



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

JAN 10 2007

ACQUISITION
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

Mr. Christopher Jones, President
Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)
444 N Capitol St, NW, Suite 445
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Jones,

Military munitions, such as unexploded ordnance (UXO) and discarded military munitions (DMM), no longer under Department of Defense (DoD) control present a potential explosive or chemical hazard if disturbed. Handling such munitions can result in death, serious injury or loss and damage to property. Munitions lying dormant in water for years are particularly hazardous. In some cases, prolonged exposure to water can make munitions more sensitive to heat, static, shock or friction, particularly if they are removed from the water and allowed to dry.

On December 7, 2004, I forwarded your office safety information and posters pertaining to a situation that involved the inadvertent recovery of DMM from the seabed during commercial fishing and clamming operations. This information outlined actions that should be taken by the public when munitions are discovered during these or subsequent processing operations. Your efforts in disseminating this information to increase public awareness of the potential hazards associated with munitions no longer under DoD control are appreciated.

Unfortunately, DoD continues to receive reports of divers recovering munitions and taking them home as souvenirs or to dive shops for display and has been informed that some dive shops advertise tours of areas known to contain military munitions. These activities offer divers an opportunity to gather munitions as souvenirs and as a result, place divers, their families and neighbors at great risk.

In an ongoing effort to inform the public of the potential hazards associated with collecting or maintaining souvenir munitions, DoD is pleased to provide you copies of two new safety posters for divers. These posters are part of DoD's continuing effort to educate the public about the potential hazards associated with UXO and other military munitions that may be encountered during outdoor activities. These posters and other information regarding explosives safety are available at www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety.



The DoD would appreciate your disseminating the attached posters. I have enclosed a list of agencies to which I have mailed this information. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the DoD Explosives Safety Board at (703) 325-0891.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Beehler".

Alex Beehler
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Environment, Safety & Occupational Health)