



Marine Corps Base Quantico

Removal of Potential Buried Munitions

April 2016

What's going on?

The area encompassing the now demolished Russell Elementary School and the Child Development Center North has been identified for a clearance of potential buried munitions in order to allow for the safe construction of the new middle/high school. Safely investigating and clearing former ranges is a necessary part of the construction process at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico. This clearance will reduce the risk of inadvertent contact with potential buried munitions that could be disturbed during the construction process, as well as during future site activities. MCB Quantico is working with Marine Corps Community Services, the Department of Defense Education Activity, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Washington, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to perform the clearance.

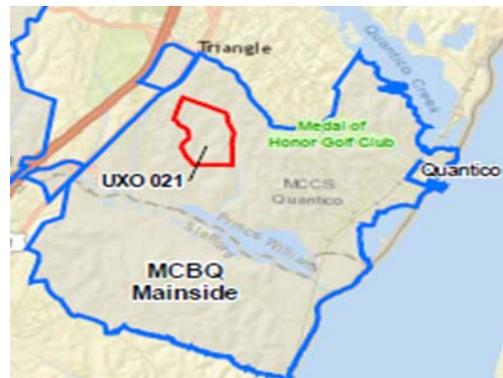


Figure 1 – UXO Site 21

Site History

The site, designated as UXO 21, encompasses 285 acres and was used as a training area from approximately 1935 to 1943 (see Figure 1). In 1953, construction was completed on Russell Elementary school. Programs to clear former ranges did not exist at that time. The area for the removal of potential buried munitions consists of approximately 19 acres in the northern portion of UXO 21, including the area around the demolished Russell Elementary School and the Child Development Center (see Figure 2, area in yellow).



Figure 2

Is it safe?

Department of the Navy regulations require a safety buffer zone, known as an exclusion zone, based on the size of the maximum suspected munition type when digging for potential buried munitions. An exclusion zone requires all non-essential personnel to be outside the zone when there is actual digging occurring. Only the trained technicians involved with the clearance are considered essential personnel. The exclusion zone is not in effect when there is no digging because there is no possible contact with a potential buried munition. Exclusion zone distances are calculated from the point where digging originates, so the zone will move as the point of origin changes to ensure the safety of non-essential personnel. For UXO 21, the exclusion zone distance is 316 feet. This means buildings must be unoccupied and roads closed if they are within 316 feet from the location of digging. Signs and barricades will mark exclusion zones. Technicians will maintain perimeter observation and will cease work if it appears mistaken entry by non-essential personnel may occur. Work will not resume until it is safe.

How can I help?

Please be patient. There will be inconveniences. Roads, buildings, sidewalks, and trails will be affected during hours when the clearance will occur. Houses will not be affected but certain garages will; residents will be notified of dates and times. To reduce inconveniences as much as possible, most of the clearance will be done in the evening, at night, and on weekends when Crossroads Elementary, Quantico Middle/High School, and the Child Development Center North are unoccupied. Work may last until July or August, depending on multiple variables. Portions of Purvis Road and Courtney Drive will be closed to pedestrian and vehicle traffic Tuesday to Friday from 6:30 PM – 2:30 AM. Directional lighting will be set up to facilitate working at night. Please observe no entry signs, road barricades, and blocked areas. Do not enter a marked exclusion zone.