



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers®
Huntsville Center

Ordnance and Explosives

Formerly Used Defense Sites

Background

In 1986, Congress established the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) under Public Laws 99-190 and 99-499. The program goals under DERP are:

- Identify, investigate, and cleanup hazardous contaminants.
- Correct the environmental damage (such as detection and disposal of unexploded ordnance)
- Demolition and removal of unsafe buildings and structures

Under DERP are two subprograms, the Installation Restoration (IR) Program - which addresses contamination resulting from past operations at active installations - and the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program. Ordnance and Explosives work (OE) is performed under each of these two subprograms, and also under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program. While the MACOMs and installations are responsible for executing under BRAC and IR, authority for executing OE response actions at FUDS has been delegated to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by DoD through Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA).

Center of Expertise/Design Center



A typical piece of old ordnance.

The Huntsville Center became the Center of Expertise for Ordnance and Explosives (OE) for the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on April 5, 1990. The CX mission includes developing technical guidance and performing quality reviews of OE projects. Huntsville Center is also a Design Center for OE and in this role, plans, manages, and executes many of the OE projects for FUDS, BRAC, IR and support for others. Huntsville has executed several projects for range maintenance and for clearance of OE at active ranges to support construction. To execute its FUDS program, a team of engineers and other specialists study eligible sites throughout the country to determine if ordnance contamination exists. In cooperation with local Corps of Engineers districts, public officials and interested citizens, Huntsville Center leads the phases to identify OE, determine its potential

danger, develop a plan to remove the ordnance or reduce its risk, and oversee the execution of that plan. The local geographic district serves as the overall project manager for the investigation and response actions, and handles the real estate and public involvement responsibilities.

Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C., oversees the entire FUDS program and provides approval and funding. Huntsville Center's goal at OE sites is to reduce in a timely, cost-effective manner, the risk to human health, safety, and the environment of hazards which have resulted from past DoD activities. The Center applies rigid safety standards and uses contractor personnel highly qualified in unexploded ordnance removal. Center personnel who oversee safety all have specialized military training and extensive specialized experience in OE removal.

The Response Process

The Corps executes OE response actions in the following described phases:

Preliminary Assessment of Eligibility (PAE). This is the initial phase performed for FUDS to determine property and project eligibility. This stage includes review of historical records, site visits, and development of an Inventory Project Report, which recommends further action, if required.

Site Investigation (SI). During this phase, a historical summary of the site is generated based on records reviews. These records include maps, drawings and aerial photographs; interviews with local residents and former employees of the former defense activity; and visual inspection of the site. The results of this phase are documented in an Archives Search Report (ASR). If the ASR confirms an ordnance problem, the Corps proceeds to the next phase of the response process.

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). The purpose of the EE/CA is to identify the most appropriate response action to address an OE risk at a project site. Integral parts of the EE/CA include a complete site characterization in which the area, depth, and density of ordnance contamination is estimated; risk assessment of OE hazards present at the site; and evaluation of potential response alternatives. The selected alternative is documented in an Action Memorandum.

Removal Design/Removal Action. A statement of work, Work Plan, and Explosives Safety Plan for the selected alternative comprise the major elements of a removal design. Once these documents are approved, the contractor begins work to perform the removal action.

The phases described above are followed during the non-time critical removal process. If an imminent hazard is discovered during any phase, a time-critical removal action may be initiated to address the immediate hazard.

Potential OE Sites

1,691 Formerly Used
Defense Sites
1,329 sites required
preliminary investigation
- Archives Search
Report (ASR)
1,180 ASRs completed
600-700 sites expected
to be contaminated with
unexploded ordnance



Fact Sheet Information:
Public Affairs Office, (256) 895-1690
www.hnd.usace.army.mil
2004