

# Installation Description

## HISTORY

RVAAP is a government-owned, contractor-operated (GOCO) U.S. Army BRAC facility. In FY 1993, the mission of RVAAP was changed from inactive-maintained to modified caretaker status (limited mission). Toltest, Inc. is the current modified caretaker contractor. The current mission is storage of bulk explosives and propellants. The installation is contained within an 11 mile long, 3.5 mile wide tract and is bounded by State Route 5, the Michael J. Kirwan Reservoir, and the CSX System Railroad on the south; State Route 534 on the east; the Garrettsville and Berry roads on the west; and the Conrail Railroad on the north.

In August 1940, a tract of land covering 25,000 acres was purchased by the United States Government in the northeastern part of Ohio in Portage and Trumbull counties. Construction of the plant started in September 1940 with the Hunkin-Conkey Construction Company as the principal contractor, Wilbur Watson and Associates as the principal engineers, and the Atlas Powder Company as the operating contractor and consultant. The facility was completed and commenced operations during December 1941/January 1942, with the primary missions of depot storage and ammunition loading. To accomplish these two missions, the installation was divided into two separate units, the Portage Ordnance Depot and the Ravenna Ordnance Plant. The Portage Ordnance Depot's primary mission was depot storage of munitions and components, while the Ravenna Ordnance Plant's mission was ammunition loading. In August 1943, the installation was redesignated the Ravenna Ordnance Center, and again in November 1945 as the Ravenna Arsenal.

Facilities were operated by the Atlas Powder Company from September 1940 until the end of World War II. The operation of the plant was turned over to the Ordnance Department. From 1946 to 1949, the ammonium nitrate line was operated by the Silas Mason Company for the production of ammonium nitrate fertilizer.

The plant was placed in standby status in 1950 and operations were limited to renovation, demilitarization, and normal maintenance of equipment, along with storage of ammunition and components.

Beginning in April 1951, facility operations were contracted with Ravenna Arsenal, Inc., a subsidiary of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio.

The plant was reactivated during the Korean Conflict for the loading and packing of major caliber shells and components. In July 1954, the Plum Brook Ordnance Works of Sandusky, Ohio and the Keystone Ordnance Works of Meadville, Pennsylvania were made satellites to Ravenna. All production ended in August 1957, and in October 1957, the installation was again placed in a standby condition. The Plum Brook Plant ceased to be under the jurisdiction of Ravenna in March 1958. The Keystone Ordnance Works was transferred to the General Services Administration in July 1959.

Rehabilitation work started in October 1960 to establish facilities in the ammonium nitrate line for the processing and explosive melt-out of bombs. These operations commenced in January 1961, thereby establishing the first operation of this type in the ammunition industry. In July 1961, the plant was again deactivated and in November 1961, the installation was divided once again. The industrial portion was redesignated as the Ravenna Ordnance Plant and the entire facility was designated the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant. The RVAAP was once again reactivated in May 1968 to load, assemble, and pack (LAP) munitions on three load lines and two component lines in support of the Southeast Asian Conflict. These facilities were subsequently deactivated in August 1972. A mission for the demilitarization of the M71A1 90MM projectile extended from June 1973 until March 1974.

In October 1982, the Physics International Company, a subsidiary of Rockcor, Inc., purchased Ravenna Arsenal, Inc. from the Firestone Company. In June 1985, Rockcor Inc. was purchased by the Olin Corporation.

Demilitarization of various munitions continued on a periodic basis through 1992. In FY 1993, the installation's status changed from inactive-maintained to modified caretaker. On October 1, 1998, R&R International, Inc. took over as the installation's contractor (R&R was later replaced by Toltest, Inc).

The Operations Support Command (OSC) transferred control and operation of 16,164 acres to the National Guard Bureau in May 1999. In March 2002, an agreement was signed to immediately transfer an additional

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3,774 uncontaminated acres to the National Guard with the remaining acreage to be transferred as restoration of the AOCs is completed.

## **REGULATORY STATUS**

RVAAP is not on the U.S. EPA NPL, although it is in the U.S. EPA's CERCLIS database. Management of the IRP sites follows CERCLA requirements. There are a number of other regulatory programs addressing other non-IRP sites.

RVAAP received a RCRA Part A permit in 1980 for the storage and treatment of off-spec munitions and munitions-related waste. RVAAP submitted a RCRA Part B permit application in 1992 for the installation's Open Burning and Open Detonation Grounds and a hazardous waste storage building. The permit application was withdrawn during the 3rd quarter of FY 1994. The closure of the storage units and the open burn trays in Winklepeck Burning Grounds was completed and approved in 1998. Three 90-day hazardous waste storage areas were also officially closed.

A closure plan was developed for the Demolition Area #2 (RVAAP-04) in 1998, but has been reconsidered at this time. The site has been used since 1941 for treatment of explosive waste and ordnance by burning and detonation. The need for a treatment unit, to support the IRP and other projects, to detonate unexploded ordnance (UXO) was not known at the time the plan was developed. Subsequently, UXO has been found at several areas at RVAAP. Some of the areas are associated with IRP sites, while others are strictly a UXO concern. More UXO will almost certainly be found during future environmental investigations, remediation activities, and National Guard exercises. These circumstances have demonstrated the need for the use of a previously permitted RCRA unit where UXO can be detonated. The Army and Ohio EPA are currently developing Director's Findings and Orders to authorize continued use of Demolition Area #2 for purposes of supporting environmental restoration.