready to get under way.”

This year’s project involves bucket and barge dredging to maintain the MOTSU channel’s depth at 40 feet including two feet of allowable clearance. “We do not expect to be bringing up any virgin (previously undredged) bottom material,” McIntosh said. “But there might possibly be some Hurricane Floyd debris there that we don’t want to turn loose.”

“A requirement to screen out any debris that is more than 10 inches square is built right in to the contract,” McIntosh said. “That type of debris will be disposed of in a landfill, not in water. Our three most recent dredging projects have turned up very little loose debris. However, we are aware that fishermen had concerns about debris damage to shrimp nets when we completed the Deep Draft Dredging project at MOTSU soon after Hurricane Fran in 1996, which involved new work and previously undredged areas. We are committed to ensuring that there is no debris problem arising from our port maintenance at MOTSU.”

The Corps met with local fishermen in March to explain the dredging process that will be used at MOTSU, and to map the areas where dredging and disposal will take place. As part of its navigation support mission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, routinely dredges harbor channels at the Ports of Morehead City, Wilmington, and MOTSU, and keeps channels clear in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The district accomplishes dredging both with

its own fleet, and through contractor vessels. For more information about the Wilmington District, contact Penny Schmitt (910) 251-4626 or visit our web site at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil>.