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## Work to start in September 2010

# New England District Army Corps of Engineers to Conduct Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study on Martha's Vineyard

**CONCORD, Mass.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Trustees of Reservations are working together to ensure beach areas on Martha's Vineyard are clear of practice munitions.

A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) will be conducted starting this fall and extending into 2012. The objective of the RI is to search for and locate military munitions at Cape Poge, South Beach and Tisbury Great Pond. The purpose of the FS is to evaluate the feasibility of various remedial alternatives to address the munitions. The results of the geophysical surveys will help define the horizontal and vertical boundary where munitions may be buried as well as the type of buried munitions. Geophysical surveys will be performed in the deep water offshore, the shallow waters near the shoreline, the beaches, dunes, upland land, land adjacent to ponds, and respective pond areas. As part of this effort, the Corps will require access to private property and is in the process of contacting land owners to acquire rights of entry.

The cost of the RI/FS is approximately \$5.2 million and is funded by the Defense Environmental Restoration Program to clean up Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). All three areas are FUDS and were used for practice bombing training during World War II.

The Corps of Engineers New England District conducted a removal action in 1989/1990 at South Beach removing munitions from the beach and dune areas. The dynamic nature of the beach with ocean currents and tides caused more practice munitions (expended rocket motor bodies ranging in size from 2.5 inches to 5 inches), to appear in shoreline waters at the ocean bottom. In 2009, the Corps conducted a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) in which more practice munitions were removed along the beach in both the shallow and deep waters out to approximately 100 feet offshore. A TCRA was also conducted at Cape Poge along the shoreline, in the mudflats and in and around Shear Pen Pond. A Site Inspection was conducted at Tisbury Great Pond in 2008 and recommended further work be performed under an RI/FS.

The Time Critical Removal Action cleared limited areas of munitions. The RI/FS will help determine if any future actions are required to protect human health and the environment. The Corps' contractor, UXB, and subcontractor VRHabilis, under the direction of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Ala., will perform the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study at all three sites. Work is scheduled so as not to interfere with the island summer tourist season. Signs notifying the public of what actions to take should they find any object that looks like, or they believe to be, a munitions item, are posted at both South Beach and Cape Poge. Similar signs will be posted in the vicinity of Tisbury Great Pond. The public should

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## **Corps to Conduct Remedial Investigation on Martha's Vineyard/2-2-2-2**

immediately follow the three R's; Recognize the item as potentially hazardous, Retreat from the area without touching or moving the item, and immediately Report the item to the local police by calling 911.

The Corps' Huntsville Center is the Corps' Center of Expertise for Ordnance and Explosives projects. The Corps New England District has project management responsibility for the entire project and provides direction, funding, oversight, and public relations coordination.

The Corps will implement a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study followed by a Proposed Plan, Decision Document, Remedial Actions, and a Long Term Monitoring Program, if warranted at all three sites. Remedial Investigation activities include geophysical work, sampling, etc. to determine the nature and extent (type, quantity, and location) of munitions. Long Term Monitoring activities include annual awareness training, signage, information pamphlets, institutional controls, 5 year reviews, etc. The Corps, working with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and its contractors have developed educational awareness training for the TTOR and DCR employees.

*For more information, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' New England District POCs: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Project Manager Carol Ann Charette at 978-318-8605 (office) or 978-505-2918 (cell) or Public Affairs Specialist, Tim Dugan at 978-318-8264*

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