



Fort Miles Military Reservation, DE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FACT SHEET as of February 1, 2015

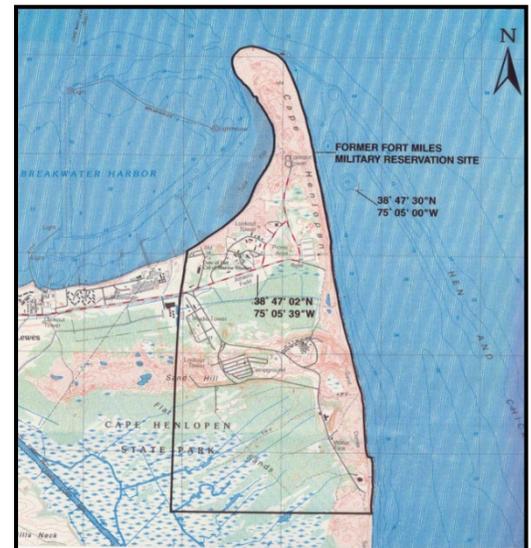
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AUTHORIZATION: Defense Environmental Restoration Program

TYPE OF PROJECT: Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS)

PROJECT PHASE: Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Feasibility Study, Proposed Plan, Removal Actions, Design and Implementation of Land Use Controls

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators **Carper** and **Coons (DE)** and Representative **Carney (DE-At Large)**



BACKGROUND: The former Fort Miles Military Reservation (FMMR), originally called Cape Henlopen Military Reservation, consisted of 2,011.25 acres located in Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware. The Post was formally named Fort Miles in 1938. The FMMR served primarily as a Coast Artillery Installation during World War I and World War II, providing for the defense of Delaware's Atlantic coast line and protection of the entrance to Delaware Bay. In 1941, the Department of the Navy established the Harbor Entrance Control Post and placed mines in the channel leading to the Delaware Bay. A fortress with gun emplacements, ammunition dumps, and living quarters was constructed. Several small arms firing ranges and a 3.5 inch rocket range were also established. Only approximately 60 percent of the site was used for military training.

During World War II, Fort Miles was also home to Prisoner-of-War Headquarters for German and Italian prisoners. Following World War II, the site remained an active Army installation and was used as a training post during the Korean War. The FMMR closed in 1958. In 1961, any remaining land was transferred to the Department of Navy, which was subsequently transferred to the State of Delaware.

Investigations of the site revealed that a variety of artillery was present. For coastal defense purposes 3, 6, 8, 12 and 16-inch gun emplacements were installed as well as 40, 90 and 155-millimeter (mm) guns. However, only small portions of those were used for actual training purposes due to the relative small acreage of the site. The munitions that have the greatest potential to be present at the site today are the 3.5 inch and 2.36 inch inert practice rockets. Archival site research revealed personal testimony of 3.5 inch inert practice rockets being found and removed from the site by the public.

Under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) initiated a munitions response for the FMMR Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). A Remedial Investigation (RI) began in 2004 to locate and identify areas at the FMMR FUDS where munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), which include unexploded ordnance and contamination from munitions

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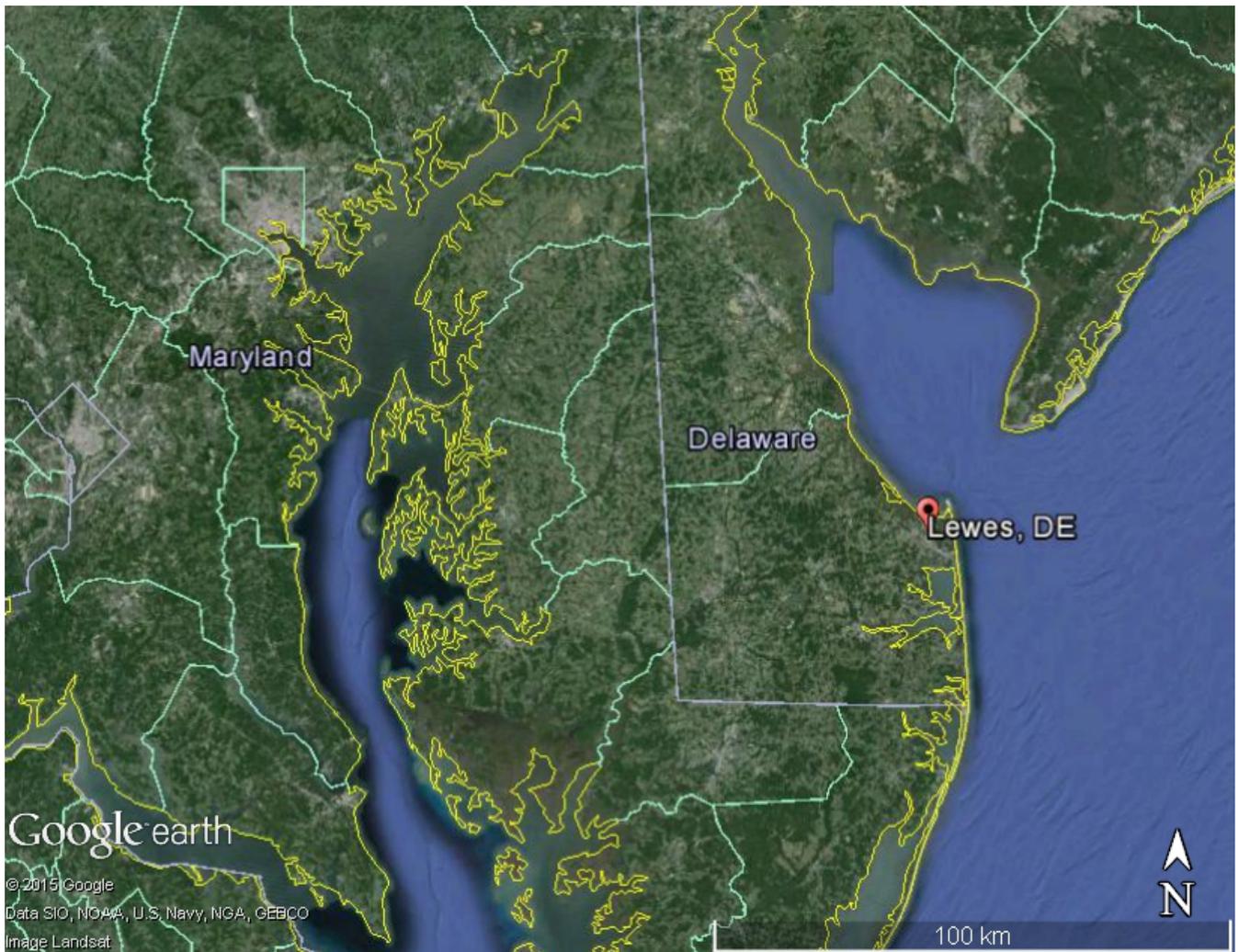
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constituents, may be present. Visual and geophysical surveys as well as surface and subsurface sampling were conducted in 2005. Based on the RI, nine areas of concern were identified and are called Munitions Response Sites (MRS). These MRS include three small arms ranges, three suspect burial sites, a burn pit, a training area and a pair of overlapping rocket ranges.

STATUS: USACE completed investigation and cleanup of the site in 2009 and implemented a Land Use Control Plan. The first Long Term Monitoring 5 year review was completed in September of 2013 with no additional findings noted.

For more information regarding the Fort Miles Military Reservation FUDS project, please contact George Follett, CENAB-EN-H, (410) 320-8157, e-mail george.c.follett@usace.army.mil.



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