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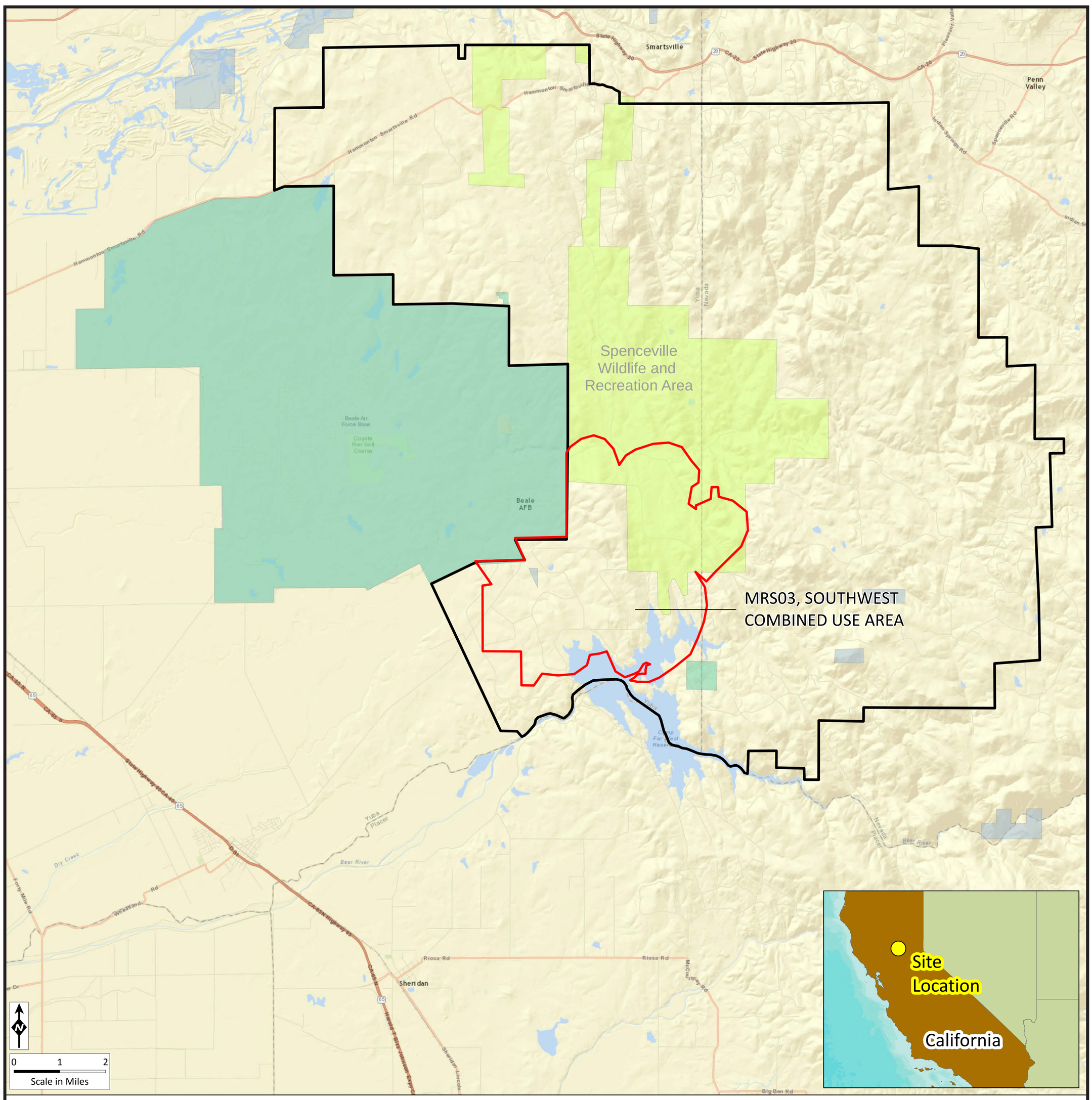
Former Camp Beale

MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area

The former Camp Beale is located approximately 10 miles east of Marysville, California, and east of Beale Air Force Base in Yuba and Nevada counties. The property comprises 62,550 acres.

An area of the former Camp Beale; known as MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area; has been identified as having potential explosive hazards. The MRS03 project area comprises 7,725 acres that are used for agricultural, residential and wildlife preservation purposes. The northeastern portion of the project is managed by the State of California as part of the Spenceville Wildlife Reserve.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the organization responsible for environmental remediation of properties, such as Camp Beale, that were formerly owned by, leased to or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense and transferred from DOD control prior to 17 October 1986. These properties are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites.



Project Boundary

Camp Beale FUDS Property Boundary

Department of Defense

Bureau of Land Management

State Lands

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CAMP BEALE
MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area
FUDS Property No.: J09CA0136
Project No.: 05

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History

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Camp Beale

In 1940, the U.S. Government established Camp Beale on 86,654 acres as a training post for the U.S. Army's 13th Armored Division and the 81st and 96th Infantries. Camp Beale was also used for joint training activities by Army Air Corps units from Sacramento and Santa Rosa Army Air Fields. One of the training areas developed during World War II, the MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area, included moving target ranges used for machine gun and rocket launcher training.

Orange County Supervisor James A. Baker with "California's Own" 13th Armored Division, Camp Beale, Marysville, 4 July 1943
Source: Orange County Archives

Small Arms Instruction, Camp Beale, California
Source: California Military Department Historical Program

Beale Air Force Base

Camp Beale was closed and declared surplus in 1947. The War Assets Administration assumed custody of the property and reserved some areas for the National Guard. In 1948, the U.S. Air Force established Beale Air Force Base on the property and built six bomb targets to train bombardier-navigators in radar techniques. By the 1950s, more ranges, as well as day and nighttime bomb targets, were built in the MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area. The U.S. Navy used two of the Beale Air Force Base bomb targets from 1956 to 1957.

In 1959, approximately 62,550 acres at Camp Beale were declared surplus and sold. Prior to the land transfers, surface and limited subsurface clearance activities where performed on portions of the camp in 1947, 1958, 1959 and 1962. Additionally, most of the land was transferred with a restriction of 'surface-use' only, because munitions may remain in the subsurface.

Field Training, Camp Beale, California
Source: California Military Department Historical Program

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Site Investigations

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1991

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed an Inventory Project Report, which established Camp Beale as a Formerly Used Defense Site – or FUDS. The report documented potential safety risks associated with munitions that may be present at the property.

1997

The Corps of Engineers reviewed historical records and field data, and assessed the potential presence of munitions at former Camp Beale. Their findings, along with recommendations for future investigations at the former camp, were documented in a 1997 Archives Search Report.

2003

Next, the Corps of Engineers conducted an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis. Their report characterized and assessed potential safety risks at former Camp Beale and included an environmental impact analysis.

Expended 57mm Armor-piercing projectile found at Camp Beale
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Practice landmine found at Camp Beale
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

2007

The Corps of Engineers conducted a Site Inspection to collect and evaluate data necessary to delineate areas within Former Camp Beale that required further investigation through the FUDS program. During the Site Inspection, approximately 24,382 acres of the 64,550-acre property were identified as requiring additional investigation due to the presence of Munitions and Explosives of Concern. That acreage was divided into 12 Munitions Response Areas (including MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area) that were recommended for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to identify the nature and extent of munitions hazards and to evaluate remedial alternatives to reduce the munitions hazards.

2015

The Corps of Engineers began conducting a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area, one of the 12 identified project areas.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

Remedial Investigation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct a Remedial Investigation at the former Camp Beale, MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area. The objective of this investigation is to characterize the nature and extent of potential munitions hazards and/or munitions-related contaminants and to develop and evaluate effective remedial alternatives for the Munitions Response Site. The overall approach to the Remedial Investigation is to use sampling methods, such as soil sampling and visual and geophysical investigations, to collect data that locates and identifies areas of concern associated with the Munitions Response Site. During the Remedial Investigation, the Corps of Engineers reviews historic maps, aerial photographs and documents pertaining to previous site visits.

Next, the Corps of Engineers will use the investigation results to evaluate potential exposure hazards from munitions that may remain at the project area as well as potential risks to human health and the environment from munitions-related chemical constituents.

Example of geophysical investigation activities

Feasibility Study

Practice landmine found at Camp Beale
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

A Feasibility Study will be conducted to ensure that appropriate remedial alternatives are developed. During the Feasibility Study, the identified potential remedial alternatives will be evaluated and compared.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Corps of Engineers project team will develop a combined Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study report that documents the results of the investigation along with proposed remedial alternatives. Additionally, the report will describe the analysis process for the potential remedial alternatives, risk management alternatives or no Department of Defense action indicated alternatives recommendations for the Munitions Response Site.

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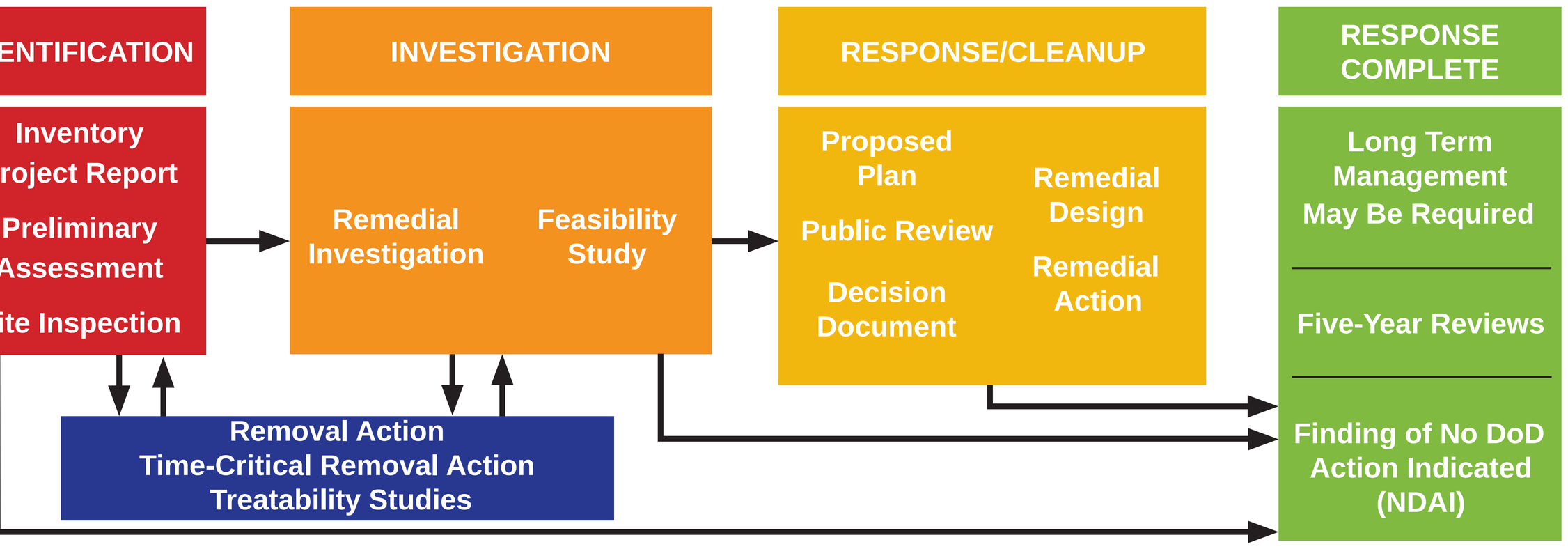
Military Munitions Response Program Process



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Regulation 200-3-1, FUDS Program Policy, May 2004)

Formerly Used Defense Sites Military Munitions Response Program Process

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the executing agent for the Formerly Used Defense Sites – or FUDS – Military Munitions Response Program, which the Department of Defense established in 2001. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as CERCLA, provides the framework for environmental work at FUDS properties and involves the following four phases:

Identification

When a potential FUDS property is identified, the Corps of Engineers gathers landownership, and historical and environmental data to build a site profile and to verify that the site meets FUDS Program guidelines. This information is presented in an Inventory Project Report. The Preliminary Assessment adds to the site profile by identifing how the property was used, delineating property boundaries and dividing the property into smaller projects. The Corps of Engineers then conducts a Site Inspection to identify current uses and determine whether environmental contamination from past military activities poses a potential threat to human health or the environment, and whether the site requires further investigation.

If the Corps of Engineers identifies an imminent threat to human health or the environment during the Identification or Investigation phases, a removal action or time-critical removal action may be warranted. Removal actions are designed to only address the imminent threat; so once the removal is complete, the Military Munitions Response Program process resumes at the site.

Alternatively, should the Corps of Engineers determine that conditions do not post a threat to human health or the environment during either the Identification or Investigation phases, the project would progress to the Response Complete phase and receive a designation of No Department of Defense Action Indicated.

Investigation

If the Identification phase findings indicate that munitions hazards may be present, a Remedial Investigation is performed. The Remedial Investigation characterizes the nature of the hazards and threats they may pose. Based on the Remedial Investigation findings, a Feasibility Study is conducted to develop and evaluate remedial alternatives to address the potential contamination.

Next, the Corps of Engineers summarizes the remedial alternatives in a Proposed Plan, presents its recommendation and makes the document available for public review during a 30-day comment period. Based on that input, the Corps of Engineers selects a remedy that is protective of human health and the environment, and records it in a Decision Document.

Response/Cleanup

During the Response/Cleanup phase, the Corps of Engineers develops the designs and execution strategies (Remedial Design/ Remedial Action) necessary to implement the remedy identified in the Decision Document.

Response Complete

Once the remedy is in place, the project progresses to the Response Complete phase, signifying the identified objectives have been achieved. In some instances, additional Long Term Management activities and Five-Year Reviews may be conducted to ensure the remedy is functional and continues to protect human health and the environment.

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Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

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Debris from military use, such as unexploded munitions, may be present at the former Camp Beale, MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that all landowners and visitors learn and follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat, and Report.

Recognize

when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous;

Retreat

do not approach, touch, move or disturb a suspect munition, but carefully leave the area; and

Report

immediately what was found to local law enforcement — call 911.

Practice landmine found at Camp Beale
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Expended 57mm Armor-piercing projectile found at Camp Beale
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Technical Project Planning Process

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What is the Technical Project Planning Process?

The Technical Project Planning — or TPP — Process helps to establish the type, quality and quantity of data to be obtained to satisfy the project objectives. Project activity and outcomes are discussed and planned before the work begins. The process was created to ensure safe, effective and efficient progress in closing a site.

Who is Involved in the Technical Project Planning Process?

The TPP is led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Project Manager. A multi-disciplinary TPP team representing various perspectives — decision makers, technical personnel and stakeholders — are assembled to discuss and identify project objectives that lead to a satisfactory site closeout. They each have a specific role in the process and their participation varies anywhere between one to all four phases of the TPP Process.

Why is the Technical Project Planning Process Used?

Time and money are saved by planning the course of action before any work is started. The TPP Process saves resources by reducing both the project duration and project expenditures. It is a critical component of the Corps of Engineers' quality management system, which conforms to the American National Standard for planning the collection and evaluation of data.

Technical Project Planning Process

PHASE I

IDENTIFY CURRENT PROJECT

- Assembles decision makers and technical personnel
- Prepares team information package
- Determines an overall site approach
- Identifies the current project focus for a site

PHASE II

DETERMINE DATA NEEDS

- Supports the detailed planning required for the project
- Includes an evaluation of data
- Focuses technical personnel on their responsibilities and requirements to satisfy the project objectives

PHASE III

DEVELOP DATA COLLECTION OPTIONS

- Reviews the range of data needs identified during Phase II
- Ensures that the Project Team will have all of the data required for decisions
- Plans approach to sampling and analysis

PHASE IV

FINALIZE DATA COLLECTION PROGRAMS

- Challenges the TPP team to discuss and finalize a data collection program
- Ensures that the program meets short- and long-term goals
- Provides guidance for documenting the data collection program with project-specific Data Quality Objectives

How to Obtain More Information

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Camp Beale, MRS03, Southwest Combined Use Area Project Contacts

Katherine Greene
FUDS Program and Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J Street -- Room 1513
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-557-5100
Email: katherine.a.greene@usace.army.mil

James Lukasko
Technical Team Lead
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J Street -- Room 1513
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-557-5392
Email: james.j.lukasko@usace.army.mil

Randy Gon
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J Street -- Room 1513
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-557-5100
Email: spk-pao@usace.army.mil