



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Philadelphia District

# News Release

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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

## **Army explores canine training, possible munitions search alternatives at Surf City**

PHILADELPHIA (Nov. 9, 2007): The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announced it has deployed a unit of munitions-locating canines from the Army's 49<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment Canine unit at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to participate in a field training exercise on the beaches at Surf City.

Depending on the outcome and effectiveness of the training exercise, the Corps will determine if the use of canines is a viable tool to supplement future investigations within our project site and at other similar sites that might arise in the future.

Several conflicting media reports erroneously reported that "bomb-sniffing dogs" had been deployed specifically to find undiscovered munitions on the beach.

Since completing the initial removal action earlier this year that cleared more than 1,100 World War I-era discarded munitions from the Surf City and Ship Bottom beaches before Memorial Day, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been assessing alternative courses of action to further address the existence of munitions yet to be discovered.

Upon learning about this specialized canine unit at Fort Leonard Wood about a month ago, the Corps' Philadelphia District initiated coordination through our Baltimore Military Munitions Design Center with The Canine team at Fort Leonard Wood. The Corps requested that a team be brought to our project site to test the effectiveness of the dogs in discovering buried munitions in a beachfront environment. It was thought that depending on the findings of this investigation, the Canines might offer a valuable alternative to supplement future geophysical investigations and monitoring for Surf City or future scenarios in other locations.