



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Huntsville Center

Project Manager  
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# Coalition Munitions Clearance Program

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## Mission Statement

**H**untsville Center is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Center of Expertise for Military Munitions. Huntsville Center's Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for receiving, transporting, segregating and destroying captured or any other munitions posing a danger in Iraq. Storage and disposal of the ammunition is performed at several locations throughout Iraq.

## History

In the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Coalition Forces found huge caches of ammunition scattered throughout Iraq. Military explosive ordnance disposal teams were initially tasked with securing and disposing of the captured enemy ammunition. The commanders in Baghdad faced a demilitarization program that was at least 10 times larger than what the Department of Defense demilitarizes annually in all of its continental United States ammunition plants. They soon realized they needed additional assistance; so they

turned to the Corps for help.

The Corps estimated that the weapon stockpile consisted of 400,000 tons of munitions. Demolition operations in Iraq began on Sept. 11, 2003.

Not only did Coalition Forces find munitions at military bases, but also schools, hospitals, mosques and other unlikely locations. Because the munitions were everywhere, they were an attractive danger to civilians and a ready source of explosives for the insurgency.

When the U.S. Army started taking over control of the Iraqi depots, they experienced many challenges. The Iraqis had no storage or compatibility procedures. High explosive items were stored with detonators, which posed a significant explosion hazard. The Corps organized the depots and folded six depots into two.

In March, the Corps completed the last major demolition, which consisted of 248 tons of stockpiled ammunition.

This demolition signified a shift in the mission. The Corps is now operating two depots with the intent of training Iraqis and turning the depot operations over to them.

The Corps also established

20 mobile teams. The teams' mission is to occupy selected sites, destroy the munitions and clear collapsed bunkers.

## Contractors

On Aug. 8, 2003, the Corps awarded contracts to Parsons, Inc.; EOD Technology; USA Environmental, Inc.; Zapata Engineering, Inc.; and Tetra Tech Foster Wheeler, Inc. The companies have existing delivery order contracts to perform ordnance and explosives response actions at formerly used defense sites (FUDS) and active military installations in the United States and in the international arena.

## Facts

- Personnel working for the CMC program in Iraq:
  - 1,195 contractors
  - 1,563 Iraqi workers
  - 10 government employees
- The CMC program has logged over 18 million man-hours doing ordnance and explosives remediation in Iraq.
- To date, more than 450,000 tons of ammunition have been destroyed.