

Foreword

The Department of Defense is pleased to present to Congress this report on the progress and accomplishments of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for Fiscal Year 2000. In this report, we share our successes and plans for fulfilling our commitment to the protection of human health and the environment by completing DoD's environmental restoration program requirements.

The DERP is one of the world's largest environmental cleanup programs, addressing environmental impacts from past defense activities at over 28,000 sites on 11,000 military installations and former properties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Most of the environmental problems on DoD's installations and formerly used defense sites are similar to those found in commercial areas. As of September 30, 2000, DoD has completed cleanup activities at 66 percent of its sites and former properties. At base realignment and closure (BRAC) installations, DoD also recognizes the economic importance of the cleanup process in preparing property for new uses. As of the end of FY00, 82 percent of BRAC property is environmentally suitable for transfer to local communities.

As the Department works to clean up sites, it continually encounters new issues and challenges. In response, DoD is incorporating innovative tools and techniques from within the Department and the public and private sectors that facilitate the course of the cleanup program. These efforts include collecting best practices, improving DoD stakeholders' understanding of the environmental restoration process and programs, and incorporating new contracting and technological tools to expedite cleanup and facilitate property transfer.

Looking forward to FY01, the Department will focus on completely integrating environmental concerns from unexploded ordnance at closed, transferring, and transferred ranges into all aspects of the program, and updating the DERP Management Guidance to incorporate business process changes and evolving requirements. DoD also continues to pursue innovative and expanded community involvement initiatives, such as an environmental cleanup stakeholders forum. Additionally, with the change in the Administration, DoD has realigned the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) with Installations to create the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment). This repositioning will pave the way for improving the base realignment and closure process by more closely aligning installation environmental restoration and property reuse.

This report describes DoD's efforts to map the future of environmental restoration and fulfills the requirements of Title 10 of the *United States Code*, Section 2706. With continued congressional support, our environmental restoration goals will be realized.

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