

CEHNC-OE-DC
ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES PROJECT PLAN

Original Date: 31 March 1998

Current Date: 29 Mar 1999

1. **SITE NAME:** Blaine Naval Ammunition Depot

a. **SITE NUMBER:** B07NE000700

b. **LOCATION:**

City: Hastings
County: Adams and Clay County
State: Nebraska

c. **PROJECT NUMBER:** B07NE000705

d. **CATEGORY:** OEW - FUDS

2. **POC'S:**

TECHNICAL MANAGER:

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The northwest corner of the former **Blaine Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD), Nebraska**, is located about two miles east of the City of Hastings. The site covers over 48,753 acres in Clay and Adams Counties, Nebraska. At one time during WW II, the **Blaine NAD** supplied forty percent of the Navy's ammunition needs. Decommissioning of the NAD facilities began in 1958 and was completed in 1967. Beginning in the mid 1960s, large tracts were either sold for private use or transferred to other governmental agencies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) received approximately 35,000 acres of the former NAD. This land was developed as the Hruska Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) which is involved in research on the production of sheep, cattle, and swine. Over 3,000 acres of the former NAD were transferred to the Nebraska National Guard and developed as a military training facility. The administrative and military housing areas of the former NAD were transferred to another governmental agency and later became the site of Central

Community College. Other portions of the NAD involving the former production areas were sold to the City of Hastings and eventually to private investors and area residents, or directly to private parties. These properties include an approximately 2,865-acre area referred to as the Hastings East Industrial Park (HEIP) and a smaller tract of land occupying the site of the former Bomb and Mine Complex.

4. SITE HISTORY: Blaine NAD missions included the storage, assembly, preparation, loading, preservation, shipping, and overhaul of ammunition and inert ordnance. The Navy commenced construction of the NAD on 31 July 1943, commissioned the NAD for service on 22 February 1943, and conducted its first shipment from the NAD on 4 July 1943. The depot was built to fulfill the emergency and wartime needs of the military during World War II (WW II). During its operation, the NAD produced a constant flow of ammunition, from 40mm shells to 16-inch projectiles, plus tremendous numbers of rockets, bombs, depth charges, mines, and torpedo warheads. The NAD also conducted breakdown operations of ammunition returned by the fleets.

Between 1946 and 1949, the NAD served as a war reserve to store, segregate, recondition, load preparation and issue of all types of ammunition. The operations included Heavy Bomb Component loading units, medium and major caliber loading plants, 40mm loading plants, and rocket loading plants. During this time period, the Navy also disposed of unserviceable and dangerous ammunition and explosives returned by the fleets and other organizations. In 1947 the Navy leased unused portions of the NAD for grazing and agricultural purposes. The NAD was placed on inactive status on 1 November 1949 but was reactivated in July 1950, to receive, refurbish, maintain, store, and issue ammunition and explosives, as well as technical ordnance material. In April 1957 the NAD was again placed in maintenance status.

In 1964, the NAD demilitarized 5-inch warheads, 5-inch rocket motors, 16-inch projectiles, and 40mm cartridges through the operation of various process lines. Ordnance scrap metal was segregated, baled, sold, and shipped from the Depot. From June 1959 to January 1966, the Depot shipped 3981 box cars and 6133 truck loads of ammunition and explosives, a total of 292,745 tons. On 17 January 1966, the Navy shipped the last load of serviceable ammunition, 8-inch projectiles, by truck to the NAD, Crane, Indiana.

5. PREVIOUS SITE ACTIVITIES: Several explosions have occurred at Blaine NAD. On 27 January 1944, a six-inch shell exploded in the black powder building. The worst explosion, in September 1944, left a large crater and caused extensive damage. At least 9

military personnel died and up to 89 people were injured. The U.S. Army Engineer Division, Huntsville conducted a preliminary assessment of ordnance hazards in 1989, and followed up with ordnance removals at six areas on the NAD from June through November of 1991. An Archives Search report was prepared by St. Louis District for Huntsville in 1998, recommending an EE/CA for the NAD.

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The EE/CA was awarded to Parsons Engineering on 30 June 98 for \$1,361,408. The site visit was conducted on the week of 27 July 98. Work Plan was approved on 2 October and AE mobilized on 5 October. Site characterization concluded on 11 February 1999. EE/CA Report is being drafted.

7. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** None

8. **SCHEDULE:** For Official Use Only

9. **FUNDING/BUDGETING SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only

10. **CONTRACTING STRATEGY:**

a. Type of Contract: **A-E**

b. Procurement: **Cost Plus FF**