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**U.S. Army
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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
(Final)

Radford Army Ammunition Plant
Radford, Virginia

5 September 1995

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Community Relations Plan
Radford Army Ammunition Plant

Prepared for the
U.S. Army Environmental Center
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401



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SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP) has been manufacturing munitions propellants, explosives, and other munitions-related materials since the early 1940's. As a result of the manufacturing process, various contaminants have escaped onto the facility. As early as 1976, RAAP initiated actions to identify and clean up contaminated sites (see Section 1.4). Current clean up activities have been facilitated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (commonly referred to as Superfund), and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). RAAP has not been defined as a Superfund site, and is not currently on the National Priority List (NPL). Although CERCLA and SARA apply only to NPL sites, the Army will address clean up at RAAP under these more restrictive regulations in order to expedite its Installation Restoration Program. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently evaluating the RAAP for inclusion on the NPL. This Community Relations Plan (CRP) has been prepared to comply with these more restrictive requirements.

The purpose of this CRP is to establish an effective community-interactive program that informs the community of RAAP's Installation Restoration Program and provides for early and continuous community involvement in the cleanup process. The Army is committed to communicating and exchanging information with neighboring communities, state and local agencies, and the EPA. The Army has already implemented some of the actions recommended in this document.

This CRP for RAAP presents a site-specific program to establish communication and information exchange among U.S. Army staff, RAAP, the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC); various Federal, Commonwealth of Virginia, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, City of Radford, and community agencies; and the public. Effective communication and timely information exchange is essential for maintaining community understanding and support for RAAP and for implementing a successful CRP.

The Army conducted a series of interviews during February, 1995, to ascertain the community's needs and concerns. During this time, the Army conducted interviews with 29 nearby residents, community associations, environmental groups, Commonwealth of Virginia, county officials, and local Congressional offices. The Army has tailored this report to address the needs and concerns expressed during those interviews.

The CRP's goal is to inform and establish two-way communication with residents of the surrounding community regarding environmental studies being conducted at RAAP in conjunction with RAAP's Installation Restoration Program.

Additional goals of this CRP are to keep workers at RAAP and residents of the surrounding community apprised of planned and ongoing activities at RAAP, and to provide a means whereby

citizens and agencies can interact with RAAP and Army staff to assist in resolving issues of public interest. The primary purposes of the CRP are to:

1. Provide for the exchange of information regarding the Installation Restoration Program for areas of environmental concern at RAAP.
2. Solicit input, comments, and active involvement from the public, on-post work force, elected and civic leaders, and concerned agencies regarding the program.
3. Provide a centralized Point-of-Contact (POC) for the public to express concerns and propose an effective communications network for distributing desired information regarding environmental matters at RAAP.

This plan:

- Outlines the public involvement objectives.
- Prescribes specific policies and procedures governing public involvement activities related to environmental and remedial actions.
- Assigns responsibility for planning and implementing program functions.
- Presents suggested communication activities and techniques to be exercised in meeting program goals.

Specific goals and objectives are included in Section 3.1.

1.1 ORGANIZATION OF THE CRP

This CRP consists of the following sections:

- 1) Introduction & Background
- 2) Community Background
- 3) Community Relations Plan
- 4) Appendices

This CRP meets the requirements of the National Contingency Plan; the CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund, as amended by SARA, and applicable Commonwealth of Virginia laws and regulations. This plan follows U.S. EPA guidance for conducting community relations programs for hazardous waste sites provided in *Community Relations in Superfund: A Handbook*, January 1992 (Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Directive 9230.03C).

1.2 INSTALLATION LOCATION

RAAP is located in the mountains of southwestern Virginia, approximately 40 miles west of Roanoke, in Pulaski and Montgomery Counties (See Figure 1-1). The installation consists of two noncontinuous areas -- the Radford Unit (or Main Section) and the New River Storage Area Unit. The Main Section is located approximately five miles northeast of the city of Radford, about 10

miles west of Blacksburg and 40 miles west of Roanoke. The New River Unit is located another six miles west of the Main Section, near Dublin. The term "RAAP" refers only to the Main Section of the installation.

RAAP is located in the New River basin on the eastern range of the Appalachian Mountains. The New River divides the Main Section into two areas the "Horseshoe" and "Main Manufacturing" areas. The Horseshoe Area contains the Nitroglycerin (NG) No. 2 Area, the Cast Propellant Areas, and the Continuous Solvent Propellant Area. The Main Manufacturing Area includes the Finishing Area; the Nitroglycerin, Nitrocellulose (NC) and Acid areas; the Automated Propellant Area; and the Administration Area. Most of the closed and active landfills are in the Horseshoe Area of RAAP as well as the Hazardous Waste Landfill, the former Active Sanitary Landfill, and the Waste Propellant Burning Ground.

1.3 INSTALLATION HISTORY

RAAP is a Government-owned, contractor operated military industrial installation supplying solvent and solventless propellant grains and explosives. The present contractor-operator is Alliant Techsystems, Inc., which assumed plant operations from Hercules Incorporated (formerly Hercules Powder Company) on March 15, 1995. Hercules had operated RAAP since its inception.

Construction on the current RAAP production facility began in 1940, as Congress saw a need to increase ammunition production facilities due to anticipated involvement of the United States in World War II.

RAAP initially consisted of two areas -- a smokeless powder plant [Radford Ordnance Works (ROW)] and a bag-manufacturing-and-loading plant for artillery, cannon, and mortar projectiles [New River Ordnance Works (NROW)]. Each operated separately through 1945. In 1945, ROW was designated Radford Arsenal and assumed NROW as a subpost. In 1950, NROW became an integral part of Radford Arsenal and remained so as the arsenal was designated Radford Ordnance Plant in 1961, and as RAAP in 1963.

Included in those operations were production of ammonium nitrate fertilizer (for a short period of time ending in 1949); the declaration of the New River Unit as surplus with large parcels of the land sold through 1948; and the manufacture of component parts for missiles in coordination with the Goodyear Aircraft Corporation from 1952 through 1958,

RAAP's continuously-operating TNT plant was put into production in mid-1968 and remained in operation until an incident in May 1974. The plant had five main operational areas which included the nitration lines, the finishing buildings, the red water concentration facility, the acid neutralization facility and the spent acid recovery plant. The TNT plant returned to service in 1983 and ran until placed on standby in 1986. It underwent a facility cleanup before being placed on long-term standby status in 1988.

