



Fort Meade Legacy BRAC Program Update – High Explosive Impact (HEI) Area

Presented by :

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Stakeholders



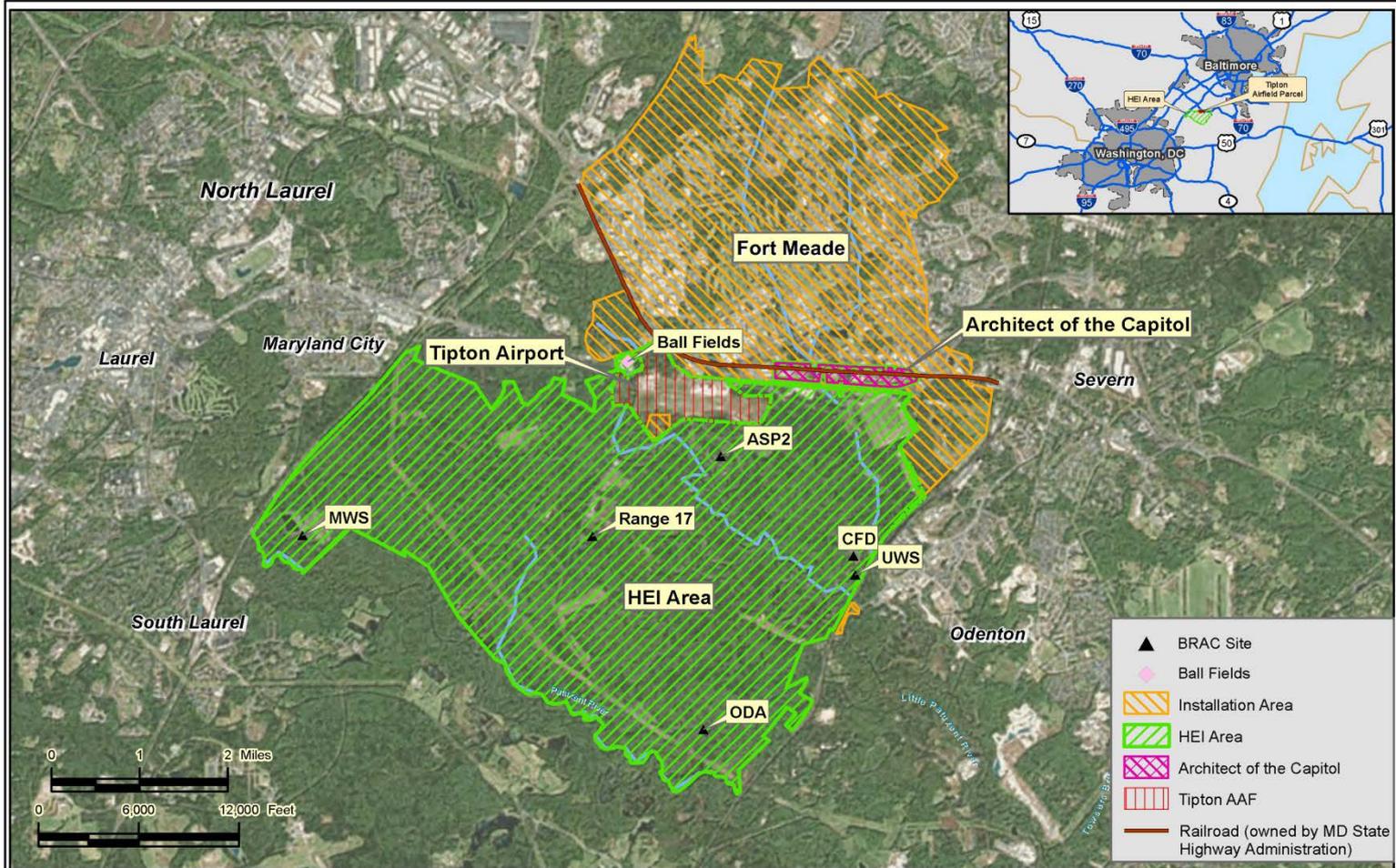
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
 - Brad Knudsen (Patuxent Research Refuge Director)
- **Fort George G. Meade Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)**
- **U.S. Army – Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Division**
 - Markus Craig (Program Manager)
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - Baltimore District**
 - Andrea Graham (Project Manager)
- **Fort George G. Meade Legacy BRAC Office**
 - Steve Cardon (BRAC Environmental Coordinator)
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 3**
 - Bob Stroud
- **Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)**
 - Dr. Elisabeth Green



HEI Area Location Map



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HEI Area - History



- **Background**

- As part of BRAC, approximately 8,100-acres was transferred from FGGM to Department of the Interior (DOI) in the early 1990s.
- FWS manages property as the Patuxent Research Refuge – North Tract (PRR-NT). The HEI Area is the same area as the PRR-NT.
- HEI Area was former training range, potential for presence of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC).
- MEC removal actions were performed in the early 1990s to 6 inches below ground surface (bgs) across all accessible areas of the HEI Area based on study that determined greater potential environmental damage with limited added benefit if removing MEC to 12 or 18 inches bgs.
- A Non-Time Critical Ordnance and Explosives Removal Action (NTCRA) was conducted from 2003 to 2004 to remove MEC to specified depths (6-inches to 4-feet) at 24 High-Use Areas identified by FWS.



24 NTCRA Areas



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Area Name	Cleared Acres	US FWS Priority	Recommended Clearance Depths	Actual Clearance Depths
Green Trail (1.5- lane road)	5.1	1	4 feet	4 feet
Blue Trail (1.5- lane road)	10.8	1	4 feet	4 feet
Red Trail (1.5- lane road)	6.5	1	4 feet	4 feet
Orange (1.5- lane road)	5.6	1	4 feet	4 feet
Yellow (1.5- lane road)	6.1	1	4 feet	4 feet
Wildlife Loop (2- lane road)	45	2	4 feet	4 feet
Stables	14.7	3	1 foot	26 inches
Ball Fields (next to Hwy 198)	8.1	4	4 foot	4 foot**
Pine Trail (1- lane road)	1.3	5	1 foot	26 inches
Forest Habitat Trail	5.4	5	1 foot	26 inches
River Trail	0.7	5	1 foot	26 inches
Scout Site #1	3.3	6	4 feet	4 feet
Scout Site #2	1.8	6	4 feet	4 feet
Upland Dog Training Area	27.6	7	1 foot	26 inches
New Marsh (Water's Edge to Treeline)	1	8	1 foot	26 inches
Cattail Pond (Water's Edge to Treeline)	2	8	1 foot	26 inches
Bailey Bridge Marsh (Water's Edge to Treeline)	0.1	8	1 foot	26 inches
Rieve's Pond (Water's edge to Treeline)	0.5	8	1 foot	26 inches
Lake Allen (Water's edge to Treeline)	10.5	8	1 foot	26 inches
Little Patuxent River (Bailey Bridge to RR Bridge)	0.7	8	1 foot	1 foot
Area G	40	None	6 inches	6 - 26 inches*
Wildlife Feeding Area I	.33.4	None	4 feet	4 feet
Range 1	60	None	4 feet	4 feet
Wildlife Feeding Area W	32.5	None	4 feet	4 feet
TOTALS		317		

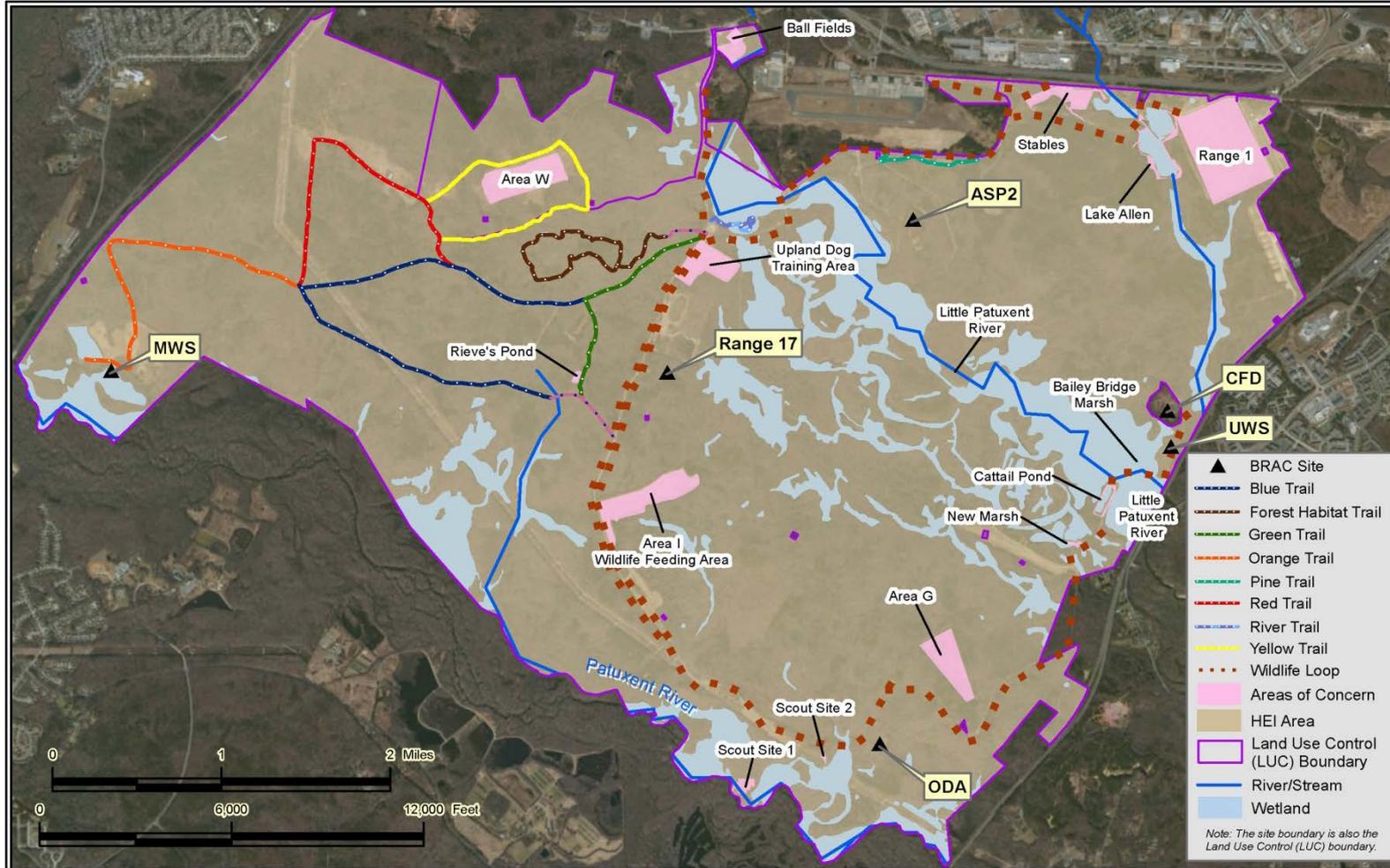
* 57 of 128 grids were cleared to 26-inches. Remaining grids were cleared to between 6- and 26-inches.

** Minimum depth of clearance is 4 feet. Additional depth of clearance occurred in the pits.





24 NTCRA Areas





Final CERCLA Remedy Development



- Remedial Action Objective is “Minimize risks to human health and the environment presented by the presence of potential MEC at the HEI Area, while allowing for the intended future use of the property as a wildlife refuge.”
- Final Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for the HEI Area was submitted for regulatory and FWS review on 31 May 2016.
- Anticipate submission of the Final PRAP to the Public in the near future with a Public Comment Period /Public Meeting prior to Record of Decision (ROD) development.



Final CERCLA Remedy Development



- **Preferred Remedy Includes:**
 - **Identify and remove MEC to targeted depths based on exposure potential (completed during previous removal actions which included 6” removals across the accessible areas of the HEI Area and targeted depths at the 24 high-use areas based on potential increased exposure)**
 - **Complete the munitions clearance of the pits at the ball fields (anticipated to be 2018). Pits were previously cleared to 4 feet below ground surface.**
 - **Formalize the existing land use controls to mitigate the risk of harm to persons from potential MEC**



Final CERCLA Remedy Development



- **Final LUCs Include:**

- Prohibit the development and use of the property for residential housing, elementary and secondary schools and childcare facilities and playgrounds. The prohibition on residential-type land uses will be permanent for areas such as the ODA and other areas where MEC has the potential to be concentrated or non-clearable.
- To minimize the possibility of accidental contact with buried MEC, intrusive activities will be prohibited without appropriate MEC-avoidance construction support.
- An educational program will be maintained to inform PRR-NT users and employees of the MEC risk and to describe the appropriate response actions to take if MEC is observed. Refuge staff, contractors, and visitors will be warned and taught to “Recognize, Retreat, and Report” suspected MEC, reducing the probability of harm from MEC if encountered.
- The Army will conduct periodic MEC inspections of the NTCRA high-use areas.



Proposed Plan Announcement



Proposed Plan and Investigation Reports are available here (Administrative Record):

Anne Arundel County Library:
2624 Annapolis Road
Severn, MD 21144
Phone: 410-222-6280
Mon through Thu: 9 am – 9 pm
Fri and Sat: 9 am – 5 pm
<http://www.aacpl.net/>

Fort Meade Environmental Management Office:
Bldg 2460 85th Medical Battalion Ave
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755
Phone: (301) 677-9178
Mon through Fri: 730 AM to 4 PM
(Photo ID required to gain access onto Fort Meade)

<http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/Environment/bracLegacy/index.html>

U.S. Army with EPA Region 3 Present the Proposed Plan for HIGH EXPLOSIVE IMPACT AND DISPOSAL AREA, OPERABLE UNIT 39 Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland Support Agency: Maryland Department of the Environment

The U/S. Army at Fort George G. Meade (Fort Meade) together with EPA Region 3 invites the public to comment on the Proposed Plan that evaluates the remedial action alternatives for potential munitions of explosive concern (MEC) at the 8,100 acre High Explosive Impact and Disposal Area (HEI Area). The HEI Area comprises the entire North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge, which was formerly used for training. Previous removal actions across the accessible areas of the 8,100 acres have located and disposed of a large amount of MEC and MEC related items. However, the potential for residual MEC exists at the site.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED¹:

Alternative 1
No Action

Alternative 3
Land Use Controls (LUCs) with Construction Support

Alternative 4 (Preferred)
LUCs with Surface and Subsurface MEC Clearance to Depth in Selected Areas

Alternative 5
LUCs with Surface and Subsurface MEC Clearance to a Depth of 1 Foot (All)

Alternative 6
LUCs with Surface and Subsurface MEC Clearance to Depth (All)

¹Alternative 2 – LUCs was screened out prior to the detailed evaluation of alternatives

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:

Alternative 4*
Cleanup Steps:

STEP 1: Identify and remove MEC to targeted depths based on exposure potential (completed during previous removal actions)

STEP 2: Complete the munitions clearance of the pits at the ball fields. Pits were previously cleared to 4 feet below ground surface.

STEP 3: Formalize the existing land use controls to mitigate the risk of harm to persons from potential MEC.

* Preferred Alternative is a preliminary determination and may be modified due to public comment, new information or reevaluation of existing information. The Final Response Action as well as the response to comments will be documented in a Record of Decision and become part of the Administrative Record.

**Please mark your calendars!
Feedback welcomed!**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
TBA 2016

PUBLIC MEETING

TBA
7 pm – 9 pm
Marriott Courtyard
2700 Hercules Road
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701

Comments must be postmarked by TBA.

Submit written comments to:
Andrea Graham
CENAB-EN-HM, 10th Floor
Army Corps of Engineers - Baltimore
10 South Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

or email:
Andrea.A.Graham@usace.army.mil





Points of Contact



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QUESTIONS ?