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News Release

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Corps completes ordnance investigation at Camp Simms

Baltimore – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, announced today that it has completed the investigation for ordnance-related materials at the former Camp Simms site in southeast Washington, D.C.

During the investigation that began Oct. 23, ordnance specialists carefully dug to identify 94 buried magnetic objects that were found in a six-acre area adjacent to Mississippi Avenue. No hazardous materials or ordnance-related items were found. Among the items removed were various types of construction debris to include manhole covers, concrete with reinforcing bars, pipes and other miscellaneous metallic items. A final report on this investigation is expected in December.

The former Camp Simms site served as a small arms target range for training military and local law enforcement organizations until 1959. In 1995, the Corps conducted a similar ordnance investigation at the site. In that investigation, 98 percent of the site was geophysically surveyed, and nearly 200 suspect items were excavated. No ordnance-related items were found. Although this previous work indicated there were no hazards at the site, earlier this year, the Corps conducted a re-evaluation of the site based on a request from the D.C. Department of Health. The re-evaluation did not confirm any hazards, but recommended further investigation to verify the Corps' previous findings.

The D.C. government announced plans last year for a mix-use commercial and residential development at the Camp Simms site.

The Corps' investigation is part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites, which is an Army responsibility.

- 30 -

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