



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Little Rock District

# Fact Sheet

December 2003

## Former Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot Camden, Arkansas

---

### Final Documents Available for Public Review

Three new documents are available for viewing at the Camden Public Library and in Room 7204 of the Federal Office Building in Little Rock. The documents are also available for viewing on the website at the address listed below:

<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/projmgmt/shumaker.html>

The three new documents include:

#### **Final Engineering Evaluation/ Cost Analysis**

(EE/CA), September 2003. Government contractors sampled 820 acres, including a rocket test range, a fuse test range, a rocket burn area, a TNT burn area, a buried drum area, and some wells. Although hundreds of non-explosive practice rockets were found, no explosive hazards were found in any of the areas sampled, only non-explosive ordnance and scrap metal. The risk resulting from exposure to the items remaining from the former depot was analyzed and is considered minimal. No Department of Defense action was recommended for Navy-era inert ordnance and explosives scrap at the site. The report does not address ordnance and explosives activities conducted by others at the site after the government sold the property.

The **EE/CA Action Memorandum**, November 2003, contains the Little Rock District commander's approval of the no action recommendation developed and presented in the EE/CA report.

The **Decision Document**, December 2003, presents the selected response actions for 12 Areas of Interest investigated from 2000 to 2002. Six of the areas were investigated for the presence of Navy-era unexploded ordnance (UXO), and nine areas were investigated during site inspections for potential residual explosive and/or chemical contamination resulting from Navy-era activities. During some of the site inspections it was found that a number of

Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) contributed to chemical residuals at the Areas of Interest. In these cases, no further investigations could be conducted because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has no legal authority to address post-Navy contamination at the former Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot. At several areas it was determined that the Navy had only a *de minimus* or no role and that the PRPs should lead in the responsibility at the site. The Decision Document also contains the Responsiveness Summary and responses to the comments that were received.



Rocket test launcher at Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot, November 1952

**A Restoration Advisory  
Board Meeting will be held at  
6:30 PM, January 13, 2004 at  
the Ross Center,  
746 California Avenue,  
Camden, Arkansas.  
All RAB Meetings are open to  
the public.**

## Site Overview

The 68,417.82 acre former Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot was owned by the Department of the Navy and operated by the Navy and later the National Fireworks Ordnance Corporation for the manufacture, testing, distribution, destruction, and storage of ordnance and naval rockets from 1944 until 1957. When the Navy no longer needed to keep the property, it was cleaned up and sold at a deep discount with proper notification to buyers of its past use and the potential for contamination.

The property was sold to private owners from 1959 through 1961. The eastern portion became a pine timber forest and the western portion was developed into the thriving Highland Industrial Park, where many defense related industries are located. Decades of post-DOD industrial operations have resulted in several areas of concern, with multiple contributors, resulting in complicated PRP issues.

## The FUDS Program

A Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is a property that was formerly owned, leased, possessed, or operated by the Department of Defense. Under the FUDS program, the government can go back to formerly used properties and investigate them to determine if any contamination remains from government use of the site.

If a cleanup is necessary, the government will clean up the contamination that it caused, but will not clean up contamination that resulted from the activities of others that used the property after the government sold it.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the agency responsible for conducting environmental restoration work under the FUDS program. In 1992, the Corps of Engineers determined that the former Shumaker Naval Ammunition Depot is eligible for environmental investigation and cleanup assistance under the FUDS program. FUDS projects have been transferred from DoD's control prior to October 17, 1986. The Corps does not have the legal authority or the financial appropriations to clean up contamination caused by others.

## Administrative Record File

The Administrative Record File is also available for viewing at the Camden Public Library and in Room 7204 of the Federal Building in Little Rock. The file includes documents that form the basis for the selection of a response action at this FUDS project. Documents now in the file include: Inventory Project Reports, Archives Search Report, Site Prioritization Report, Site Inspection Reports, validated sampling data, EE/CA work plan, Community Relations Plan, EE/CA Report, EE/CA Action Memorandum and the Decision Document, containing the Responsiveness Summary.

**Questions? Contact the  
project manager, Margaret  
Morehead, at (501) 324-5842.**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 867  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203-0867

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
CESWL-PM-M