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Press Release 09-061, 21 October 2009

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For Immediate Release

Utah National Guard Begins Munitions Investigation At Camp Williams, Establishes Advisory Board

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah – The Utah National Guard is launching a project to investigate the presence of old munitions on lands that were once part of Camp Williams, but are now located just outside the boundaries of the installation. In conjunction with the start of this project, the UTNG will host an informational open house to talk to local residents about the upcoming investigation.

The open house will be held at Fort Herriman Middle School located at 14058 Mirabella Drive, Riverton, UT Oct. 22, 2009 from 6 to 8 p.m. Residents living in the communities surrounding Camp Williams are encouraged to attend the meeting to receive more information about the cleanup and learn about ways they can stay informed.

The munitions investigation is part of the Department of Defense's Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), a nationwide effort aimed at eliminating the risk old munitions may pose to the public.

"The site-investigation phase of MMRP at Camp Williams has identified six areas which have the potential to contain old munitions," said Robert Price, Environmental Resource Manager of the Utah National Guard. "We'll spend the next few months investigating these sites to determine the likelihood of their presence, and whether or not a remedial action is warranted," he said.

MMRP sites include locations that are or were owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed or used by the Department of Defense. Munitions crews will be looking for any munitions that could pose a risk to public safety, human health or the environment.

Price said that once the munitions have been identified, the UTNG will propose a remedy to safely eliminate them. This plan will be presented to the public for comment before it is finalized.

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The UTNG intends to keep the public informed of the investigation and any follow-on cleanup that may be needed. This open house is the first of several planned over the next four years. In addition, the UTNG will be forming a Restoration Advisory Board, or RAB, to better understand the concerns of people living near the MMRP sites.

“The purpose of the RAB is to provide a way to have dialog with the community about the MMRP,” said Price. “We’re hopeful the communication will be two-way – that they will bring us the communities’ concerns and in turn we provide them information about what we’re doing so they can take that back to those they represent,” he said.

Membership on the advisory board will consist of city representatives, community representatives, state regulatory members, Federal regulatory members, property owners and business owners.

The cities of Herriman, Bluffdale, Lehi, Saratoga Springs and Eagle Mountain have expressed interest in providing city government representation on the board, as well as assisting the UTNG by appointing community representatives from their communities.

“Interested community members, as well as anyone who is interested in being on the RAB, are invited to come to the open house on Oct. 22,” said Price. Applications for RAB membership will be available at the meeting and will also be mailed out to residents living in the communities near Camp Williams.

A map with the locations of these sites is included in the attached information.

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