



### **Excavations Reveal World War II Ordnance at Former Memphis Depot**

**December 14, 2007**—As part of the environmental cleanup at the former Memphis Depot, engineering environmental Management (e2M) has been conducting soil excavations to remove buried, crushed drums in the west-central portion of Dunn Field. During field work on December 13, site workers excavated a crushed bomb casing and a second intact bomb casing. The casings were not recognizably different from the drums until removed from the excavation. It could not be immediately determined whether the intact bomb casing is empty, a sand-filled practice bomb or live ordnance.

The area in question has been continuously monitored and there has been no harm to site workers, the public or the environment.

The excavation area is contained within a restricted-access, fenced area of the site. Following contingency plans for such incidents, the Department of the Army was contacted, and ordnance specialists from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) out of Gadsden, Alabama are expected to arrive in Memphis on Friday, December 14. They will identify the ordnance so that the next steps, including safe handling and removal, can be determined. All work on Dunn Field was suspended pending a full investigation and the construction area was secured. Local police and fire department officials were notified, and are available as needed.

Defense Logistics Agency's environmental team recently contracted for a geophysical survey of Dunn Field to locate buried metal waste. Infrequently, during new excavation work, site workers discover pieces of metal, trash and debris that were disposed of during the period when the former Memphis Depot was operational between the 1940's and the 1970's.

Ongoing cleanup work is under the direction of DLA and its contractor, e2M through the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE).

**For more information, please call the Memphis Depot Community Information Line at (901) 774-3683. The Community Information Line is monitored continuously during business hours.**

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