



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

News Release

Release Number: **070806**
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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

Corps not sending the bill to Surf City

PHILADELPHIA (Aug. 6, 2007): The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announced that an article first published in the Philadelphia Inquirer's Aug. 5 edition contained several factual errors and quotes taken out of context.

First, the article erroneously reported that the Corps would be "billing the town" for the munitions removal action. Like all of our civil works projects, the beach nourishment work for Long Beach Island, including Surf City, is specifically cost shared between the Corps and the non-federal sponsor –which for the beach nourishment project is the State of New Jersey.

However, for the munitions clean up, the ultimate source of funding has not been determined. But under no circumstance will the Corps be billing the municipalities of Surf City or Ship Bottom.

The article also inaccurately referred to the military munitions as "beach bombs," which would imply that they have the potential to spontaneously or independently ignite or explode. After a thorough investigation of the munitions items, we concluded that the items, which contain explosive material, were World War I-era boosters and fuses that must be further assembled and discharged from land or naval artillery.

To date, all of the items recovered at Surf City have been safely removed without incident. Moreover, in similar incidents over the years along the Atlantic coast where munitions items were recovered, no such explosions have occurred.

The article also erroneously stated that the Corps was planning to close and "sieve the entire beach" in the fall or winter. We currently have no definitive plan of action after the beach season. We are currently discussing various options with the state. No final decisions have been made at this time.

If a munitions item is found, do not handle the item and immediately report it to a lifeguard or call 911.