



# Munitions Response Program Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point

## Former Bomb Target BT-2

February 2009

## Aerial Digital Geophysical Mapping Begins in Bogue Sound

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point is investigating potential impacts of training operations conducted at the Former Bomb Target BT-2 in the 1940s–1950s. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command is leading the investigation, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Former Bomb Target BT-2 was located in the vicinity of Wood Island in Bogue Sound, about ½ mile north of 24th Street on Emerald Isle. The site has not been used as a target since about 1955 and there are no plans to reactivate it.

Around 1957, attempts were made to clean up munitions on the island, but the technology at that time was not capable of safely and completely clearing the island.

As part of an ongoing investigation of BT-2, digital geophysical mapping (DGM) of the area will begin soon. The investigation area (Figure 1) covers about 10 square miles of Bogue Sound.

### *What is Digital Geophysical Mapping?*

DGM surveys use geophysical instruments such as magnetometers (instruments that measure the strength or



Figure 1 | Investigation Area

direction of the earth's magnetic field) to locate and create a digital map of metallic objects, submerged under water or buried under the ground surface, that might be munitions. In aerial DGM surveys, these instruments are mounted on booms attached to aircraft. The resulting data are used to select specific areas for further evaluation.

## What to look for this spring

Beginning around the first week of March 2009, you will see a commercial helicopter with a magnetometer array (Figure 2), flying back-and-forth passes about four to five feet above the water. Each day, the helicopter will fly over several rectangular survey blocks, which are typically about ½ mile by ¼ mile in size, within the investigation area.

These flyovers will be performed seven days a week, during daylight hours only. The effort will last about 15 days. This is an approximate schedule that may change due to weather conditions, equipment performance, and other factors.



Figure 2 | Helicopter with a magnetometer array

## Boating Safety

Boaters are urged to avoid the survey blocks where active DGM flyovers are occurring. However, there will be opportunities for boats to transit these areas each day. The helicopter will fly in periods of about 2½ hours before returning to the airfield to refuel, after which it will begin to fly the next survey block(s). In addition, the helicopter will stay 100 feet away from docks on Emerald Isle. The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway will not be affected.

Here's where to get information about where and when DGM flyovers will occur:

- *Local Notice to Mariners* and *Broadcast Notice to Mariners*, updated each Tuesday on the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d5/waterways/default.asp>.
- Contact the *Bogue Sound Adventures* on Marine Channel 16 VHF-FM (156.8 MHz), which will be onsite daily during the investigation period.
- Call 1-877-827-1266 (toll free) for details of daily flyover operations.

Public safety is our number one concern, but our goal is also to minimize inconvenience to nearby residents and fishermen.

## Munitions Safety

Although Wood Island is no longer used by the Air Station as a target, munitions hazards make it unsafe for any kind of civilian use. Old munitions may still remain underwater near Wood Island and other places in the investigation area. Over time, some have washed up on the shore of Wood Island.

Looks are deceiving when it comes to munitions. Even small items can injure or kill. With age and weather, safety devices



Figure 3 | Warning signs at Wood Island

may no longer work. Old explosives may become unstable and unusually sensitive. Large or small, new or old, shiny or rusty, clean or dirty; all of it can be dangerous!

New warning signs were installed on Wood Island in November 2008, in addition to the existing "no trespassing" signs. NOAA Nautical Chart 11541 identifies areas in the vicinity of Wood Island as dangerous and includes the following note: "Unexploded ordnance has been found in water and on land near this location. Vessels should avoid this area and in no case anchor or ground the vessels on these islands."

***For your own safety, please do NOT anchor near Wood Island or go onto the island at any time!***

If you find munitions (other than on Wood Island), contact your local law enforcement.

### **Contacts for more information**

- Janice Nielsen, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic, 757-322-8339, [janice.nielsen@navy.mil](mailto:janice.nielsen@navy.mil)
- Dale McFarland, MCAS Cherry Point Environmental Affairs Dept, 252-466-4598, [dale.mcfarland@usmc.mil](mailto:dale.mcfarland@usmc.mil)



*Wood Island, the site of Former Bomb Target BT-2*

## What's Inside?

***This fact sheet provides an update on the investigation of munitions at the Former Bomb Target BT-2 in Bogue Sound, where Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point conducted training in the 1940s–1950s.***

***Important information for boaters is included – please read and share!***

A fact sheet was distributed in July 2008 describing the site history, investigation plans, and the Munitions Response Program. Copies are available in West Carteret Library, on the public website <http://public.lantops-ir.org/sites/public/cherrypoint>, or by contacting Janice Nielsen (see below).



On August 18–19, 2008, the Navy and Marine Corps held public open house meetings to provide information about the Former Bomb Target BT-2 site, how the munitions response process works, and the technologies available for investigating munitions. As the investigation progresses, we will continue to provide periodic updates and invite public input.



***Would you like to continue receiving information about the BT-2 investigation?***

*If you haven't already, please e-mail your address (with "Cat Island Mailing List" in the Subject line) to [Janice.Nielsen@navy.mil](mailto:Janice.Nielsen@navy.mil), call 757-322-8339, or write to CH2M HILL, Inc. (Attn: MCAS Cherry Point Team), 5700 Cleveland Street, Suite 101, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. If you prefer receiving updates via email, please tell us that.*

CH2M HILL, Inc.  
Attn: MCAS Cherry Point Team  
5700 Cleveland Street Suite 101  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

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