

Munitions response work-plan delayed

Stopping short of releasing its proposed munitions response work plan, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held a public meeting in Borrego Springs on May 24.

The Corps is developing a technical plan that will define how 400 square miles of local desert will be scanned and studied for potentially harmful military leftovers. Called the Borrego Maneuver Area, the land includes portions of Clark Dry Lake, Military Wash, portions of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park north and south of S22, the former Camp Ensign and parcels northeast of Ocotillo Wells.

Community meetings are part of the public involvement process and

about 10 local residents joined other stakeholders along with Corps staff for a project briefing at Borrego Springs High School. The Corps displayed 14 color posters mapping the areas of investigation. Examples of munitions and ordnance that might be found at the sites were also on display.

The release of the work plan will be followed by a 45-day public comment period. Field work to study the areas could begin in September. Cleanup measures or other mitigation options would come following the field studies.

The BMA project Web site is: www.borregosprings-mmrp.org.