

Project Factsheet for: Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) Support

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Project Location Information

Location: Entire Rock Island District

River Basin(s): Des Moines, Illinois, Iowa / Cedar, Mississippi, Rock

State(s): IA , IL , MN , MO , WI

Congressional District(s): IA-1 , IA-2 , IA-3 , IA-4 , IA-5 , IL-11 , IL-13 , IL-14 , IL-15 , IL-16 , IL-17 , IL-18 , IL-19 , IL-2 , IL-3 , MN-1 , MN-7 , MO-6 , MO-9 , WI-1 , WI-2 , WI-3 , WI-5 , WI-6

Status

Informational only.

Description

This is a summary of the Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) support that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, is providing to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville. This support principally consists of experienced ordnance professionals on the Rock Island District team performing Military Munitions Response Preliminary Assessments/Site Inspections and contractor quality assurance oversight as steps in the MEC clean-up process. The MEC program is part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP FUDS), as authorized by the Comprehensive Environmental Restoration, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). All MEC work is performed under the direction of the Corps of Engineers- Huntsville Engineering and Support Center.

Rock Island District has formed a technical partnership team with several Army organizations to provide support to the MEC program. The team is comprised of persons from the Rock Island District; the United States Army Defense Ammunition Center (DAC), located at MacAllister, Oklahoma; and the Medical Command, co-located with the Rock Island District on the Rock Island Arsenal. MEC support involves close coordination with the Corps' local geographic district, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams of the U.S. Army Forces Command, and the local land owners/communities. The goal of the MEC partnership approach was to utilize the engineering and construction/remediation assets of the Rock Island District combined with existing and nearby ordnance expertise within the Army.

The MEC team is comprised of Safety and Occupational Health Specialists (former active duty EOD persons), Quality Assurance Specialists, Ammunition Surveillance (QASAS), archival record research specialists, chemical engineers, chemists, civil/environmental engineers, industrial hygienists, and engineering technicians. The ordnance specialists have been trained in EOD methods and extensive site safety procedures regarding the handling of both conventional and chemical ordnance. There are more than 300 years of in-house technical ordnance experience on the Rock Island District MEC team.

The clean-up process starts with the Corps' local geographic district performing a Preliminary Assessment of Eligibility for the site to determine if the site is eligible under the DERP FUDS program. Once the site is determined eligible and there is an Military Munitions Response (MMR) project, Huntsville tasks the preparation of an MMR Preliminary Assessment (MMR PA). The MMR PA principally provides an exhaustive historical record search for site history, specific mapping of confirmed or potential Munitions and Explosive of Concern (MEC) presence and a recommended clean-up strategy. In reference to the completed MMR PAs to date, approximately 10 percent of the sites have been confirmed as containing MEC, 45 percent have been determined to have no MEC present, and approximately 45 percent of the sites have been considered to have potential remaining MEC presence.

If there is an imminent safety threat discovered during the MMR PA phase or at other times, Huntsville initiates a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) contract for removal of immediate hazards from select areas within the site. For most sites with confirmed ordnance presence, a remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is performed to quantify ordnance presence and to confirm appropriate remediation strategy. The selected alternative then proceeds to the removal design and removal action phases to complete the site clean up. This process closely follows the CERCLA remedial response procedures.

The MMR PA is a critical component of the clean-up strategy. Most of the MEC sites were excessed from the U.S. Government more than 50 to 60 years ago. The challenge of the MMR PA process is to find historical records located throughout the United States, locate former employees or service members who worked on the site, inspect the site with the current owners, and evaluate the site for MEC presence. Typical evaluations include manufacturing/production analyses, usage by military units and mission, storage practices, and disposal/decontamination practices at the time of usage. All of these steps are performed by ordnance specialists from the Rock Island District team to ensure that MEC hazards are safely and properly evaluated. The

Huntsville District team has completed more than 60 MMRP PA's on sites located throughout the United States through September 2005, is scheduled to complete another 2 MMRP PA's by September of 2008, and has rewritten 4 MMRP Inventory Project Reports (INPRs) for the Honolulu District.

The local geographic district serves as Project Manager throughout the clean-up process. Huntsville is the Mandatory Center of Expertise and Design Center for MEC and serves as Technical Manager for MEC projects. Huntsville's primary goal is to render a site as safe as possible with minimum risk. The entire program is governed by rigid safety standards.

Authority

SI - Special Interest --

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