

## DoD Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) Required Explosives Safety Submission (RESS)

A DDESB-approved quantity distance (QD) safety submission (i.e., an Explosives Site Plan [ESP], Chemical Agent (CA) Site Plan [CSP], or a Munitions Response Chemical Safety Submission [MRCSS]) is required prior to the start of munitions response activities that involve the placement of explosives on a site; the intentional physical contact with DoD military munitions; or the conduct of ground-disturbing or other intrusive activities in areas known or suspected to contain DoD military munitions. A CSP, which is based on the worst-case CA-configuration expected to be encountered, is required for placement of an Interim Holding Facility (IHF) on a site. The CSP for the IHF will:

- Identify the public access exclusion distance (PAED);
- Identify associated explosive safety quantity distance (ESQD) arcs;
- Address evacuation procedures for personnel within the PAED;
- Address security measures and access controls for the IHF;
- Address engineering controls that will be used to mitigate a CA release;
- Address soil sampling maps;
- Address types of CAs; and
- Address start date.



Munitions or explosives emergency responses, preliminary assessments, site inspections, and range clearance activities on operational ranges do not require a DDESB RESS. However, if munitions and certain materials of interest are encountered during range clearance activities, the Army will normally require a RESS.

## Department of Defense (DoD) Issuances

Currently, applicable DoD policies are contained in DoDD 5101.17E, Roles and Responsibilities Associated with the Recovery of Chemical Warfare Materiel; DoDM 5100.76, Physical Security of Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives (AA&E); and DoDM 6055.09-M, Volume 7, DoD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards: Criteria For Unexploded Ordnance, Munitions Response, Waste Military Munitions, and Material Potentially Presenting An Explosive Hazard; and DoDM 4715.20, Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Management.

**RCWM:** *Chemical warfare materiel (CWM) used for its intended purpose or previously disposed of as waste that has been discovered during a CWM response or by chance, which DoD has secured in place, or placed under DoD control.*

**CWM:** *Items generally configured as a munition containing a chemical compound that is intended to kill, seriously injure, or incapacitate a person through its physiological effects. Includes certain nerve agents and blister agents in other-than-munition configurations; certain industrial chemicals configured as a military munition; and chemical agent identification sets (CAIS).*

**Munitions and certain materials of interest:** *When recovered, includes munitions that contain an unknown liquid fill; certain materials (e.g., laboratory vials, closed cavity containers encountered at a CWM site) that contain an unknown liquid fill; and CAIS."*

## What is the RCWM Program?

The RCWM Program is a DoD program executed within the United States by the Secretary of the Army, on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, to:

- Respond to explosive and munitions emergencies involving munitions and certain materials of interest containing an unknown liquid fill or a CA fill encountered by the public.
- Investigate and, as required, conduct munitions responses at CWM sites in accordance with the DDESB-approved site plan.
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- Investigate and, as required, conduct range clearance activities on operational ranges where munitions and certain materials of interest containing an unknown liquid fill for a CA fill are encountered.
- Non-intrusively assess recovered munitions and certain materials of interest containing an unknown liquid or CA fill to determine the most likely fill.
- Destroy, normally on site, RCWM using an approved technology or procedure.

The RCWM Program addresses munitions and certain materials of interest, and such material determined to be RCWM, CA-contaminated debris, and environmental media posing a CA hazard. In the United States, the RCWM Program applies to active DoD Installations, installations affected by Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions, and Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).

CAIS were widely distributed during WWII and are among the most commonly encountered CWM-related items. CAIS may be encountered anywhere. *March 2018*

For additional information regarding the RCWM Program contact:

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# Recovered Chemical Warfare Materiel (RCWM) Program

## INSTALLATION GUIDE



RCWM Program Integrating Office (IO)  
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of  
the Army for Environment, Safety, and  
Occupational Health (ODASA(ESOH))

[www.denix.osd.mil/rcwmprogram](http://www.denix.osd.mil/rcwmprogram)

This guide, which provides installations a reference for managing RCWM, is based on DoD Directive (DoDD) 5101.17, Roles and Responsibilities Associated with the Recovery of Chemical Warfare Materiel.

## Installation Responsibilities

There are three occasions when an installation commander may become responsible for either storage of munitions and certain materials of interest or RCWM. These are when munitions and certain materials of interest are:

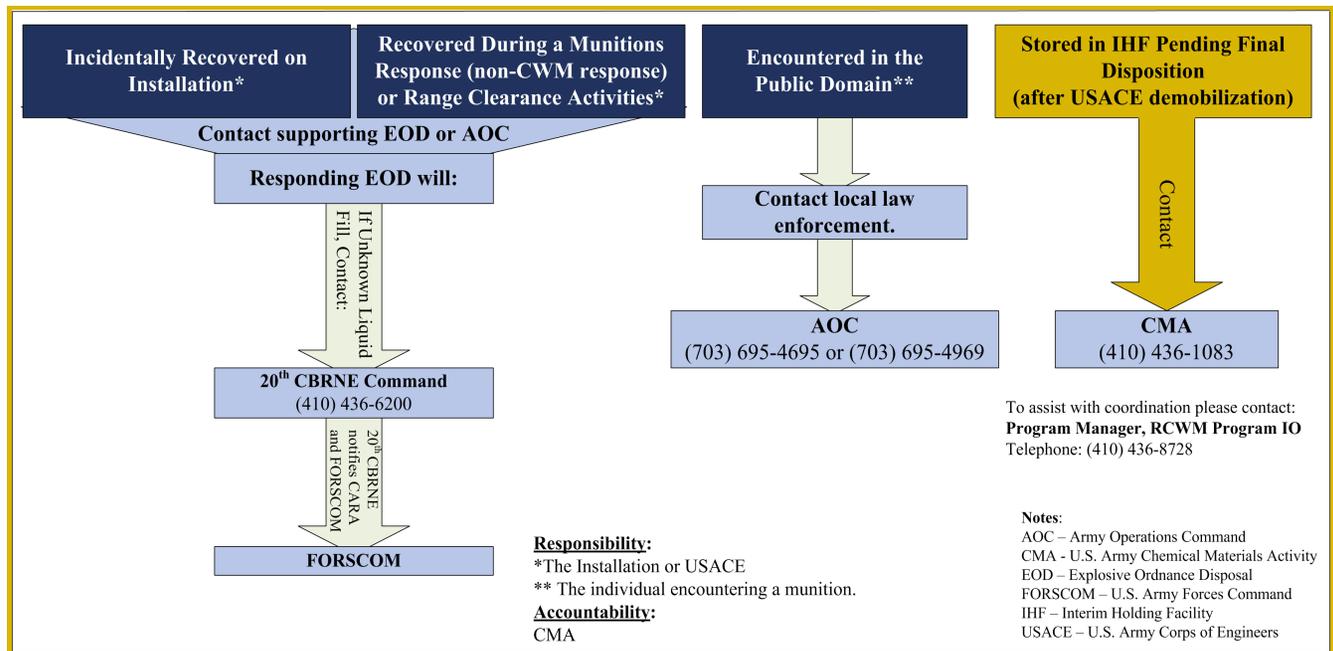
- Unexpectedly encountered during operations (e.g., range clearance activities, construction activities) on the installation.
- Encountered during an environmental response (e.g., Site Inspection, Remedial Investigation, or response [removal or remedial] action).
- Recovered in the public domain and the installation is the nearest Department of Defense (DoD) military facility capable of safe and secure storage.\*

\*DoD Directive [DoDD] 5101.17E establishes the policy for recovery of munitions or certain materials of interest in the public domain. If the risk of movement is acceptable, the items will be packaged and transported to the nearest DoD military installation within the state of recovery that is capable of safe and secure storage of Security Risk Category (SRC) II ammunition and explosives.

When contacted to receive and store RCWM or munitions and certain materials of interest recovered from the public domain, the installation commander or responsible authority is required to provide storage and security that meets the requirements of Army Regulation (AR) 190-11 for Category II Arms, Ammunitions and Explosives (AA&E) until the final disposition (e.g., on-site treatment) of the recovered munition or material (see DoDD 5101.17E.)

During a munitions response or other activities (e.g., range clearance activities) that do not constitute an explosives or munitions emergency, munitions and certain materials of interest will be secured in place pending assessment and destruction or, if the risk of movement is acceptable, moved to on-site storage pending assessment of fill and its final disposition.

Although the installation commander is responsible for the custody of RCWM, the Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) responsible for its accountability.



## Installation Storage Requirements for:

### Existing Munitions Storage Facilities

When used, the storage facility must meet the physical security requirements of AR 190-11, Physical Security of AA&E for Category II AA&E. These requirements include:

- Fencing - chain link, 2-inch square mesh made from 9-gauge diameter wire, 6 feet in height, extending 2 inches into the ground, with a clear zone extending 12 feet on the outside and 30 feet on the inside.
- Structural - magazine with a high security locking system (e.g., padlocks and hasps or internal locking devices).
- Lighting - exterior and door lighting sufficient to detect unauthorized activity.
- Intrusion Detection System (IDS) - required with security force checks during non-duty hours if the facility is not under constant surveillance. Upon loss of the alarm signal transmission, the system will immediately initiate notification to the monitoring facility by a separate communication's link. The IDS will have a protected independent backup power source that provides a minimum of eight hours of power.

- Access control - Persons allowed unaccompanied or unescorted access will have authorization in writing by the commander or responsible authority. Access to such areas for personnel will be recorded, with records of access retained for one year.
- Guard Patrols - constant surveillance required if no IDS with security checks during non-duty hours. Guards will be armed when the IDS is not available.

### Interim Holding Facility (IHF)

An IHF may be used when an existing munitions storage facility is not available for use. When required, the RCWM Program will deploy a transportable IHF. The location for the IHF must meet applicable criteria (e.g., safety, security, environmental) and be sited per DoD Manual (DoDM) 6055.9, DoD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards, Volumes 1 to 8.