



## ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

# ACUB

### ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND ACUB



The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program creates land conservation partnerships between the Army and outside organizations to protect land from development that is incompatible with the military mission.

#### INSTALLATION BACKGROUND

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) is a 72,500 acre installation located north of Baltimore, Md. The Aberdeen Test Center (ATC) is housed at APG and is one of the most diverse testing facilities within the Department of Defense. Automotive testing, weapons and munitions analysis, as well as live fire assessment are all conducted at this multi-purpose test center.

The automotive test tracks within the ATC are considered irreplaceable national assets and of significant importance to the Army's present and future vehicle testing capability. Churchville Test Area (CTA), part of the ATC, is a valuable automotive test track located approximately 12 miles north of APG consisting of 250 acres and 11 miles of interconnecting roads and test courses. The CTA supports operations that allow analysis of a vehicles agility, mobility, and reliability in realistic wartime scenarios. The once isolated location of the CTA is now experiencing accelerated population growth and intensive residential development. Much of the land bordering the CTA is protected through state and county land preservation programs, although a 162 acre parcel of land adjacent to the northern boundary remained vulnerable to incompatible development. Development on this land would have likely resulted in training restrictions on the CTA due to neighboring complaints of dust, noise, and vibration generated by training functions.

#### For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command  
Public Affairs Office  
410-436-2556, fax 410-436-1693  
email: APGR-USAECPublicAffairsOffice@  
conus.army.mil  
<http://aec.army.mil>

#### OBJECTIVE

In January of 2007, the one-time, one-parcel ACUB project at APG's Churchville Test Area was successfully completed. Securing an easement on land adjacent to the CTA proactively addressed the growing concern that encroachment could impact the future viability of the military test track. The Harford Land Trust, a local land trust organization, purchased

the easement on the 162 acre parcel with the assistance of military funds. Training operations at the Churchville Test Area are now permanently protected from incompatible land use impacts. This is the first completed ACUB for a test center.

**PRIMARY PARTNER:  
HARFORD LAND TRUST**

Harford Land Trust is Harford County's first and only county-wide land trust. Their objective is to protect tracts of agricultural and natural landscapes that provide significant benefits to the citizens of Harford County, Md.

For more information on the Harford Land Trust, visit <http://www.harfordlandtrust.org/>.



For more information on ACUB accomplishments,  
funding and other stakeholders  
please view the ACUB website at  
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/acub/acub00.html>

