

# *Radford Army Ammunition Plant*

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## **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 (RFAAP).

### **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 RFAAP. 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. Currently, the 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 18<sup>th</sup> EOD from Ft. Bragg. There have been additional sporadic, undocumented finds over the years of inert rounds.

There have been no previous investigations at the two sites.

### **Site Investigation**

The Site Investigation (SI) 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 RFAAP is under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action permit. As such, RCRA will be the regulatory driver for this project.

The objective of the SI is to determine the presence or absence of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC) in the Former Gun Range and Trench Mortar Range that may remain at RFAAP from historical activities, and to determine if there is a potential hazard and risk to human health and the environment. For the purpose of the SI, the Former Gun Range and Trench Mortar Range will be investigated as a single munitions response site (MRS): Former Gun and Trench Mortar Range. 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 MRS qualifies for a No Further Action determination.

Extensive research has been conducted through historical record reviews of the National Archives, RFAAP 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 site.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) has approved the Final Work Plan for the Site Investigation field work to be performed by BSEn.

Field work for the SI was conducted in October 2016. The field work included an assisted visual survey to identify surface MEC, MEC disposal areas, and potential sample locations and soil sampling to determine the presence or absence of diffuse MC contamination related to historical activities conducted at the MRS and to evaluate the potential migration of MC from the MRS.

A SI Report is in progress, which will compile the results of the historical research, assisted visual survey, and soil sampling. The SI Report will be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the US EPA, and the VDEQ.