



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY GARRISON
FORT McCLELLAN, ALABAMA 36205-5000

August 4, 2004

Fort McClellan, Alabama

Mr. Steve Miller
Fish and Wildlife Service
291 Jimmy Parks Blvd.
Fort McClellan, Alabama 36205

Dear Mr. Miller:

We regret the inconvenience caused by recent events concerning ongoing unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance operations in the Charlie Area. As you know, the Army and its contractor are working cooperatively with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to address the requirements specified in the Administrative Order issued on July 30, 2004.

The acreage designated for your hunting program, as noticed in the *Federal Register*, bears no direct relationship to the acreage immediately impacted by the Administrative Order. As such, we see no reason for you to abandon your plans for public use, hunting, in the Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge this fall.

There may be an indirect impact, resulting from the imposition of temporary exclusion zones in areas where the 100 foot buffer for "re-investigations" required by the Administrative Order may overlap with boundaries where hunting is scheduled to take place; however, we are committed to working with you to plan our activities in a manner that will minimize the potential for conflict. In fact, we hope to complete all re-investigations before your hunting program begins. Note that exclusion zones will only become necessary if a relocated item is discovered, and a determination is made to demolish it on site. In that event, the required exclusion zone will be dictated by explosive safety requirements specified for such demolition, and the temporary access restriction will be lifted once the demolition is complete. We will share more specific information with you, including maps with proposed exclusion zones, as that information is developed.

The Land Use Control Implementation Plan (LUCIP) prepared in support of the transfer of property accountability remains in effect. The LUCIP, along with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Army and Department of the Interior, outline safety considerations for the refuge. Please understand the Army did not impose controls for areas not known or suspected to contain UXO. Due to the proximity of the public access area to areas known or suspected to contain UXO, safety measures include the provision of written materials to the FWS appropriate for distribution to the public regarding the risks presented by UXO and related safety information. We suggest that FWS provide this information to the hunters. We remain convinced that we have imposed adequate controls for areas known or suspected to contain UXO by restricting public access. Appropriate signs and access controls are in place, and individuals who access areas known or suspected to contain UXO in the refuge receive safety training.

All compliance activities associated with meeting requirements of the Administrative Order are subject to monitoring by ADEM. We appreciate your concern with safety for the public, and we assure you that we are fully committed to proceeding in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. We will release the Draft Charlie Area EE/CA to ADEM, as well as other relevant data.

Copies of this letter were furnished to Mr. Tom Lederle and Mr. Mike Bobrick at the Base Realignment and Closure Hampton Field Office.

Please contact me at 256-848-6853 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald M. Levy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "L".

Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator