



CHART A COURSE FOR SAFETY

2nd Issue

February 23, 2010

When History Can Hurt You...

The NASA Wallops Flight Facility is a quiet and tranquil place compared to its early days when the original owners took great pride in blowing the daylights out of it! The U.S. Navy and Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS) conducted research and development for weapons training both on the Main Base and on Wallops Island that left some unwanted items behind. These items include practice bombs, debris from spent munitions, and unexploded munitions or duds. All of these items are collectively referred to as Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC). We have all witnessed fireworks debris and the occasional “dud” during Fourth of July celebrations. The problem with military debris and “duds” is that they may still contain real, live explosives. This is a much larger concern than the typical firecracker.



To make matters worse, these MEC have been on the ground, in the ground, or in the water for 50 to 70 years and don't look like their original color or shape. The Navy had numerous documented areas where munitions were handled or used (ammunition storage areas, target areas and gun ranges). MEC have also been found in unlikely locations. MEC have been excavated as fill dirt and moved during construction activities, or moved with the sands due to tides and storms. NASA has found MEC on the island in several locations including areas near Building X-30, Z-100 Camera Stand, and numerous areas on northern Wallops Island. In addition, MEC has been detected near the Visitor Center and Boat Basin, and on the Main Base (near N-222 and B-30).

If you happen to come across anything that you suspect might be a MEC: **Don't Touch It**. The explosive material can become very unstable over the years and just the act of moving it may cause it to detonate. Most munitions will not look like a rocket or a bomb. Over the years they will have rusted, corroded, broken into pieces and may appear to just be a rusty hunk of metal. Use caution with any unknown item that meets this description. Use special care if you are on the island or near the beach areas as the shifting sands will expose items over time. While a majority of the older munitions found are benign target munitions, you will not be able to tell that from a visual inspection. In fact, even the experts in munitions will not just pick up and transport older munitions of unknown stability. They will simply place a small charge near it and blow it up in place. These are not any type of souvenirs you want to take home. Not only is it against the law, it puts you, your family, and your neighbors at risk.



Acronym Word Search

Q	F	C	B	V	P	P	P	A	Z	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
A	D	E	G	B	P	Y	M	I	A	Federal Emergency Management Agency
N	S	C	M	A	C	P	S	O	S	Office of Safety and Mission Assurance
Y	G	K	H	A	C	N	K	G	A	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
U	Y	V	E	A	A	G	N	S	N	National Fire Protection Association
O	S	M	A	L	M	F	I	A	U	National Safety Council
R	E	S	S	A	P	N	E	H	I	American Society of Safety Engineers
G	J	L	I	A	Y	E	K	E	G	Voluntary Protection Program
L	A	H	S	O	S	F	T	P	A	American National Standards Institute
G	R	T	G	W	M	Y	X	A	Q	Environmental Protection Agency
										Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association
										National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Safety & Environmental Newsletter



250 lb. bomb found on the north end of Wallops Island .

What to do if you encounter MEC: 3 R's

If you see **(RECOGNIZE)** any item that appears to be MEC do the following:

- Don't touch anything.
- Leave **(RETREAT)** the immediate area.
- Call 911 **(REPORT)** from any Wallops phone, or 757-824-1333 from an outside phone or cell phone, and tell the dispatcher where the item is located.
- Wait for Security to arrive and secure the area.
- Do not cross any security tape or enter any MEC identified area.

Mother Nature Digs up the Past



The Environmental Office supported the Safety and Security Offices during the identification, treatment and disposal of 4 anti-tank rounds and 2 unknown metal bottles uncovered on the southern end of Wallops Island during the 2009 November Nor'easter. The Dover Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal team responded, evaluated the site, searched for and exposed all the known ordnance. The items were x-rayed and then moved to a safe location south of the Camera Stand and the Open Burn area for treatment by detonation. All identified MEC were destroyed.

Shane Whealton with a 'hole' lot of something going on.

One of the Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) was thought to be live due to the size of the crater created compared to the amount of C4 used during detonation.



Rocket Propelled Grenade recently found on the south end of Wallops Island.

Key Points to Remember:

- North Wallops Island was used by the Navy and NAOTS as a munitions test area.
- There is potential to encounter MEC anywhere on Wallops Island (see photo to left) due to construction fill practices.
- Contact the Environmental Office (x1718) prior to excavating to determine if MEC is likely to be present.

And always remember if you encounter MEC:

- 1) RECOGNIZE**
- 2) RETREAT**
- 3) REPORT**



20 and 30 mm munitions debris found near Building X-30 on Wallops Island.

Answer Key from 1st Issue Word Search

O	P	V	B	Z	P	A	H	S	I	M	F	I	Y	E
I	A	B	S	P	R	E	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	Y
N	E	S	H	N	Z	L	Y	N	S	A	F	E	T	Y
S	O	O	K	G	R	X	P	P	Z	B	O	I	H	Y
P	F	I	H	D	N	D	R	A	Z	A	H	A	X	C
E	Q	T	T	W	W	O	Y	U	N	V	Q	S	Z	X
C	B	X	S	A	L	A	C	T	T	I	B	C	U	F
T	H	R	Z	F	G	M	J	T	A	X	T	Y	X	T
I	D	C	E	R	T	I	F	I	C	A	T	I	O	N
O	B	E	J	T	K	R	T	U	A	Z	F	H	A	E
N	J	H	Y	H	T	X	N	S	C	H	I	F	U	Y
Y	Z	Z	G	B	K	S	I	R	E	F	S	N	D	J
H	O	E	B	U	F	X	F	T	I	V	R	O	I	A
P	K	C	O	L	R	E	T	N	I	R	N	C	T	D
J	I	J	G	N	I	N	I	A	R	T	C	I	D	R