



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE
100 Headquarters Avenue
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NEW MEXICO 88002-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

17 MAY 2008

CSTE-DTC-WS-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR Team White Sands Leadership

SUBJECT: Training on the Hazards of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

1. It is vital that persons entering White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) acknowledge the very real hazards presented by one of the world's largest munitions impact areas. WSMR has been used as an ordnance and explosives test facility since its inception as a proving ground in 1945. Prior to that, some areas of what is now the Southern part of the Range were used as artillery impact areas by troops training at Fort Bliss. As a tri-service DoD Range, White Sands has tested nearly every type of deployable ordnance developed in the United States since 1945, as well as many items from other countries. Quite a number of these munitions were deliberately designed to blend in with the terrain, and their presence may not be immediately obvious to the casual observer.

2. As a result of these operations, many areas of the Range are known to be contaminated with UXO. Other areas are potentially contaminated or occupy safety fans and safety exclusion zones. Even more significantly, many areas of the Range have been impacted by errant or impromptu testing in the past. Consequently, there is no assurance that any area of the Range is truly 100% cleared of UXO.

3. In recognition of the need to positively assure that every individual entering WSMR is made aware of the very real threat posed by the presence of UXO, Team White Sands leadership will make the following commitment:

"All personnel under our control or sponsorship will receive either a formal orientation or a detailed briefing on the hazards of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) present at White Sands Missile Range before they are granted access to the Range outside the main post cantonment area. Additionally, I will supplement this training by providing annual UXO hazards refresher briefing to all assigned or sponsored personnel who have continued access to the Range. Each unit will maintain formal records of this training and make them available for review. Trained personnel will be issued a Range UXO Hazards Card to signify completion of this required training."


THOMAS R. BERARD, SES
Director

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