



# City of New Bern

FOUNDED 1710

New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

CITY OF NEW BERN  
300 POLLOCK  
STREET  
P.O. BOX 1129  
NEW BERN, NC  
28563

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 27, 2012

POSSIBLE CIVIL WAR MORTAR CLOSES STREET

At about 4:30 p.m. Thursday, January 26, 2012 the New Bern Police Department received a call from a man inquiring about an object he found in Pamlico County and brought back to New Bern. The man indicated the object resembled Civil War ordnance and he was concerned about its safety. The object was inside the back of an SUV parked in the 1700 block of Elmwood Street.

A police officer and fire commander were dispatched to the scene to take a look at the object. The two determined the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from MCAS Cherry Point was needed to examine the object. The officer called for additional help to close off the dead end street and began evacuating homes surrounding the SUV as a safety precaution.

The MCAS Cherry Point EOD arrived at 6:40 p.m. and removed the object from the vehicle. A member of the team said the object appeared to be a 3.1-3.5" Civil War era mortar. The team took the mortar back to Cherry Point and plans to dispose of it in a safe, controlled environment.

Neighbors were allowed back in their homes around 6:50 p.m. "It's an inconvenience to be evacuated from your home," said New Bern Fire-Rescue Chief Bobby Aster. "But it's necessary in situations like this. And thankfully only about six families were affected. We were able to contain the situation, get the mortar out of the neighborhood and get everyone back home in about 2 hours."

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