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Agreement Will Improve Processing of Military Range Munitions Scrap

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Huntsville, Ala.-- The Huntsville Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently helped to forge an agreement that will improve safety and streamline handling processes for identifying, removing, safeguarding, certifying, and recycling military range munitions scrap.

The agreement between Hawthorne Army Depot, Nevada (HWAD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, signed on April 16, 2003, established the Hawthorne facility as a centralized recycling center for processing and recycling of inert ordnance and related range materials within the continental United States. Under the agreement, the Corps of Engineers and its contractors will remove and process Department of Defense range residue/scrap for recycling at HWAD. Range residue/scrap includes targets and expended munitions.

The Huntsville Center has developed a "cradle to grave" process that includes a complete chain of custody procedures to ensure that all munitions are carefully checked and rendered harmless before recycling. The approved agreement also promotes prudent environmental and resource management by using recycled metal.

"One reason our military forces are superb is because they have training ranges that provide them the greatest degree of tactical combat realism," said Glenn Earhart of the Huntsville Center Corps of Engineers. "As munitions become more precise, as environmental statutes change, and as the services downsize; the need for safe and adequate training ranges becomes more critical. This agreement between Hawthorne and the Corps of Engineers is an important partnership because it will enhance readiness and improve the environmental settings of past and present military ranges. Our team approach provides an innovative engineering solution to the complex issues of range scrap recycling."

"Hawthorne Army Depot is ideally located near many ranges," said Florentino Cardenas, Civilian Executive Assistant of HWAD. "Whether the item is a small expended ammunition or a large target such as a tank, Hawthorne has modern demilitarization facilities to safely handle and recycle the metal. Selection of Hawthorne will also provide economical stability and more fully use one of America's premier demilitarization facilities," Cardenas said.

Hawthorne Army Depot is located in Hawthorne, Nevada, approximately 140 miles southeast of Reno.

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