

Traffic Snarls Expected During UXO Evacuation

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Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan Massive traffic backups are expected on Okinawa's main highway system due to road closures necessary for the scheduled removal of an unexploded WWII 5-inch shell. The munition, fired from an American warship during the Battle of Okinawa in early 1945, was unearthed at a construction site near the highway.

Disposal will be carried out by an EOD team from the 101st UXO Squad of the 15th Brigade Okinawa of Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force. Since Okinawa was reverted to Japanese control in 1972, the squad has responded to 35,699 ordnance-related cases and disposed of approximately 1,742 tons of WWII-era munitions.

Approximately 206 households and 39 businesses will be evacuated during the disposal operation.