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# News Release



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## **Corps of Engineers participates in eighth annual Adventures in Engineering Day**

**By Becky Proaps**  
**Public Affairs Office**

Area students used high-tech metal detectors to search Redstone Arsenal's main parade field Sept. 24 for buried "munitions" as part of the eighth annual Adventures in Engineering Day.

This event is geared for area high school juniors who are interested in pursuing college degrees in science and engineering, and it gives the students a chance to interact with several engineering agencies.

More than 180 11th- and 12th-grade students from Huntsville, Madison, Madison County, Limestone County and Arab high schools attended.

Huntsville Center employees met students as they arrived at the Huntsville Center stop set up on Redstone Arsenal's main parade field to explain the Center's many diversified missions, the types of engineering positions available in the Corps, types of munitions and munitions safety.

Amy Walker, a geophysicist in the Geotechnical Branch of the Engineering Directorate, talked to the students about geophysical engineering and its wide variety of applications.

"I described my job as a geophysicist for the Corps of Engineers, and explained to them how we use geophysics to locate potentially hazardous munitions in order to remove them and reduce the risk to the public," Walker said. "It was also a chance for me to be an example for the female students and let them know that there are women engineers doing interesting work and if they apply themselves, there is nothing holding them back."

Wilson Walters, ordnance and explosives safety specialist with the Military Munitions Center of Expertise, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, showed the students several different types of munitions and explained how dangerous these items can be.

"I stressed the 3Rs of unexploded ordnance safety — Recognize, Retreat and Report — and reminded them that munitions can be found anywhere," Walters said. "Munitions can be and have been found on beaches, in grandparents' attics or basements, even in beaver dams."

For the hands-on activity, each student was handed a high-tech metal detector called a *schondstedt* and given the opportunity to simulate a search for buried "munitions."

Ken Shott, a safety specialist with Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, explained how the equipment is used to find buried munitions at formerly used defense sites and other locations across the country. The students headed to the parade field and with flags in hand searched for and marked the "munitions" they found, which were actually large timber spikes.

"The kids seemed to really enjoy using the *schondstedts* and searching for the buried spikes," Shott said. "I don't think a lot of the students knew about this kind of work before today."

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, NASA - Marshall Space Flight Center, and the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, also participated.



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