



FOREWORD

This report chronicles the efforts of the exceptional environmental professionals at the Department of Defense during fiscal year 2001 in cleaning up contamination resulting from military activities over the past hundred years at thousands of sites, on and off military installations.

I am very proud of our successes and progress to date in our established Defense Environmental Restoration Program. I am pleased to introduce the new initiative we are building into our program to further support our commitment to protect human health and the environment. This year the Department took a step forward by adding a major new program area—the Military Munitions Response program—to the Defense Environmental Restoration Program. So now, in addition to remediating hazardous waste contamination we are establishing requirements for response actions to address military munitions (i.e., unexploded ordnance and waste military munitions) and the chemical residues of munitions at locations other than operational ranges.

This year, we have included reports recording our progress at selected munitions sites. These are our first steps in building the Military Munitions Response program and reporting on its progress. To be successful, this process will require partnerships with other federal agencies, states, tribes, non-governmental organizations and the public. We hope to work with our partners to develop new munitions response technologies and contributions to the science of toxicology, fate, and transport. We plan to continue building our program based on trust and credibility. At the same time we want to continue to display prudence and demonstrate fiscal responsibility as we expend taxpayer dollars.

The activities reported here demonstrate that the Department of Defense is taking the responsibility of cleanup seriously, and devoting an enormous measure of the nation's precious Defense resources to the cleanup effort. A healthy and productive environment is a key element of national power, and the business of the Department of Defense is to enhance the elements of national power in support of the national security strategy.

Equally significant for the nation's security is the fact that we have learned what I call the Lessons of Environmental Cleanup—the requirement to do comprehensive archival assessments when sites are discovered, the importance of working with our regulatory partners, and the need for community participation and involvement. Environmental decisions cast long shadows, which may limit future flexibility or inhibit future military operations. By applying the Lessons of Environmental Cleanup, we can make sound environmental decisions, expedite cleanups, and reduce costs.

These lessons give a special urgency to the work we are doing today in the areas of environmental compliance, pollution prevention, and environmental management systems.

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