

Radford Army Ammunition Plant

FACT SHEET Former Gun & Trench Mortar Range

Introduction

This fact sheet describes the recommended action for performing munitions response activities for military munitions and munitions debris at Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP).

Background

The Former Gun Range and Trench Mortar Range are adjacent to each other and located in the Horseshoe Area of the Main Manufacturing Area of the RAAP. Operational during World War II, the two sites are now inactive. The sites are currently in the area of and perhaps underneath the Nitroglycerin 2 (NG2) and Continuous Automated Multi-Base Line (CAMBL) area. Only the NG2 area is active, the CAMBL area was built and never went into production and is being scrapped. Current procedure when mortar rounds are found through excavation or wash out is to vacate the area and call Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) at Ft. Bragg, NC. In April 2012, a 4.2 smoke and 60mm high explosive rounds were detonated by the 18th EOD from Ft. Bragg. There have been sporadic, undocumented finds over the years of inert rounds.

There have been no previous investigations at the two sites.

Site Investigation

The Site Investigation at the Former Gun Range and Trench Mortar Range areas falls under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). The MMRP generally follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, however; the RAAP is under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit. As such, RCRA will be the regulatory driver for this project.

The objective of the Site Investigation (SI) is to determine the presence or absence of munitions of explosive concern and munitions constituents in the Former Gun Range and Trench Mortar Range that may remain at RAAP from historical activities, and to determine if there is a potential hazard and risk to human health and the environment. The intent of the SI is to collect the appropriate amount of information necessary to support one of the following decisions:

- Whether a Remedial Investigation is necessary,
- Whether an immediate response is required, or
- Whether the munitions response site qualifies for a No Further Action determination.

Extensive research is being conducted through historical record reviews of the National Archives, RAAP Records, and additional pertinent repositories; personnel interviews; and aerial photographic reviews in order to delineate the boundaries of the sites and to form an accurate understanding of the historical use of the sites.

An assisted visual survey will be conducted in the spring and summer in order to further define the boundaries and concentrations of metallic items at the sites. In the event that any found munitions indicate munitions constituents have been released into the ground, soil samples will be taken for lab analysis.

The results of the historical research, assisted visual survey, and soil sampling will be compiled into a Site Investigation Report, which will include recommendations for further action at the site based upon the found evidence, to be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the US EPA, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ).