HIB Number: 000708

Date/Time
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Subject: UXO DISPOSAL TOMORROW - HEATHCOTE ROAD, SYDNEY

Comment: Action Area
HDSO
HOT ISSUE BRIEF

ISSUE: UXO FOUND EASTERN SIDE OF HEATHCOTE ROAD

SENSITIVITY: Medium. Media interest may occur on closure of Heathcote Road for demolition of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).

KEY ISSUES:

• Defence has been notified of the discovery of a UXO today on the eastern side of Heathcote Road, adjacent to Holsworthy Training Area.
• This item is a 76 mm High Explosive round estimated to be at least twenty five years old.
• The area was previously known as Little Forest Training Area, possibly used by Army around 1966.
• NSW Police have been informed and have assumed control of the situation. The police have requested Defence support to dispose of the item.
• The item has been fired and is considered unsafe to move.
• Destruction of the UXO is scheduled to occur late morning/early afternoon tomorrow 14 September 2010.
• Heathcote Road will be closed tomorrow for approximately 15 minutes while Joint Logistics Command arrange for the safe disposal of the UXO.

Contact Officer: Colin Wilson  W: 02 8782 4635  M: 
Authorised by: MAJ GEN Liz Cosson, HDSO  W: 02 6265 6135  M: 
Authorised by: AIR CDR Andrew Hayden  W: 02 6127 0080  M: 

TALKING POINTS
UXO FOUND EASTERN SIDE OF HEATHCOTE ROAD

• A single item of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) has been found on the eastern side of Heathcote Road, adjacent to Holsworthy Training Area.

• Heathcote Road will be closed for about 15 minutes tomorrow while military technicians safely dispose of the UXO.

• The destruction of the UXO is scheduled to occur late morning/early afternoon tomorrow 14 September 2010.

• It is expected that the operation will be completed before the afternoon peak traffic to reduce traffic congestion.

IF ASKED: IS IT DANGEROUS?
- Heathcote Road will be closed for about 15 minutes tomorrow for safety reasons, while military technicians safely dispose of the UXO.

- Unless a UXO is deliberately disturbed there are no known instances in Australia, where a UXO has injured a member of the public.

**IF ASKED: WHAT IF I FIND A UXO?**

- If any member of the public should find a suspicious item, that may be a UXO, they should not touch or disturb it.

- They should contact the police who will arrange for military technicians to attend and dispose of it.

**IF ASKED: ARE THEY DANGEROUS?**

- Any UXO is potentially dangerous. However, unless the UXO was deliberately disturbed there are no known instances in Australia, where a UXO has injured a member of the public.

- If any member of the public should find a suspicious item, that may be a UXO, they should not touch or disturb it. They should contact the police who will arrange for military technicians to attend and dispose of it.

**IF ASKED: WHAT TYPE OF UXO WAS FOUND?**

- This item is a 76 mm High Explosive round estimated to be at least twenty five years old.

**IF ASKED: HOW DID THE UXO GET THERE?**
• Ammunition which has been fired, but has not gone off, is known as UXO.

• The area was previously used as a training area by Army (known as Little Forest Training Area) around 1966.

• If any member of the public should find a suspicious item, that may be a UXO, they should not touch or disturb it. They should contact the police who will arrange for military experts to attend and dispose of it.

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Authorised by: MAJ GEN Liz Cosson, HDSO  W: 02 6265 6135  M: 
Authorised by: AIR CDR Andrew Hayden  W: 02 6127 0080  M: 
PA Clearance by: DDGPA-O Col Jeff Squire  W: 02 6127 1952  M: 