



US Army Corps of Engineers
Norfolk District



City of Hampton

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 31, 2003

Points of Contact:

Diana Bailey or Gerald Rogers, Public Affairs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk, 201-7606

Dawn Fulsber-Thatcher, EPA Site Contact, 215-814-3270

Stacie Driscoll, Virginia FUDS Manager, 215-814-3368

Ed Novi, City of Hampton, 728-3501

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commences ordnance sweep at Buckroe Beach

What: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ordnance experts will begin the first phase of the ordnance investigation at Buckroe April 1 to determine what, if any, ordnance remains on the beach. Initially the field crew will establish and calibrate the appropriate geophysical survey equipment for the ordnance sweep. The next step will be the surface sweep and removal itself, which will involve ordnance experts with special metal detecting equipment. This should take 6 to 8 weeks.

The Corps will establish a safety perimeter around the investigation area. Should any ordnance be found, it will be detonated within a 200-foot safety perimeter and any remnants removed.

Who: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working in cooperation with the City of Hampton to schedule work and mark off those portions of the beach as survey progresses.

When: News media will be able to interview various Corps and City representatives and photograph equipment testing between 1 and 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 1.

Where: Reporters and photographers are asked to meet at the land side of the Buckroe Beach fishing pier, Hampton.

Background: This sweep is in response to the military ordnance found last summer buried in 12 to 18 inches of sand in shallow water. The ordnance items resemble a large bullet and are approximately 12 inches long and 3 inches in diameter. Officials suspect the source of ordnance at Buckroe Beach was a 1990 beach replenishment effort that inadvertently dredged offshore sand that likely contained the ordnance. The Army and Navy used the items found at Buckroe during World War I and II for coastal defense to take down aircraft. They are not currently used by the military.

Why Significant: This combined effort will continue to ensure the safety of this popular beach. Following the surface sweep, the Corps will work with the interagency team to assess long-term safety measures to prevent ordnance at the beach in the future.