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## Field work to start Monday, Dec. 6

# 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 continue to work together to ensure beach areas on Martha's Vineyard, Mass., are clear of practice munitions as the Corps of Engineers prepares to start field work on the RI/FS on Dec. 6.

A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is being conducted and will continue into 2012. The field work should be completed by June 2011. 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 field work will begin at Cape Poge and progress to South Beach and Tisbury Great Pond," said Corps of Engineers, New England District Project Manager Carol Ann Charette. "The initial work will consist of performing a geophysical survey on the land and beach areas to determine if there are any buried ordnance items, performing a bathymetric survey to determine the bottom depth in both Cape Poge Bay and Tisbury Great Pond and to seed inert items off the shore of Tisbury Great Pond and South Beach to track how these items move in the ocean currents offshore."

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 also 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 the work progresses, the Corps contractor, UXB is posting door hangars on each resident's door notifying each land owner when the contractor will be performing work on their specific property.***

As part of this effort, the Corps requires access to private property and is in the process of finalizing their attempts at acquiring rights of entry. Residents who have been contacted by the Corps and have not returned rights of entry can contact Charette at 978-318-8605 or by email [carol.a.charette@usace.army.mil](mailto:carol.a.charette@usace.army.mil). Any parcel for which a right of entry has not been received may not be included in these projects at this time or in the future.

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.

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## **Corps conducting RI/FS on Martha's Vineyard/2-2-2-2**

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 also conducted a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) at South Beach 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. 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 these sites. The public should 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 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.

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