



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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News Release

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Captured Enemy Ammunition Program moves forward

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HUNTSVILLE, Ala. -- In less than five months, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has received and stored about 75,000 tons of captured enemy ammunition (CEA) collected throughout Iraq and destroyed nearly 50,000 tons – 100 million pounds or the equivalent of 24,000 SUVs.

Combined Joint Task Force-7, made up of troops from the 36 countries that comprise the coalition forces, selected the Huntsville Engineering and Support Center on July 28, 2003 to conduct the mission. Six weeks later, the first ton of CEA was destroyed.

The program has also blasted through its biggest challenge – transitioning from military control to a civilian-managed working environment, and has added a small arms depot to its collection points, said Glenn Earhart, chief of international operations and CEA program manager. The transition freed military resources to return to their war-fighting duties.

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“Right now, the support the military gives us is for convoy security,” he said. “We have gradually absorbed the other duties, such as life support, transporting collecting and destroying the CEA.”

Safety for the contractors, their employees and government civilians has always been our primary objective, said Earhart. “We have implemented security standards that are equivalent to those used by the military. We also require our contractors to adhere to the safety standards required of ordnance technicians in the United States,” he said.

Another goal of the mission is to ensure a quality local national work force. “As the people working for us become more skilled,” Earhart said, “we will have to keep up with the demands for more competitive wages in accordance with the local economy. Our goal is to eventually return a safer Iraq to its people.”

Huntsville Center employees are committed to providing quality services and products in the most cost-efficient way possible, said Col. John Rivenburgh, Huntsville Center commander, and added that the mission in Iraq is no different. “Our soldiers, contracting employees and DA civilians serving in Iraq are magnificent,” he said. “They are diligent in their execution and professional in all they do. Their sacrifice is no less than it is for our soldiers, and we should never lose touch with that.”