

**[Issued by the Army on August 4, approximately 4:41 PM. Text copied from email]  
Release #06-8-1-46**

POC: Bob Hall at (907) 384-2546 or (907) 748-7459 at Fort Richardson

## **World War II/Korean War-era bombs unearthed at Wainwright**

FORT WAINWRIGHT, Alaska – Two World War II/Korean War-era bombs were unearthed at Fort Wainwright's Taku Gardens housing expansion/construction site Monday. North Wind Inc. discovered the bombs while conducting an environmental assessment of the construction site.

North Wind has uncovered other World War II- and Korean War-era ordnance items over the past couple of weeks. While previously discovered items were found to be either inert or determined to have a low risk potential, it was determined one of these newly discovered devices might pose a threat to the contractor working on site. This particular device contains a potentially hazardous, yet undetermined, liquid substance.

A team from Fort Richardson's 716th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) and Alaska Air National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team have determined the bomb is not a threat to areas outside of the Taku construction site. According to the EOD experts, in the highly unlikely event the bomb should detonate, none of the liquid or any of its fragments would reach beyond the construction site.

Fort Wainwright officials said the perimeter of the construction site is fenced, and under 24-hour guard.

"Safety is our first concern here," said Lt. Col. Ron Johnson, the Fort Wainwright Garrison commander. "We're simply not going to take any chances. We're taking every precaution to ensure the safety of those on the construction site, as well as those in the neighboring areas."

Over the past couple of weeks, construction on the housing units was halted and North Wind Inc., in conjunction with Bering Sea Eccotech, Inc., has been conducting an environmental assessment under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Part of this assessment included digging test pits to determine what type of metal debris and possible contaminants remain in the ground and searching for improperly disposed drums of fuels, solvents, PCBs or other hazardous wastes.

The 716th Ord. Co. was not able to positively identify the liquid inside the device. However, the EOD team determined the bomb is partially crushed and only contains about 10 percent of its original capacity. Fort Wainwright officials have requested the support of an Army Technical Escort team which is a specialized EOD unit with individuals who are specially trained to identify and handle all types of munitions. This team is scheduled to arrive at Fort Wainwright on Monday to further examine and dispose of the bomb.

Fort Wainwright officials have determined it is imprudent to move this ordnance item as the U.S. Army Garrison-Alaska is not willing to expose anybody to undue risk. To ensure all safety measures are observed, they will wait for Tech Escort to arrive before removing the device from the construction site.

As an added precaution, the Army is utilizing special military first responders to conduct air sampling to detect any and all potentially hazardous vaporous materials. No contaminants have been detected.