



Formerly Used Defense Site Projects

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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During the past two centuries, some activities supporting military readiness have caused environmental contamination within the U.S. and its territories. The Department of Defense, the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are committed to protecting human health and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these properties.

Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) were used by the military prior to October 1986 to train and support the military, as well as to test new weapons and warfare capabilities. When no longer needed, these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals or federal, state, tribal or local government entities.

Congress created the FUDS program in the mid-1980s. The Army oversees the program for DOD using the Army Corps of Engineers to identify eligible properties, investigate their condition and manage any required cleanup. USACE geographic districts perform these functions in consultation with state environmental and health offices and the Environmental Protection Agency. Through the FUDS program, the Army responds to DOD-generated contamination that remained on the property when it was transferred to other owners. Recognizing its obligation to protect citizens, the Army is committed to addressing this contamination in a safe, timely and responsive manner. The scope and magnitude of the FUDS program are significant, with more than 9,700 potential properties. FUDS properties range in size from less than an acre to tens of thousands of acres, and can be located in industrial areas, residential developments and public areas.

Of the properties evaluated for possible inclusion in the program, requirements for response actions exist at more than 2,900 properties. Properties may involve more than one project. At this time USACE has identified more than 4,800 projects requiring response actions, and has completed more than 2,600 of them. Additional properties and projects are identified each year.

Program Development

In 1986, Congress established the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) in Section 211 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). Section 211 of SARA was codified in Title 10 of the U.S. Code (USC), Section 2701. The program goals of FUDS and the DERP are: identify, investigate and clean up hazardous contaminants; correct the environmental damage, such as detection and disposal of unexploded ordnance; demolish and remove unsafe buildings and structures.

Design Center

Under DERP are three program categories: the Installation Restoration Program, the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) and the Building Demolition/Debris Removal Program. Work under the FUDS Program is performed under each of these three program categories. Authority for executing the FUDS Program has been delegated to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by DOD through Headquarters, Department of the Army. The estimated MMRP work at FUDS will comprise a much larger cost than the remaining work under the other two program categories.

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville is a Design Center for MMRP (for both conventional and chemical warfare materiel ordnance) and in this role plans, manages and executes many of the MMRP projects for FUDS and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) projects. Huntsville Center also supports range maintenance projects and clearance of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC) at active ranges to support construction.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

P.O. Box 1600, Huntsville, AL 35807 Public Affairs Office 256-895-1694

www.hnc.usace.army.mil

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To execute its FUDS program, a team of engineers and other specialists study eligible sites throughout the country to determine if MEC or MC contamination exists. In cooperation with local USACE districts, public officials, regulatory agencies, interested citizens and other stakeholders, Huntsville Center leads the phases to identify MEC/MC, determines its potential danger, develops a plan to remove the MEC/MC or reduces its risk and oversees 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 USACE oversees the FUDS program and provides approval and funding. Huntsville Center's goal at MMRP sites is to reduce in a timely, cost-effective manner, the risk to human health, safety and the environment of hazards that have resulted from past DOD activities. The center applies rigid safety standards and uses contractor personnel highly qualified in MEC/MC removal. Center personnel who oversee safety have specialized military training and extensive specialized experience in MEC removal.

The Army Corps of Engineers executes MMRP response actions in the following described phases:

- Preliminary Assessment (PA): This is the initial phase performed for FUDS to determine property and project eligibility. This stage includes review of historical records, development of Archives Search Reports (ASR), site visits and development of an Inventory Project Report, which recommends further action, if required.
- Site Inspection (SI): During this phase, the historical use of the site is reviewed. Limited investigation of the site is performed which may include samples for both MEC and MC. These records include maps, drawings, aerial photographs and visual inspection of the site. The results of this phase are documented in a site inspection report. If the SI report confirms a MEC/MC problem, the Corps proceeds to the next phase of the process.
- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS): The purpose of the RI/FS is to identify the most appropriate response action to address a MEC or MC risk at a project site. Integral parts of the RI/FS include a complete site characterization in which the area, depth and density of MEC/MC contamination are estimated; a risk assessment of site hazards; and an evaluation of potential response alternatives. The selected alternative is documented in a decision document.
- Remedial Design/Remedial 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 remedial action.

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