

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland (Aberdeen Test Center)



ACUB Approval Date: 23 February 2006

Installation Description: Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) houses the most diverse testing facility within DoD - Aberdeen Test Center (ATC). The ATC is the leading center for automotive testing, manned and unmanned ground vehicles, guns and munitions testing, as well as live-fire vulnerability/lethality assessment. As a multi-purpose proving ground with the advantage of a temperate climate, Aberdeen’s one-stop test center efficiently meets the overarching needs of the DoD acquisition community. All Army tactical vehicles require rigorous testing prior to use in combat. ATC’s automotive test courses at Munson, Perryman, and Churchville analyze a vehicle’s agility, mobility, and reliability at wartime levels. These world-renowned tracks are irreplaceable and critical to Army vehicle testing.

Challenge: The Churchville Test Area (CTA), part of the ATC, is located approximately 10 miles northwest of the APG main post. The track is designed to simulate extremely hilly and cross-country terrain for wheeled and tracked vehicle endurance and reliability testing. CTA is located in a section of Harford County that was once an isolated agricultural area, but has been experiencing recent accelerated population growth and housing development. Most of the existing land adjacent to the test area is protected through state and county land preservation programs. However, a 162-acre parcel of land adjacent to the northern boundary of the CTA remained vulnerable to potential residential land use. Development on this land would have likely resulted in restrictions on the CTA due to the generation of dust, noise, and vibration.

ACUB Objective: In early 2007, Harford Land Trust (HLT) purchased an easement on the 162-acre parcel of land adjacent to CTA’s northern boundary with the assistance of military funds. Harford Land Trust leveraged military funds against the county’s Agricultural Preservation Program to create a win-win-win solution for the Army, the land trust, and the landowner. The one-time, one-parcel ACUB project at Aberdeen Proving Ground’s CTA proactively addressed the growing concern that an incompatible land use could impact the future viability of the military test track.

Cooperative Agreement Partner: Harford Land Trust

Partner Mission: HLT is Harford County’s first and only county-wide land trust. Their mission is to protect tracts of agricultural and natural landscapes that provide significant benefits to the citizens of Harford County.

APG	Funds Obligated	Acres Protected	Military Funds Expended	Partner Funds Expended	Total Expended
In FY12	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Through FY12	\$750,000	162	\$750,000	\$731,994	\$1,481,994