

1 Executive Summary

The preliminary investigation of military facilities utilised within the Wellington Region since 1914, has revealed a number of sites **which** could potentially contain explosive material. In association with explosive material, a number of sites may also **contain** other hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead shot, lead paint and other heavy metals.

The contamination associated with residue explosive materials **is** suspected to be, general army waste, medical waste, **military** vehicles and parts, and in a couple of **cases**, it has **been alleged** armaments have been **discharged** or purposely buried for future use. This material is not only a contaminant but also a hazard to site users.

Disposal practices carried out by the US Marine Corps and the New Zealand Army during World War 2, have led to the identification of **14 sites** where **contamination** is known to exist or is suspected to exist. In some cases (**Paekakariki** and **Camp Russell**), the **New Zealand Army** have screened these sites in an attempt to clear the **area of explosives**,

The majority of information collected in the preparation of this report is based on anecdotal evidence, some of which does not contain sufficient detail and should be examined carefully. Only some of the sites, as agreed with Wellington Regional Council, were visited. It is likely that more information will become available after the completion of **this** preliminary report.

The lack of record keeping at most sites means it is difficult to say with certainty that explosive material was dumped or lost. Even in sites with ongoing military use there is a lack of historical information.

Based on the results of this Investigation a number of sites **have been prioritised** for further investigation.

One difficulty has been in specifically identifying sites **and** relating this to the present situations. Not all **sites** were clearly defined and there has been **significant** development since that time. Further work is required on this.

The assistance of the Wellington Regional Council and New Zealand Defence Force in preparing this preliminary report is acknowledged and appreciated.