



SUCCESS STORY

STANDARDIZED UXO DEMONSTRATION SITES

UXO TECHNOLOGY TEST SITE PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL AWARD



A team tests a prospective UXO detecting system on the Standardized UXO Technology Demonstration Site at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.

The Army's Standardized Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Technology Demonstration Sites Program was awarded the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) Project of the Year Award in the UXO Category on December 2, 2003 in Washington, D.C.

The program is a collaborative effort spearheaded by the US Army Environmental Center headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, in cooperation with the US Army Aberdeen Test Center, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Army Environmental Quality Technology Program, the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program, and SERDP.

Each year SERDP honors programs in five environmental categories with its Project of the Year Award. The selected projects are exemplary research and development efforts resulting in significant technological impacts on the Department of Defense's environmental programs.

For decades, soldiers and weapons developers have gone to ranges and training areas to fire test bombs, projectiles, grenades, and other munitions. A portion of these munitions did not function as designed, becoming what is known as UXO. Over the years, UXO has accumulated from these activities at an estimated 1,700 Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), 25 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) sites, and a number of active installations covering millions of acres.

One major barrier to cleaning up these sites to a condition consistent with their intended use is the lack of adequate technology to reliably detect UXO and discriminate between the UXO and non-hazardous materials common to ranges and test areas. Modest advances in UXO detection and discrimination technologies may save the Army millions of dollars in clean-up costs in the future.



For more information

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The Standardized UXO Technology Demonstration Sites Program is designed to help promote the development of detection and discrimination technologies. It maintains two technology demonstration sites, one at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and the other at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona. The program provides realistic standardized technology demonstration sites, protocols, and targets for technology testing and performance. A standardized, automated scoring process has been developed to document the performance of UXO detection and discrimination sensor and platform systems. This removes subjective evaluation and allows for objective performance comparisons between system platforms across varied test conditions.

For additional information about the Standardized UXO Technology Demonstration Sites Program, please visit www.uxotestsites.org.

