



National Association of OEW Contractors

Newsletter

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

July 2008

We've all had a busy year not only with NAOC, but responding and preparing for a year of contract "recompetes", new contracts and increased MMRP funding. Even in the face of a busy year of competition, NAOC has been hard at work with congressional activities, identifying and working to resolve hot issues affecting our membership and working closely with our government partners to improve the industry as a whole. A couple of examples of what we've been up to are described throughout the newsletter:



Heather L. Polinsky

- Reinvigorated our **partnering activity** - Having held two sessions with the Huntsville Center (e.g. discussing improving the use of PBA on MMRP and Operational Range projects) and expanding our third to include the Army Environmental Command, and the other USACE Design Centers.
- Furthering the **NAOC Consensus Standards** - We are nearing completion of a draft document that will be the first step in establishing NAOC as the go to source for industry standards.
- Refine and streamline **Employee Possessor Requirements** – We have taken the beginning steps to work with ATF to reduce workload for our member companies and actually accomplish the safety/security desired by current regulations.
- Continuing to create **Superb Networking & Educational Events** We have a fantastic set of speakers for Lobby Day 2008 and the 2nd NAOC and SERDP/ESTCP Technology Transfer Event.

While this has been a good year so far and we continue to set goals and accomplish new things for our industry I need to urge you to continue to find ways to participate in our organization. As an all volunteer organization your support is crucial to the accomplishment of our goals. A couple of ideas and clarifications that all members should keep in mind:

- 1) we allow two individuals to be listed as primary and secondary members participation in the organization, the purpose of this is simply for correspondence
- 2) participation is not limited to just these members of your firm. In fact, many companies assign committee members that are not listed in those two primary positions.

I want to encourage all of the companies to look internally within your organizations to identify staff who, perhaps have a little more availability, and are looking for opportunities to broaden their network while making an impact on our industry.

Regards,

Heather

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Upcoming Events 2008	
July 15-17	SERDP/NAOC Workshop Denver, CO
Aug 10-13	ADC Annual Conference Monterey, CA
Aug 12-14	DDESBS Seminar Palm Springs, CA www.ddesbseminar.org
Oct 21-23	SAME Texoma Regional Omaha, NB www.sameomaha.org
Oct 28-30	NAOC Fall Meeting Albuquerque, NM
Dec 2-4	SERDP/ESTCP Symposium Washington, DC www.serdp-estcp.org

NAOC's Vision: "To firmly establish NAOC as the industry leader for Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) knowledge and expertise; the beacon for efficient, quality execution and safety for both the workforce and the public; the source for innovative ideas and solutions in technology, contracting and personal standards; and the partner for government to help the growth of our industry well in to the first decade of the new millennium."

NAOC Leadership Award

Concept: Recognition of significant contributions made to improve the NAOC and the industry.

Selection Process: Nominations may be submitted by any active member. A Tiger Team will be established to consider such awards by the Membership Committee. The Tiger Team will review and prioritize nominations for approval by the Board of Directors.

Schedule: Awards will be presented annually; at the biannual UXO Countermeasure Forum and on alternating years at another meeting which has significant MMRP representation (i.e., Huntsville Stand-Down)

Due Date of Next Nomination: **September 2008** and should be submitted via email to the NAOC Secretary (Ms. Suzy McKinney (scmckinney@zapeng.com or 704.378.4910). Please visit the website - www.naoc.org for more information and the application and criteria requirements.

A blue hexagonal graphic with a black border. The text inside is yellow and reads: 'Don't Forget to Join Us for our NAOC Fall Meeting Tentatively scheduled October 28-30 in Albuquerque, NM More details to follow'.

Don't Forget to Join Us
for our
NAOC Fall Meeting
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IN MEMORY

NAOC mourns the lost of one of
it's own
Mr. Charles "Charlie" Warton
President of EHSI
and
Founding Member of NAOC

Charles Eddy Wharton, 69, of Belvidere, North Carolina died Tuesday afternoon, April 29, 2008, in his home. Born in Cook County, IL, he was the son of the late Herbert Charles and Frances Kowalewski Wharton. He retired after 30 years in the US Navy as a CWO-4 Bos'n and later worked until his death as President and CEO of Environmental Hazards Specialist International, Inc. Mr. Wharton was a member of VFV Post #6060, the N&MCEOD Association, and the National Association of OEW Contractors. Survivors include his wife, Eve Anna Mae Howard Wharton, and children, Charles E. Wharton, Jr. and wife Darlene of Hertford; Dawn Christina Sutherland and husband Howard of Waldorf, MD, Holly Ann Swedberg and husband Dan of Kenna, WV, Christopher K. Wharton and wife Gina of Hertford, a daughter-in-law Deborah Wharton of Hertford; two brothers and their wives, Michael Wharton and Gale of St. Petersburg, FL and Steve Herbert Wharton and Angel of Charlotte, NC; an aunt, Helen Hansen of Milwaukee, WI; 14 grandchildren and a great-grandchild. He was predeceased by two sons, Scott K. Wharton and Randy J. Wharton. Full military honors were accorded by the US Navy.

Charlie Wharton's EHSI - UXO Company was a Charter Member of NAOC and one of the first UXO Companies in the industry. His support of our Association will be missed. We wish his family and friends the very best.

GUEST COLUMN

I would like to start with a thank you to Heather Polinsky and the NAOC organization for providing us with help, guidance and support as we continue to define the Canadian UXO Program. There is much we can learn from the NAOC and with time we hope that benefits will flow both ways.

I would also like to thank all those who helped to make the Canadian UXO Forum a success by attending our event last April. Every year we try to improve on the year before and we are already planning the next Forum for Quebec City in May of 2009. We hope to have more technical papers, a separate area for display booths and at least one site visit to a local UXO project site. More information will be posted to our website in the near future.

Within our office we have recently hired four new program staff members to help develop projects and we fully expect that within the next year we will be tendering more work than in previous years.

For those with an eye on the qualifications issue, we should mention that the Department of National Defence has accepted both the TEEX 200-hour program at Texas A&M University and the ATI Program at the University of Tennessee as suitable UXO Technician's courses for entry-level positions at UXO sites in Canada. Naturally Canada also accepts the NAVSCOLEOD EOD course, currently given at Elgin Air Force Base, Florida. We have received a number of resumes from UXO Technicians and we continue to build our database of personnel who meet the criteria for the various positions within the UXO clearance team structure.

The underwater sites continue to represent an area of interest and activity for our program. We are working on process and standards and hope to have progress to report within the next year. We held a panel discussion at our Forum where we presented a document that contained all of the relevant regulations and qualifications from both federal and provincial perspectives.

We have recently reduced the size of that publication so that we can have it translated and posted to our website in a form that can easily be downloaded. Perhaps I might lend my voice to applaud the decision by the NAOC to become an international organization. I know that we have found value in those international connections we have been able to foster but it is difficult to maintain those linkages over time without continuous effort. If there were an organization that could foster those international connections and indeed broaden the spectrum of participation and then promote those interrelationships over time and across borders, that would be extremely valuable to enhancing UXO technical discussions and commercial opportunities.

I would like to end on a note that emphasizes partnerships. While it is largely government that finds itself responsible for clearing UXO sites, that is only achievable in collaboration with consultants and contractors, private citizens and interest groups, academics and researchers all of whom contribute to the process in one way or another. So it is important that we continue to work together outside of specific projects through organizations like the NAOC to promote and indeed improve the industry.

*Guest Column write-up compliments of our Fran MacBride, Program Manager, Canadian UXO and Legacy Sites
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NAOC Committees

Operations and Standards

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Mission Statement:

To advise government agencies on operations and standards issues in the areas of, personnel, safety, training, and technology as they relate to OE/UXO work sites

Operations and Standards

Since our last newsletter we have managed to conduct a consensus standard work shop in Denver, 13-15 May, with the following folks from the committee attending:

Doug Lamothe (ECC); Greg Peterson (Malcolm Pirnie); Jack Norris (Earth Tech); Gene Barber (TLI Solutions); Steve Neill (Tetra Tech); Don Welch (Tetra Tech); Dave Keller (Tetra Tech)

This was a very productive work shop where we accomplished much in getting the first consensus standard draft put together. I'd like to thank each of the attendees and their companies for supporting this effort. We have the majority of the standard drafted, but have some gaps in a couple of the chapters, so please contact me if you have particular expertise in underwater operations, MEC disposal operations, MPPEH processing, and/or emergency procedures, and you'd like to help author these sections. We intend to post the standard for general membership review after the committee and the BOD have had a chance to provide their comments.

Our other initiative is the development of a letter to BATFE on specific administrative issues associated with the implementation of the Safe Explosives Act. We continue working on this issue with the goal of a joint letter representing the NAO, ISEE and the IME, as these issues affect all three organizations, and we believe a joint voice will be better received at the agency.

We have a committee conference call the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am PDT. If you'd like to sit in on the call let me know, and I'll see that you are provided with the call in information.

Please give me a call if you have any questions or would like to help on the committee. Look forward to seeing many of you during the NAO Board Meeting on July 15, or the SERDP ESTCP Workshop July 16-17, held in Denver.

If you have any questions please give me a call.

Government Affairs

Committee Members: John Bowles (ECC); Wayne Lewallen (EOTI); Patrick McDonnell (BAH); Suzy McKinney (Zapata Engineering); Jack Norris (Earth Tech); Heather Polinsky (Malcolm Pirnie); and Eric Spillman (BAH).

We held our annual NAO Washington, DC Fly-In, 10 -11 March 2008, with twenty-one companies sending representatives. We kicked-off our event with a UXO Caucus Wine and Cheese Reception that was attended by Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Representative Sam Farr (D-CA), as well as various members of the Department of Defense.

On Tuesday, we had a breakfast gathering in the Capitol that included a conversation with Representative Farr. We also had discussion sessions with Mr. Alex Beehler, the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health; Mr. Kevin Oates, an Environmental Scientist with the US EPA, Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office; and Ms. Tara Butler, Director for Federal Facilities, Center for Best Practices in the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Division for the National Governors Association. Each speaker presented their organization's view on the Military Munitions Response Program, which allowed for an interesting dialogue between NAO members and the participating organizations.

This year, we focused our meetings to key authorization and appropriation committee staff members. The feedback from NAO members was positive with this new approach.

We also had a meeting with Mr. Tad Davis, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health and his staff to discuss the NAO 2008 Fly-In as well as other issues facing our membership (i.e., Use of PBCs). Mr. Davis requested NAO continue a dialogue with his staff on the issues concerning our industry.

NAO participated in a briefing sponsored by the UXO Caucus on 22 May 2008. NAO, along with OSD, SERDP/ESTCP, and US Army provided their individual perspectives on the Military Munitions Response Program.

As always, all presentations are loaded in the "Member's Only" section of the NAO website. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I wish you all a good Summer.

Government Affairs

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Mission Statement:

Develop, improve and sustain government-industry partnerships through dialogue and interaction with government agencies and organizations.

Technology

2008 Technology Committee members:

Jeff Leberfinger (ARM); Jonathan Sperka (HGL); Ken Ford (Mirage); Patrick McDonnell (BAH); James Putnam (PIKA); Tom Bell (SAIC); Jack McIlrath (Tetra Tech); John Williams (Weston); Josh Bowers (CTC); Tamir Klaff (CH2M Hill); James Barton (Underwater Ord); James Viebrock (ECC); George Brumbaugh (EODT); Ryan Steigerwalt (Shaw)

SERDP/ESTCP In-Progress Review (IPR) meetings concerning their Munitions Management thrust area projects were held in Arlington, Virginia on February 26th - 28th and May 19th - 22nd. Topics included Tech Transfer Demonstrations, Detection Sensors, UXO Discrimination, System Performance Comparisons, Software Development, and Underwater UXO Detection, Retrieval, and Demolition. Tamir Klaff, John Williams, and myself attended representing the NAOC Technology Committee. All presentations for both sessions have been posted on the NAOC website.

By now, all should be aware that the NAOC - SERDP/ESTCP Joint Technology Transfer Workshop will be held July 16th and 17th in Denver. It will be very interesting to see which new technologies SERDP / ESTCP will be presenting as "mature" and ready for implementation on "production" UXO assessment and remediation projects...and even more interesting to see if the NAOC community agrees. There are ~160 attendees registered for the event, including representatives from ~30 of the NAOC member companies. It should be a really good meeting!

Immediately following the Tech Transfer (T2) Workshop, on the afternoon of July 17th, NAOC will be having its second Partnering Session with the Huntsville Corps at ECC's office across the street from the Marriott Denver West (thank you Jeff Viebrock). The attendee list has been finalized, and the agenda is being drafted. The focus of the meeting is "What needs to change to provide the Corps incentive to use newly approved technologies on real UXO assessment and remediation projects?"

Member Services

Member Services hosted a breakfast meeting at the Canadian UXO Forum in April 2008. 24 NAOC members and interested firms attended. The breakfast was successful in the continuing expansion of NAOC, and fostered discussion regarding NAOC's presence and role in Canada.

Membership Services is preparing for our fall meeting. Tentative dates are October 29th-30th with a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday the 28th. Special thanks to George DeMetropolis and John Allan for their support on the fall meeting Tiger Team.

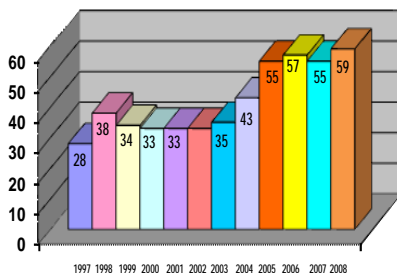
The report on ESTCP's project with Noblis to identify barriers to UXO transfer has still not been released. Revisions are reportedly still being made. Shouldn't be too much longer now. NAOC will have the opportunity to review and submit comments

A new initiative is a work group organized by SERDP/ESTCP to examine the current use of geophysical prove outs (GPOs) and their value. There has been a fairly widespread perception that GPOs, as they are currently implemented, are far more expensive than their value justifies. All of the services and the contractor and regulatory communities are being invited to more formally discuss this issue. The first meeting will be held August 6th and 7th in San Francisco. Two Technology Committee members will attend.

SERDP / ESTCP's Technology Symposium will be held December 2nd - 4th in Washington, DC. A new feature this year will be a training class on UXO discrimination processing. This is a welcome addition.

The Technology Committee met with Jim Austreng of the California DTSC on March 27th to present results of our "action items" from our previous meeting of October 31, 2007. DTSC is in the process of formulating the State oversight policies of UXO geophysical surveys and QA activities. Notes from the meeting and the action item responses have been posted to the NAOC website. A new set of "action items" have been drawn up, and are being addressed. More meetings are anticipated to continue our productive dialogue.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Denver!



Current Membership Status: **59 Members**

New Members since Oct 07:

1. Earth Resources Technology, Inc. (ERT)
2. InDepth Corporation
3. Sky Research, Inc.
4. Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)

Members Lost since Oct 07:

1. Planteco Environmental Consultants

NAOC Committees

Technology

John Allan,



Naeva Geophysics, Inc.

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Mission Statement:

Promote the research and development of promising technologies and the successful transfer of validated technologies for improved, safe, and cost-effective MEC detection, discrimination, and remediation solutions. Encourage synergy between government, industry, and academia to advance technologies for performing MEC-related site cleanup.

Member Services

Nelline Kowbel, Malcolm Pirnie

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Mission Statement:

Show maximum value and benefits of membership to retain existing members and attract new members by providing: a) access to industry shapers, b) mechanism for promotion of industry, and c) opportunity to impact breaking industry events and information.

Member Spotlight



Established 35 years ago, **EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc.** has executed nearly \$1 Billion in HTRW/MEC investigation, restoration, design, and remediation services in the past 15 years. EA has supported USACE, AFCEE and the Navy at thousands of sites nationwide under multiple DOD programs—including MMRP; SRP; ORAP; NDNODS; IRP; FUDS and BRAC. EA received the 2008 Environmental Business Journal Achievement Award for our work in the MEC Market. As evidence of the firm's growing MEC market, EA recently hired Rick Hanoski—a leader in the MEC Market. Rick has 30 years combined experience as an EOD Technician in the U.S. Navy and in the UXO Industry managing challenging programs/projects within different DOD services and the commercial industry that includes MEC, RCWM, and underwater operations.

NAOC POC for EA Engineering, Science, and Technology:

Mr. Tim A. Reese

410.771.4950 x1401 or treese@eaest.com



Earth Resources Technology, Inc (ERT), a woman-owned, SBA Certified 8(a) company, was established in 1996. Over the past 12 years, ERT has evolved into a company with over 280 employees specializing in environmental science and engineering support, information technology, education, outreach, management, geological and geophysical sciences, hazardous and toxic waste and munition response services. ERT's headquarters is located in Baltimore, Maryland and has offices in Silver Spring, MD and Huntsville, Alabama. In 2007, ERT debuted in 39th place on the Washington Technology Fast 50 list of Government contracting businesses based on revenue growth in the last five years.

NAOC POC for ERT: Dr. Peter Li

301.323.1411 or Peter.Li@ERTCorp.com



GEL Geophysics, LLC is committed to offering the latest technologies and the services of true experts to satisfy our clients' geophysical needs.

We have conducted digital geophysical mapping (DGM) services for the UXO community since 2000 utilizing electromagnetic, magnetic and computer assisted radar tomography methods. Our clients include government, private sector consultant firms, industry, developers and land owners.

Established in 1981, GEL Geophysics is a woman owned small business headquartered in Charleston, South Carolina.

NAOC POC for GEL Geophysics:

Jorgen Bergstrom

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NAOC News Gallery -

Things that happened.....Things that are going on

NAOC 2008 Capitol Fly-In

NAOC held their annual Capitol Fly-in, 10-11, March 2008 in Washington, DC with representatives from 21 member firms. We kicked-off our event with a Wine and Cheese Reception. The event was attended by several Representatives including Congressman Blumenauer (OR) and Congressman Farr (CA) from several states. We had a great turnout!



NAOC hosts Breakfast at Canadian DND UXO Forum

NAOC held an informational breakfast open to all attendees of the Canadian UXO Forum in April 2008. The purpose of the breakfast was to share information on the purpose of NAOC, value of membership, and to foster interest in the Canadian UXO Contractor community in joining. A total of 24 attended.



President of NAOC presents at the 2008 Canadian DND UXO Forum

Ms. Polinsky gave a presentation at Third Annual Canadian DND UXO Forum "Partnership in Managing UXO Risk" in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada - April 22-24, 2008.

Ms. Polinsky's presentation talked about NAOC going international. Over 25 NAOC member companies were represented. Other NAOC members presenting included; Al Larkins (Malcolm Pirnie), Tami Klaff (CH2M Hill) and panelist Tom Breznick. For access to the presentation you can either visit the NAOC website - naoc.org or you can visit <ftp://uxoforum2008:ufm05008@205.193.88.2/> to download all presentation.

NAOC on the Hill

NAOC (members) participated in a briefing sponsored by the UXO Caucus on 22 May 2009. NAOC along with OSD, Army & SERDP/ESTCP provided their individual perspectives on the MMRP.



More Photos from our Capitol Fly-In



CONGRATULATIONS

NAOC STRATEGIC PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

The Strategic Planning Tiger Team is continuing to accept and review questionnaires sent to members for completion last March. The questionnaires we have received to date have proved very insightful and are extremely important to the Team in helping to shape the future of our Association. Accordingly, we will be redistributing the questionnaires via email and requesting that those members who have not yet taken the opportunity to complete and return them do so as soon as possible. Your assistance and cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on potential improvements to our organization and the way in which it can best serve our membership. The Strategic Planning Tiger Team is comprised of myself (jbowles@ecc.net), Sonny Richardson (sonny.richardson@westonsolutions.com), Brenda Herman (bherman@eaest.com), Wayne Lewallen (wlewallen@eoti.net) and Ben Redmond (ben.redmond@ch2m.com). Thank you in advance for your help which we all view as a significant contribution to our success.

Our ability to help member companies get the most value from NAOC depends on you - Please return Strategic Planning Questionnaires.

John L. Bowles
Vice President, NAOC
(757) 373-4798

I am very happy to report UXO Class #31 graduated this week. The course concluded with a class average of almost 94%. The class Honor Graduate, Dave Underwood, maintained the top individual average of almost 99%. At the conclusion of the class, Ms. Robin Miller, an HR representative for USA Environmental visited with the new graduates. It was our pleasure to have Ms. Miller come in from Florida for a visit and hope to have other NAOC members come see us as well. That said, I would also like to thank those NAOC members, NAE, Tetra-Tech, Earth Tech, UXB, and EODT who expressed interest in hiring these new Tech-I professionals.

The final two UXO courses scheduled for 2008 will take place in September and October, respectively. TEEEX staff would enjoy hearing from other NAOC members interested in making a presentation to the class and/or touring TEEEX facilities. As we have discussed, TEEEX sees our responsibility to provide highly trained Tech-I professionals as paramount to the safety and security of those UXO sites where TEEEX graduates are assigned.

For more information please contact:

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STATUS of APPROPRIATIONS

July 8, 2008 – 9:35 p.m.

Obey Says No More Full Markups Until Republicans Stop Playing ‘Games’

By David Clarke, CQ Staff

The appropriations deadlock in the House intensified Tuesday as House Democrats said they did not plan to hold any committee meetings this week or bring a spending bill to the floor.

Appropriations Committee Chairman David R. Obey, D-Wis., said he has no intention to hold further full committee markups on fiscal 2009 bills unless Republicans agree to follow “regular order.”

Democrats had been mulling whether to bring the Military Construction-VA bill to the floor Friday, but a House Democratic leadership aide said that plan has been scrapped, at least for now, and that it is unlikely that a spending bill will be brought to the floor next week. House GOP aides said Republicans might try to attach energy amendments to such legislation.

Meanwhile, leaders in both chambers have been discussing the possibility of moving a second economic stimulus or supplemental spending bill in response to the sluggish economy. They discussed the idea at a bicameral leadership meeting Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the Senate would not be able to move such a package until September.

“I think, realistically, it’s going to be really hard to get [it] done this work period, but we’re certainly going to try to get it done this Congress,” Reid said. “We need it.”

Democrats have talked about including various spending items in the legislation, such as funding for infrastructure projects, food stamps and a low-income energy assistance program.

Effort to Open Offshore Drilling

At the heart of the tensions over the spending bills in the House is the politically hot issue of how Congress should deal with the rising cost of gasoline.

Obey abruptly adjourned a June 26 markup because Jerry Lewis of California, the panel’s ranking Republican, offered the Interior-Environment spending bill as a substitute amendment to the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations measure. Lewis has been pressing Obey to set a date for considering the Interior measure because Republicans want to offer an amendment to that bill that would allow more offshore oil drilling.

Republicans have charged that Democrats are putting off consideration of the Interior bill because they do not have the votes to defeat an amendment by John E. Peterson, R-Pa., that would open areas of the Atlantic, Pacific and eastern Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas drilling.

Obey felt blindsided by Lewis’ move and argued that offering one spending bill as a substitute for another was not how the committee does business.

“He spent the past five weeks bitching about the fact that we didn’t follow regular order because he didn’t like the fact we did the supplemental in the only way we could have done it,” Obey said, referring to the recently enacted Iraq and Afghanistan war spending bill ([PL 110-252](#)), which bypassed the committee.

“He wanted to go back to regular order; we went back to regular order,” Obey said. “His acceptance of that lasted three days, and then he proposes a wholesale substitution of one appropriations for another. That’s not regular order, that’s playpen gamesmanship.”

Obey said the committee could resume its work if Republicans tell him they will not continue to play “games.”

“If they want to get serious and behave like serious legislators, they know what my phone number is,” Obey said after a late afternoon leadership meeting.

But Republicans are giving no signs that they will back off, believing Democrats’ opposition to more offshore drilling will hurt them with voters.

“We are more than willing to work with the majority to complete the work of the Appropriations Committee,” Lewis said.

“It is critically important that we continue our work, including completing the Interior bill, especially in this time of \$4.11 gas.”

Continuing Resolution May Be Necessary

The new fiscal year begins Oct. 1, and there is essentially no chance Congress will have its spending work done by then. President Bush is threatening to veto spending bills if Democrats exceed the \$991.6 billion he has requested for the 12 annual bills, and Democratic leaders have vowed not to engage in a protracted fight with him this year.

Democrats have said that they are prepared to keep the government funded through a continuing resolution until after the election or a new president takes office.

Senate leaders have said they would like to move the fiscal 2009 Defense spending bill through the chamber this month. But that plan is contingent on the House first moving its bill, said Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee Chairman Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii. But House action appears unlikely this month.

Edward Epstein and Liriel Higa contributed to this story.

Installation continues remediation process of The Courses Fort Meade

As part of its ongoing remedial investigation, the Fort Meade Environmental Division's restoration team disposed of a World War II-era grenade discovered at The Courses Fort Meade on Monday. The MK II grenade was found in the southern part of the course, which was used as a mortar range from the early-1920s to the late-1930s, Installation Restoration Manager Paul Fluck said.

"The item was buried about 1-foot below grade and was uncovered as part of an ongoing remedial investigation of the former mortar range, which was located in the western part of the golf course and parts of NSA," Fluck said. "The investigation includes surveying the site for the potential presence of munitions of explosive concern and conducting an intrusive investigation to search for MEC and munitions constituents that may pose a potential hazard to human health and the environment." The grenade was not the first munitions found in the area since the RI began approximately a month ago, according to Denise Tegtmeier, project manager from Malcolm Pirnie, which was contracted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the RI, which includes disposal of the ordnance.

The most commonly used munitions during the time Meade's mortar range was in use were 3-inch and 6-inch Stokes as well as 60-millimeter and 81-mm mortars, with the latter being the one found most during the RI, Fluck said. Because the ordnance is below ground, the restoration team depends on several forms of imaging technology to discover the ordnance, Fluck said. "It is very unlikely anyone would walk across one," he added. If a person does find an unexploded ordnance, he should follow these steps:

1-RECOGNIZE: When you discover a suspicious item or a possible munitions, remember that they can be dangerous. Do not touch, kick, throw or do anything else to disturb the item. Also, remember munitions are sometimes not readily identifiable, and may appear to be any other metallic or rusty item. Use caution, leave it alone and do not touch it.

2-RETREAT: If you know or suspect that you have found a munitions item, mark the area with a small item such as a hat or pen, and immediately walk away on the same path you came in on. Do not run.

3-REPORT: Remember the location of the suspicious items and call 911 immediately.

The grenade found on Monday was disposed of by controlled detonation in "a remote and undeveloped part of the golf course away from existing facilities and infrastructure," Fluck said. An explosive ordnance disposal team moved the grenade to this location where they used a donor charge to destroy it, he added. Once destroyed, experts with Malcolm Pirnie were able to determine the grenade was a practice ordnance, Tegtmeier said. The RI is being completed in coordination with the Fort Meade Environmental Division, USACE Baltimore District, U.S. Army Environmental Command, Maryland Department of the Environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other officials from Fort Meade. "We are working hard to get the RI done by the end of the month," Fluck said.

Article taken from Online Soundoff Edition
written by Chad T. Jones (Editor) on March 13, 2008

<http://news.mywebpal.com/>

news_tool_v2.cfm?show=localnews&pnplD=970&NewsID=885352&CategoryID=16741&on=0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOD Directives

The Following two revised directives have been uploaded to the NAOC website - www.naoc.org. DoD 6055.9-STD DOD AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES SAFETY STANDARDS, February 29, 2008, and DoD 4145.26-M DOD Contractor's Safety Manual for Ammunition and Explosives, March 13, 2008. Both documents are located under the Operations and Standards Committee under the DDESB folder and the DOD folder. If you have any problems downloading please contact David Keller (425.482-7749 or david.keller@tteci.com)

New Documents in CX-MM Website

There is link to a new section in the CX-MM website that will eventually be the home to all of the different documents that reside in Dr. Crull's old "OE" Toolbox. This document is for Preparing Consolidated Shots. They have been labeled it MEC Toolbox. As the older documents get a facelift and the data is revised they will be placed on this website as permitted. http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/oew/CX_refdocs.aspx

If you have any questions please contact Hank Hubbard - hank.c.hubbard@us.army.mil.

New DOD 6055.9-STD, 29 Feb 2008

All, DOD has issued the DOD 6055.9-STD on 29 Feb 2008. This revision incorporates the Draft Chapters 12, 15, and 16 that we have been working under since 2004. Other than the addition of the revised chapters to the standard, most of us would probably not notice other changes that have been made, but there are some. As I work thru this and identify where they are, I will let you know. If you notice changes, please let me know, I would appreciate it.

Major additions are:

Chapter 12 - Real Estate Known or Suspected to Contain Munitions and Explosives of Concern and Chemical Agents Chapter 15 - UXO Chapter 16 - MPPEH

Major changes that go into effect immediately that affect USACE and how we do business are:

All Explosive Site Plans/Explosive Safety Submissions/Chemical safety Submissions will NOW go thru USATCES to DDESB for review and approval. This is a change in that ESPs have been coming to the CX and been reviewed and given a DRU approval and returned to the District for use. So please advise your design centers to build in the additional time line to the project to get ESPs up thru the channels. In the past, due to a verbal agreement between USATCES and USACE, the ESPs have been coming to the CX and we have been reviewing and approving per the provisions of ER 385-1-95. Due to the overload and backlog at DDESB, and Chapter 12 being a Draft document, USATCES agreed to let USACE review and approve our ESPs with the understanding that once Chapter 12 was incorporated into the Standard, we would have to start forwarding them up the chain. That day has come.

Allow at least two weeks here at CEHNC for the DRU review and approval of a Final document, at least two weeks at USATCES for Army review and approval and at least 4 weeks at DDESB for DOD review and approval. That's a total of 8 weeks. Since Mr. Tony Dunay has gotten to DDESB (from the Navy) he has single-handedly reduced our backlog to virtually zero and turns documents around very quickly, providing we give them a quality document to begin with. USATCES does a good job of ensuring this happens. This has virtually reduced the need for USATCES granting an Interim Army Approval, but that mechanism is still available for bona fide needs.

I am in the process of writing an IGD to remove the ESP from the Work Plans in all of our contract DID's and require they be submitted as a stand-a-lone document with all enclosures for review and approval. I am also revising the DID and format for ESPs to ensure they are in compliance with the Standard.

Contact Mr. Hank Hubbard * Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise Military Munitions Division (CEHNC-CX-MM) Huntsville Center Desk - 256-895-1586

TEEX's UXO training nears 10-year anniversary

Originally taking a big risk that a UXO Tech-I market existed for civilian students, the Texas Engineering Extension Service's (TEEX) UXO course now teaches about 100 students per year and has graduated more than 435 students since the inaugural course in 1999. In fact, it was the first commercially available course of its kind recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense.

TEEX UXO History

"The UXO program has flourished at TEEX," said Public Safety and Security Division Director Tom Shehan. "We've come a long way in 10 years and I believe it's due to the initial groundwork laid by forward-thinkers as well as the quality of our current staff."

Work to develop the course began in 1996 by Paul Ihrke, now a TEEX adjunct employee, who also works in the private sector in Houston. Trained as an EOD technician in the U.S. Army and a DOD explosive board staff representative, Ihrke drew upon his knowledge of industry needs and developed a civilian UXO Tech-I course for TEEX.

With the help of former TEEX Director G. Kemble Bennett and former Associate Director Bob Prock, the development process began. Two years later, TEEX was ready to offer the course to anyone in the nation.

Ihrke and retired US Navy EOD Technician Rex Shipp developed and taught the first Tech-I course at TEEX. The first course delivery took place at Texas A&M University's Riverside Campus in Bryan, Texas, and at Pine Ridge, S.D., in February 1999. The initial group of 25 students was from the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Each had been selected by the contractor responsible to clear munitions from leased tribal land known as the Badlands Bombing Range. The bombing range was made available to the U.S. Department of Defense in 1942 during WWII and work to clear the land of munitions was to begin in 2000.

TEEX UXO Program Today

TEEX currently holds five classes per year. Each class consists of five weeks of training and averages 20 students per class.

Current TEEX UXO Training Coordinator Ed Fritz retired from the Navy after serving 21 years as an EOD Technician and has spent more than five years with TEEX. Although Fritz coordinates as well as conducts UXO training, he couldn't do it all without the vast amount of experience he has gathered through an extensive cadre of professional instructors. Currently, Fritz has an adjunct staff of 35 instructors who are used throughout the year.



These subject matter experts come from all branches of the military as well as the law enforcement profession. Although some are retired, several instructors are active-duty military EOD and Hazardous Devices School EOD technicians.



Along with classroom training, TEEX has six search grid ranges that utilize nearly 1,200 pieces of buried ordnance during "location training" field exercises. These search areas include multiple surfaces. Students are challenged with heavily-wooded areas along with a light sand area, and finally a hard-packed earth search area.

Since the inaugural course, TEEX has invested close to a million dollars in infrastructure improvements to the 2000 acre Texas A&M University Campus where the UXO Program is currently administered. In addition to the two outdoor pavilion permanent structures that house training aids and other operational equipment, TEEX has added improvements to the explosive magazine storage facilities, provided outdoor covered practice and skull session areas and issues uniform clothing to all students in an effort to ensure proper range safety practices are maintained.

TEEX also offers HAZWOPER — Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response — training in conjunction with the UXO Course. This additional training meets the U.S. Army Corps requirements for Tech-I certification and is currently being developed for on-line access. Students desiring to complete the course prior to attending a scheduled UXO class will now be able to do so.

Finally, the TEEX program continues help facilitate placement of those students who successfully complete the UXO course. Ultimately, employment is the incentive that drives students to attend. For this reason, when opportunities are made available, TEEX continues to invite industry contractors to classes throughout the year in an effort to recruit for job openings within their organizations. Additionally, as they are received, TEEX facilitates the timely dissemination of UXO job announcements gathered through industry member contacts.

Although TEEX provides training and technical assistance to over 224,000 personnel worldwide each year, our mission to support UXO Tech-I training remains high on the list of those programs our state agency takes great pride in delivering. It's clear the past challenges of building the program are now being replaced with current measures of excellence. TEEX thanks those who worked so hard to make this possible. Here's to the next ten years!



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Please submit your press releases and articles to ckennedy@pirnie.com, or you can mail them to Cheryl Kennedy, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., 104 Corporate Park Drive, White Plains, NY 10602. Comments and suggestions are welcome!

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