



## DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES

Across the country, the Department of Defense acquired properties, often during times of war, to use for military training, testing and demonstrations. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and transferred to other owners such as private individuals or other government entities. These Formerly Used Defense Sites can range from privately-owned farms to National Parks to urban areas. They also include residential, industrial and educational properties. The Department of Defense is committed to correcting environmental damage caused by its activities and created the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites to evaluate and, if necessary, to remediate these sites. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) is responsible for managing the Formerly Used Defense Site program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

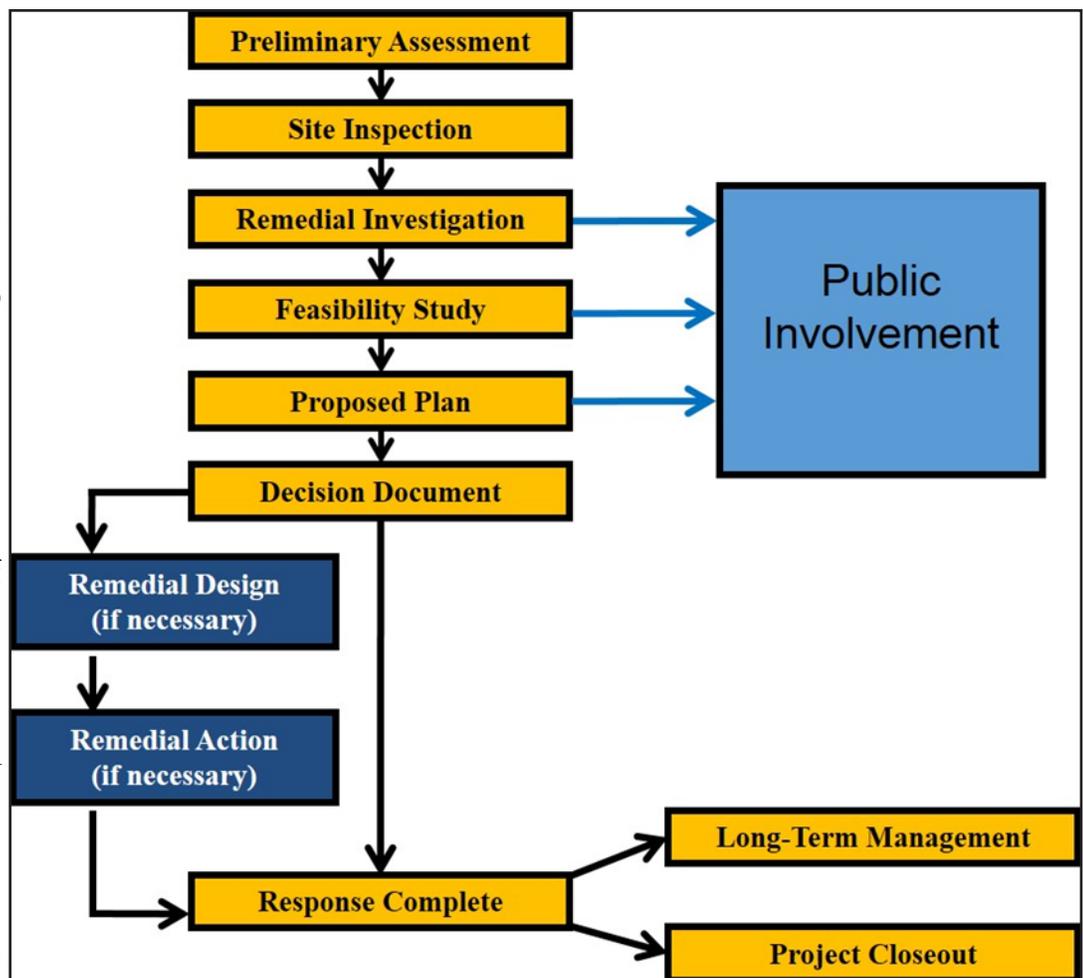
Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, in 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986. These laws give the Department of Defense the authority for certain cleanup activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites and dictate the process the Corps must follow. The Corps conducts investigations to determine the potential risk to people and the environment from contamination such as underground storage tanks, unexploded ordnance and munitions constituents (metals and explosives that comprise munitions). Public involvement and community participation are important components of the process. The Corps partners with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local regulatory and environmental agencies and impacted property owners.

## FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE PROJECT PHASES

The Formerly Used Defense Site program has three major phases: inventory, study and removal/remediation.

**Inventory:** The inventory phase includes searching real estate records to verify previous Department of Defense use or ownership. A Preliminary Assessment is made to determine the site eligibility, severity of environmental problems and need for cleanup. If there is no contamination, no further action is needed. However, if the property owner or regulators later find military-related contamination, they may contact us to reevaluate the site.

**Study:** The study phase consists of several investigations including a Site Inspection, Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. A Site Inspection is used to confirm the presence or absence of contamination. The purpose a Remedial Investigation is to determine what type of contamination may be present as a result of the military's use and where it is located. This is



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known as characterizing the nature and extent of contamination. The selection of the appropriate response to what is found is part of this phase. At sites where numerous parties may have contributed to the contamination, the share of Department of Defense liability is also determined.

**Removal/Remediation:** This phase consists of the engineering design and the necessary action to clean up the site. Sometimes it also includes additional operations and maintenance phases.

After the work is completed and regulatory agencies have reviewed and confirmed that it no longer poses a risk to people or the environment, remedial action on the site is considered complete. However, if the property owner or regulators later find military-related contamination, they may contact us to reevaluate the site.



*Looking for Munitions*

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The Corps manages the Formerly Used Defense Site program on behalf of the Department of Defense. Policies are developed based on Department of Defense guidance, and funds are allocated to local offices to do the work. Projects are prioritized based on risk to people and the environment, with the sites posing the greatest potential danger receiving the highest priority. Normally these are areas where people live, work or attend school. The project duration depends on the size of the site, the complexity of the cleanup and available funding.

No two projects are ever quite the same. The one constant is the need for strong partnerships between the Corps and regulatory agencies and stakeholders, and the active involvement of those living or working on the Formerly Used Defense Site.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public values and concerns are an important element of the cleanup process. The Corps works closely with property owners and residents prior to and during the restoration of a site. Personal contacts, small group meetings, workshops and public meetings facilitate the two-way communication that is critical to the decision-making process. The Corps keeps the public informed of the work through various methods including meetings, web sites, and fact sheets.

A Restoration Advisory Board may be established at a site where there is sufficient community interest. The purpose of the board is to review the progress of the restoration activities and to establish a collaborative dialogue among the local community and the government agencies responsible for the cleanup. Restoration Advisory Boards are jointly chaired by representatives from the Corps and the community.

## SAFETY FIRST

Depending on how the military used a site, buried munitions could be present. These could be dangerous and may not be easily recognizable. Never touch, move or disturb something you think may be a munition. Remember the 3Rs of Explosive Safety.

**RECOGNIZE** - The item you found could be dangerous.

**RETREAT** - Do not touch it in any way, and leave the area.

**REPORT** - Call 911 immediately.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION



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