



Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise: Military Munitions Response Program

Military Munitions Division Chief 256-895-1795

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Background

In 1990, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers established the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, as the Ordnance and Explosives Center of Expertise and Design Center. In 2007, the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise was established merging the former OE CX (also called the Military Munitions CX) and the Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste Center of Expertise (HTRW CX). The former MM CX is now the Military Munitions Division of the EM CX. The EM CX was established to assist USACE organizational elements in performing their activities and maintaining state-of-the-art technical expertise for all aspects of response activities. The EM CX does not execute response actions for programs or projects but assists USACE at all levels in their performance.

The EM CX supports the USACE Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) and other munitions related operations in reducing the human health and environmental risk associated with munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC). We maintain state-of-the-art technical expertise for all aspects of environmental remediation and munitions response activities. We also manage and provide oversight of the USACE Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) MMRP Site Inspection Program.



Recovered Stokes mortars

Courtesy photo

Military Munitions Response Program

MMRP covers munitions and explosives of concern and munitions constituents. MC includes the residue and breakdown products from munitions and munitions use.

Examples of MEC include the following:

- Bombs
- Land mines and grenades
- Artillery, rockets and mortars
- Guided missiles and torpedoes
- Bulk explosives, propellants, depth charges
- Chemical Warfare Material (CWM) and certain Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE
P.O. BOX 1600, HUNTSVILLE, AL 35807 Public Affairs Office 256-895-1694

<http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil>

Distribution A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

December 2009

MMRP Capabilities

- Review and approve munitions related products
- Draft guidance, policy, and regulations as requested
- Develop and present MMRP training and mentoring
- Advise and assist on public outreach
- Mentor and advise on MMRP policies, regulations, guidance and procedures
- Develop remediation cost models
- Establish procedures and quality assurance standards
- Coordinate technical and policy issues with Department of the Army safety community
- Coordinate and act as the team leader on CWM Pre-Operational surveys prior to the start of any Chemical operations
- Develop and evaluate risk models
- Perform assistance visits to ensure site specific safety procedures are being executed in accordance with approved documents and ensure approved processes are being followed and documented
- Conduct or assist in program and project quality assurance audits
- Monitor and influence research and development programs to support USACE MMRP missions
- Review and approve CWM Environmental Control Structures
- Evaluate innovative technologies for use in MMRP and develop implementing guidance as requested
- Provide MMRP technical support to any USACE office conducting construction or HTRW operations in areas where MMRP is suspected or known to exist
- Develop and review explosive safety submissions and plans (ESSs/ESPs) and chemical warfare material safety submissions and plans (CSSs/CSPs)
- Provide USACE approval of safety submissions and plans
- Coordinate and partner with other DOD and DA agencies, USACE activities, and state and federal regulators and stakeholders
- Conduct and assist in investigation of munitions related accidents and incidents



Courtesy photo

SEGWAY robotic metal detector

Customers

- Superfund and other non-FUDS
- Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)
- Ordnance support for construction sites and range maintenance
- Ordnance support for hazardous, toxic or radioactive waste (HTRW) actions
- Installation Restoration Program/Base Realignment and Closure (IRP/BRAC)

The EM CX is management-support funded for much of the FUDS work. Funding for other programs is provided on a reimbursable basis.