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News Release

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Army continues investigation of ordnance found in Delaware clamshells

Toll free number established

Baltimore – The Army is continuing to investigate recent reports of munitions found in crushed clamshells used to pave driveways in Delaware. Anyone with concerns about recent deliveries of crushed clamshells in the mid-Atlantic region should contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Baltimore District via a toll-free number at (800) 434-0988.

The Army advises the public to be aware of the potential dangers posed by these munitions and to report any known or suspected munitions to local law enforcement. The Army is taking steps to determine the location of all crushed clamshells that may inadvertently contain munitions. Once these locations are identified, steps will be taken to investigate these sites and remove all munitions found.

Because the condition of these munitions is unknown, they should be treated as munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) until assessed by Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel. MEC, which are munitions that did not function as intended during use, are considered the most dangerous category of munitions. Many people refer to MEC as "duds," however, they are extremely dangerous and should never be touched or moved as they can still explode and cause serious injury or even death. The fact that they may have been handled or moved in the past does not make them less dangerous in the present. Even souvenirs that have been handled frequently can still present a significant risk.

Munitions come in many different sizes, shapes and colors. Over time, the paint may wear off or fade. As munitions are exposed to weather, they will normally rust, making them more difficult to spot or recognize. In some cases, the munitions may also be encrusted in shell-like material, such as barnacles.

The Army is asking people who suspect they might have any items or know of any location that contains old munitions not to move, disturb or destroy it, but to immediately call local law enforcement (911).