

**FORT GEORGE G. MEADE (MD-67)**  
**Anne Arundel County**  
**(National Priorities List Site)**

***Site Location***

Fort George G. Meade encompasses 13,596 acres in Anne Arundel County. This total includes the active facility (4,596 acres) and a large portion of the facility closed under Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) legislation (9,000 acres). The active facility is located about 12 miles southwest of Baltimore, and the BRAC portion is immediately south of the active facility. An AMTRAK line borders the facility on the southeast; Route 175 lies to the northeast, Route 295 to the northwest and the Patuxent River to the south.

***Site History***

The facility began operation in 1917 as Camp Meade, a 4,000-acre WWI training facility. Training activities included infantry combat operations and a mustard agent training area. The U.S. Army Tank School operated at the facility from 1918 to 1932. The facility was renamed Fort George G. Meade in 1928. In 1941, the facility was expanded to 13,596 acres to accommodate the additional training requirements of WWII. The Army continued to operate maneuver training areas and firing ranges until 1988, when these areas were included in 9,000 acres identified for base closure under BRAC. Of the 9,000 acres, 8,100 were transferred to the Department of the Interior (DOI) and incorporated into the Patuxent Environmental Science Center. The Army retains 900 acres of the BRAC parcel, which includes the 366-acre Tipton Airfield. The Army began leasing the Tipton Airfield parcel to Anne Arundel County in 1998, and officially transferred the property to Anne Arundel County on November 1, 1999.

In order to address the unexploded ordnance (UXO) hazards associated with the former range areas on the DOI parcel, the Army conducted UXO surveys of the property in 1991-92. These surveys evaluated the site using a statistical grid system. The top six inches of soil were actually cleared of ordnance. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Army are continuing to discuss ordnance clearance issues.

Because of interest in the Tipton Airfield parcel, the Army contracted for another ordnance clearance action to address the 366-acre Tipton parcel. This clearance action excluded the airfield structures and three suspected disposal areas (Inactive Landfills [ILF] 1, 2 and 3), which resulted in a total of 277 acres cleared under this action. The Tipton ordnance removal action was conducted from October 1995 to April 1997. UXO were removed to a depth of four feet during this action.

The MDE and the EPA have been working with the Army to address environmental concerns since 1993. At that time, the Base Closure Team, consisting of the Army, EPA and MDE, was formed to address the environmental concerns associated with the BRAC portion of the facility. In February 1998, the BRAC team began formal partnering, along with the Corps of Engineers, in order to improve the decision-making process for the ongoing investigations and cleanup actions. This partnering effort has been successful and all parties plan to continue the process.

The EPA listed the facility on the National Priorities List (NPL) on July 27, 1998. Based upon the Army's conclusion that all actions necessary to protect human health and the environment have been conducted for the Tipton parcel, the EPA removed the Tipton parcel from the Fort Meade NPL listing on November 1, 1999.

***Environmental Investigations***

The 1982 Installation Assessment of Fort George G. Meade identified several waste generating operations at the facility including munitions degreasing, metal plating, photograph processing, vehicle maintenance, dry cleaning, pesticide handling, and a sewage treatment plant and sludge

lagoon. The 1989 Enhanced Preliminary Assessment Report and 1990 Preliminary Assessment Report identified several additional areas including fire training areas, incinerators, landfills, dumps, hazardous waste storage areas, a salvage yard (DRMO), underground storage tanks, medical facilities and laboratories, and an explosive ordnance disposal (open burn/open detonation) area.

The environmental conditions at some of the areas identified above have been evaluated. The 1992 Site Inspection Study addressed several areas on the BRAC parcel including four former landfills, a fire training area, a helicopter hanger area, an ordnance demolition area, and the DRMO, which is part of the 900 acres retained by the Army. A 1993 Site Inspection Addendum further looked at these areas and at Soldiers Lake. The 1992 Remedial Investigation Report (RI) and 1993 RI Addendum addressed the Active Sanitary Landfill, which is operated under a solid waste permit and the Clean Fill Dump.

The Army conducted an RI of four areas of concern on the BRAC property: ILF 1, ILF 2, ILF 3, which are on the Tipton parcel and the Clean Fill Dump located in the interior of the DOI parcel. The RI, which was completed in 1998, determined that potential risks to human health and the environment for the Tipton parcel are within the acceptable range established by the EPA. The RI did identify potential concerns at the Clean Fill Dump. Subsequent evaluation identified that no further action was required in light of the existing restrictions on access to the groundwater at the site, and a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting this determination was signed by the Army and EPA in 2000.

The Army submitted a Finding of Suitability to transfer for the Tipton Airfield parcel in 1999. This document adequately identified the environmental and UXO concerns at the Tipton Airfield parcel. The MDE accepted that finding in October 1999.

Until January 1999, the MDE's Hazardous Waste Program and the EPA provided oversight for the investigations of groundwater contamination at the DRMO and the Post Laundry Facility. In January 1999, the oversight of these investigations was transferred to the EPA and the MDE's Environmental Restoration and Redevelopment Program. A Remedial Investigation (RI) was published March 2002. MDE has reviewed the findings of the RI and is currently working with the Army to determine an appropriate course of action for the site. A groundwater solvent plume is migrating from the DRMO parcel in a southeasterly direction toward DOI property. Plans to address environmental impacts associated with the Post Laundry Facility are under development.

Work also began on the Remedial Investigation for the Ordnance Disposal Area (ODA) in 2000. MDE reviewed the Focused Feasibility Study and other associated documents proposing action at the ODA site. A Proposed Plan for the ODA parcel has been reviewed. Publication of a Record of Decision will follow the review and public comment period.

Assessment of numerous other solid waste management units (SWMUs) continued throughout 2002. These SWMUs are identified as areas where contaminants may have been released to the environment. The assessment effort consists of historical interviews with former employees, an evaluation of historical site usage, accompanied by limited data collection. It is expected that many of the SWMUs will be recommended for no further action, while a small percentage will require additional investigation and potential future action.

To date, one significant SWMU has been retained for further evaluation. The former furniture stripping facility at the base has been identified as the source of localized groundwater contamination. The plume contains mixed solvents that were historically used in stripping operations. A pipe and sump immediately adjacent to the buildings were found to contain evidence of solvent storage and discharge to the subsurface. The furniture stripping facility will undergo complete evaluation from assessment to formal decision (ROD).

#### ***Current Status***

The Army is finalizing the proposed plan for the ODA. A Soil Background Concentration Report for the entire base is also under development. Assessment of SWMUs will continue. Action at the DRMO parcel and the Post Laundry Facility will also proceed according to the CERCLA process. The Army will continue their efforts to identify the source of groundwater contamination found north of the sanitary landfill. Solvent contamination has been detected, but not attributed to historical Army activities. Groundwater contamination in this area will be investigated as a Remedial Investigation effort.

In early February 2003, the Army informed the Department that a previously unknown disposal area was unearthed during construction activities for a new housing development. The waste area comprises approximately 5.5 acres adjacent to existing residential housing and the Manor View Elementary School. In consultation with the MDE and the EPA, the Army is developing a remedial investigation workplan.

### ***Future Activities***

The investigations of the remainder of the BRAC parcel and the active portion of Fort Meade are ongoing. The results of this effort will be summarized in the Site Management Plan.

### ***Facility Contacts***

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### ***Site Repositories***

Provinces Public Library  
2624 Annapolis Road  
Severn, MD 21144  
410-222-6280

Directorate of Public Works  
Attn: ANME-PWE, Building 239  
2 ½ Street and Ross Road  
Fort Meade, MD 20755  
410-962-7677