

**RESUME OF STAFF VISIT**

STAFF OFFICIALS: Jeff Brewer, CENAB-EN-Environmental & Explosives Safety Section (EESS) 410-320-9495, Lowell Martin CENAB-EN-Environmental & Explosives Safety Section (EESS) 443-509-4607 and Paul Greene, CENAB-EN-Environmental & Explosives Safety Section (EESS), (410) 962-6741

SITES VISITED: Assateague Island National Seashore

DATE VISITED: 28-30 June 2013

**PRINCIPAL CONTACTS**

Ted Morlock Assateague National Park Service Ranger Chief  
Walt West Assateague National Park Service Ranger  
James C. Barbely (JC) State Park Assistant Manager

**PURPOSE OF VISIT**

On 24 June 2013 the North Area Beach of the Assateague Island National Seashore in excess of 230 munitions debris (MD) and material potentially presenting an explosive hazard (MPPEH) were discovered. The rangers quickly responded to the situation by 1) immediately placing the area of concern off limits; 2) establishing a safe exclusion zone around the area of concern large enough to prevent beach patrons from encountering additional items; and 3) immediately notifying the Ocean City Maryland Bomb Squad.

Once on the scene the bomb squad realized that the scale of the problem exceeded their capability and that since the items were military that military Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) should be notified for assistance. The 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command EOD team responded to the site on 25 June 2013 and disposed of by detonation a total of 234 MPPEH items. The EOD team recommended that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) be notified of the situation and asked for assistance. The USACE Baltimore District (CENAB) Explosive Safety office was asked to provide assistance to the park service.

**NARRATIVE OF VISIT**

The CENAB explosive safety team arrived on site on 28 June 2013 and met with Mr. Morlock, and Mr. West. After introductions and a brief discussion Mr. West escorted the team to the site of the MPPEH finds. An area approximately 10 acres in size on the North Beach Front Area had been fenced off and placed off limits to beach patrons. The team immediately began an instrument assisted visual search of the restricted area. Approximately 8 acres of the restricted area was completed the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. At that point beach patrons outside of the restricted area were deemed too close to the remaining area for the team to safely work so work in this area was halted until early the next morning.

After a lunch break Mr. Brewer and Mr. Martin returned to the beach area to conduct instrument assisted visual transect searches of the areas adjacent to the restricted area. Mr. Greene attended a meeting with the park rangers and management staff and conducted an informal briefing of work completed and planned. He also discussed the findings of the Site Inspection (SI) previously conducted on the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) on the Assateague Island. It is believed that the MPPEH/MD recovered on the beach may have come from a large anomaly identified in the report.

On June 29<sup>th</sup> the team returned to the North Beach area early in the morning in order to complete the search of the beach and surf zone. The team additionally conducted transects in the state park area to ensure that no MPPEH was on the state beach. Searches of each area of concern in the North Beach Area was completed approximately mid morning. Approximately 14 acres were investigated by the team. Mr. Martin returned to his previous assignment at Virginia Beach.

The SI report indicated that three anomalies had been identified on the southern beach area. In order to determine the proximity of these anomalies to the surf zone Mr. Brewer and Mr. Greene were escorted to the southern beach area to conduct instrument assisted visual transect searches of areas proximate to the identified anomalies. By using the maps provided in the SI report the team approximated the area of the potential anomalies and conducted the search on approximately 100 yards around the site. No anomalies were detected in close proximity to the surf zone.

## **FINDINGS**

A total of 19 MD items were recovered in the North Beach area. These items were 100% inspected per the requirements outlined in Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4140.62 and reclassified as material documented as safe (MDAS). MDAS was provided to the Park Service for recycle.

There were no items recovered in the southern beach area. Anomalies were not detected in close proximity to the surf zone on the southern beach.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The protective fencing be removed and beach patrons be allowed to utilize the entire North Beach Area.
2. The “Do Not Enter” signs be replaced with “3Rs” type safety signage.
- 3 The rangers be provided MEC safety briefings.
4. That safety brochures be developed and provided to park visitors.

Paul Greene  
Explosive Safety  
Environmental & Explosives Safety Section  
410-962-6741



**AREA OF CONCERN BEHIND FENCING**



**RESTRICTION SIGNAGE**



**MATERIAL DOCUMENTED AS SAFE (MDAS)**