



# ***87th Air Base Wing***



## **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst**

**Public Meeting – August 7, 2025**

**Proposed Plan for ZZ002 Former Mobile Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment  
(MALRE) Munition Response Site (MRS)**

**Gaby Atik, Program Manager  
FPM Remediations, Inc.**

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# Introduction



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## Project Team:

- Department of the Air Force
- United States Army Corps of Engineer Baltimore District

## Stakeholders:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Community Members
- Restoration Advisory Board

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# Agenda



- 
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Process
  - ZZ002 background and operational history
  - Results of the previous investigations at ZZ002
  - Proposed Plan for ZZ002
  - Direction for public input on the proposed decision

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# Public Meeting Purpose



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## Why are we here?

- Provide information necessary to allow the public to participate in selecting the appropriate remedial alternative for Lakehurst Munitions Response Site ZZ002
- The Air Force is inviting the public to comment on the preferred remedy for ZZ002 Former Mobile Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment Munitions Response Site
- The opening of a 30-day public comment period was posted in the Asbury Park Press (July 27), Burlington County Times (July 27), and Pine Barrens Tribune (July 26) and started August 4, 2025 and will end September 2, 2025
- Comments from the public may be submitted this evening or sent to Mr. James Richman (via mail or e-mail, addresses are provided later in the presentation as well as in the proposed plan and fact sheet)

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# CERCLA Process



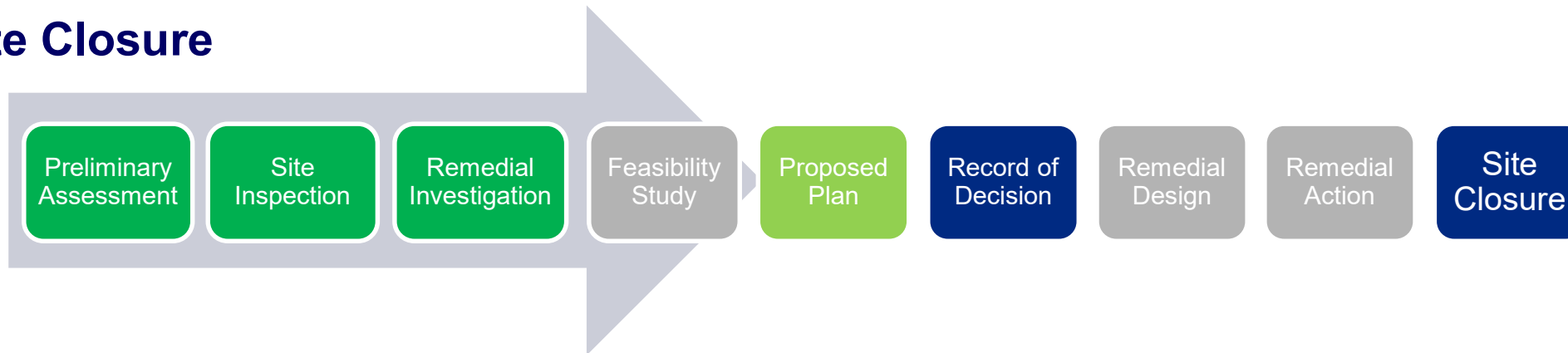
- Environmental investigations at ZZ002 are conducted under the MMRP in accordance with CERCLA
- The MMRP, as a program category under the Department of Defense's Defense Environmental Restoration Program, focuses on clean-up efforts specifically related to closed ranges potentially impacted by UXO, DMM, and/or MC
- It operates under the framework and authority of CERCLA and follows the CERCLA phases listed on the next slide



# Status of Cleanup Process



- Remedial Investigation – site characterization and risk assessment
- Feasibility Study – remedy evaluation \*
- Proposed Plan – solicit public input on preferred remedy
- Record of Decision – legal documentation of remedy selection
- Remedial Design / Remedial Action – remedy planning and implementation \*
- Site Closure



\*Feasibility Study/Remedial Design/Remedial Action are not necessary at ZZ002 due to the No Action recommendation

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# Site ZZ002 Location and History



- ZZ002 (1.23 acres) located in the eastern portion of the Lakehurst Area
- Used for testing and development of anchoring gear systems from the 1960s through the early 1990s
- Earth anchors used to hold down mobile aircraft arresting systems for use at remote landing strips

View of MALRE Site from  
Houghton Road, looking south



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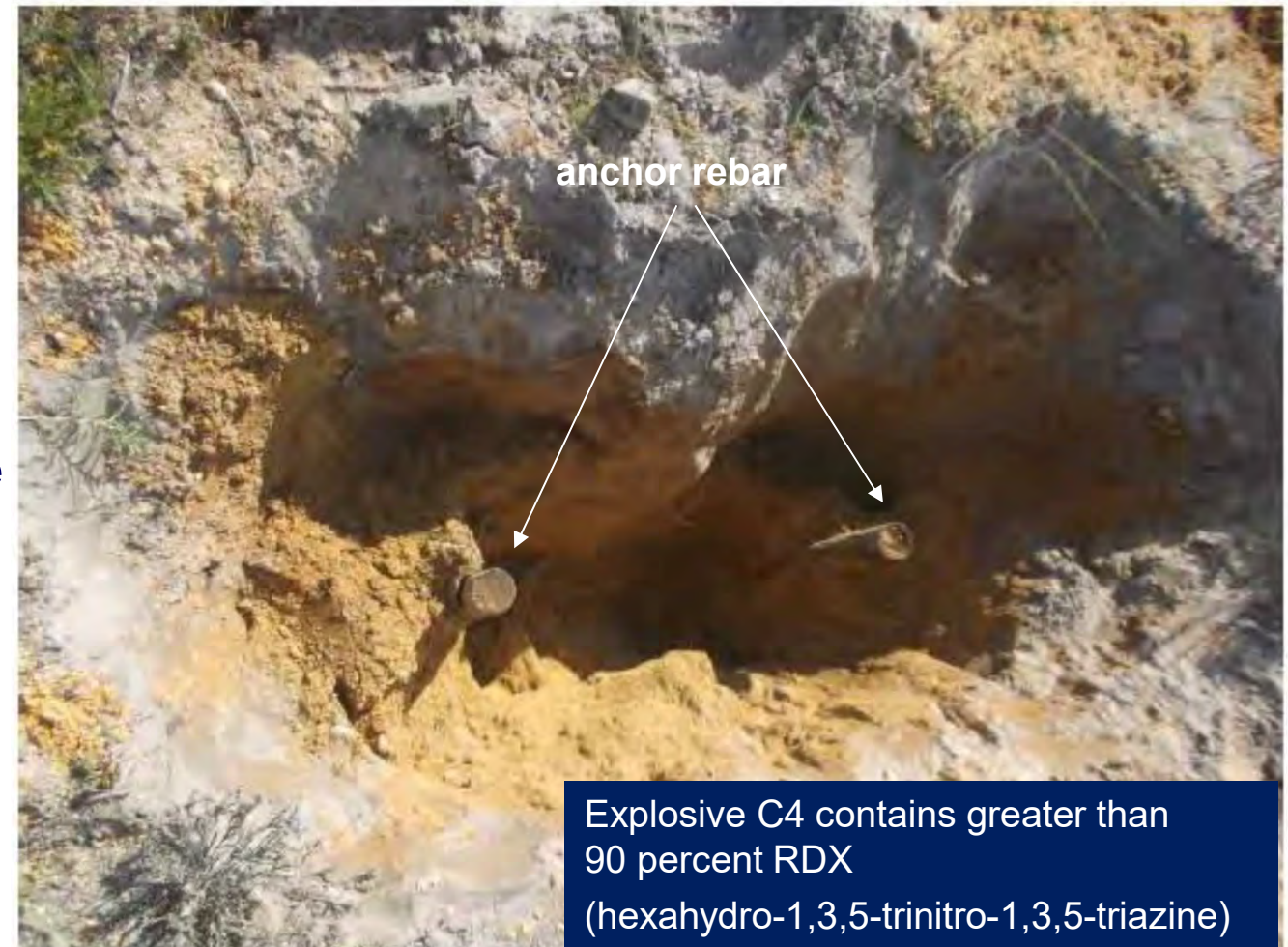




# Site ZZ002 History



- To install an earth anchor at ZZ002, the following steps were taken:
  - A hole was augured into the ground (up to six feet)
  - A charge of the explosive C4 was dropped into the boring and detonated to create a cavity in the ground
  - Cement was poured into the hole to create a foundation for the anchor
  - The soil and native material ejected from the cavity by the detonation were deposited onto the ground around the borehole
- No other munitions were used at the site and the site was not used for any other purposes



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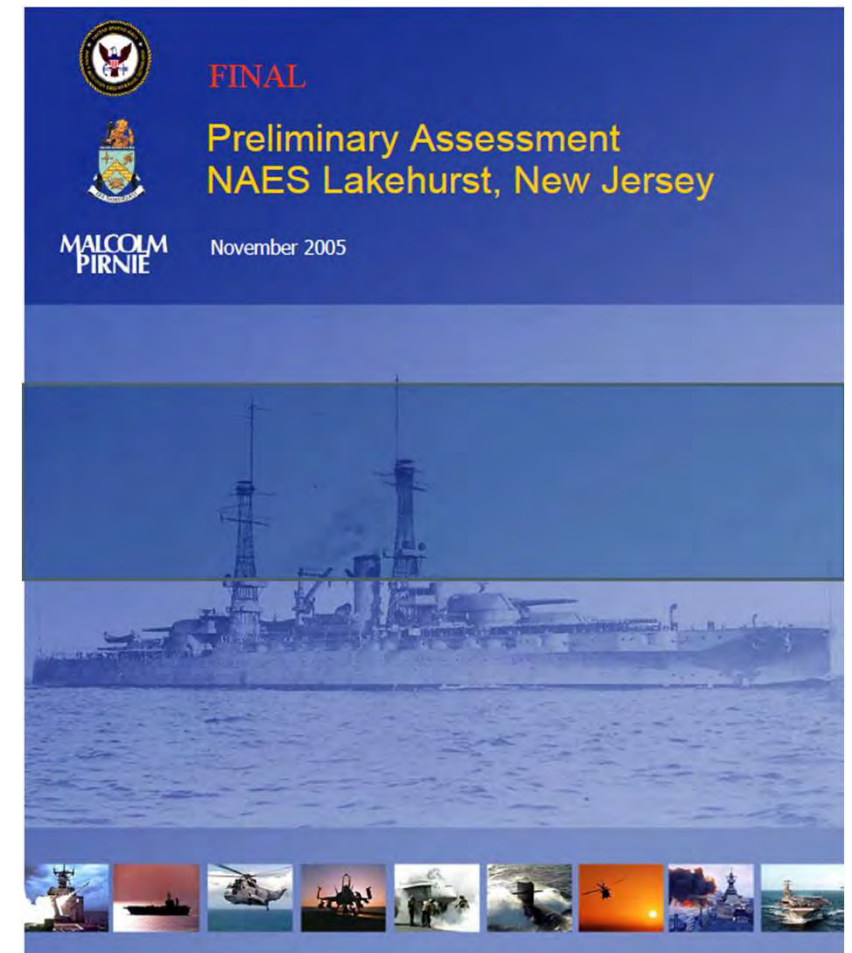




# Previous Investigations at ZZ002 Preliminary Assessment (2005)



- **Purpose:** to identify the potential risks at Site ZZ002
- **Tasks:**
  - Review existing and available information about the site
  - Visual survey – a perimeter walk followed by a modified “W” walk was conducted to assess the MEC presence
- **Results and Conclusions:**
  - C4 charges were the only MEC used at Site ZZ002 and all C4 charges were consumed during procedures carried out at the site
  - No physical evidence of MEC was observed (e.g., craters, entry holes, or MC) during the site walk/visual survey
  - Since the C4 charges were detonated below ground surface, non-intrusive activities expected to occur at Site ZZ002 should not pose an explosives safety hazard to current or future receptors



*Final Preliminary Assessment Report  
available to the public at <https://ar.cce.af.mil>*



# Previous Investigations at ZZ002 Remedial Investigation (2024)



## ■ Purpose:

- Locate earth anchors (if present)
- Determine the presence/absence of potential MC in soil
- If MC present, determine the nature and extent of potential MC in soil and groundwater
- Evaluate the potential for human health and ecological risks
- Determine whether this site warrants further response action

## ■ Tasks:

- Geophysical surveys to identify anchor systems to assess potential impact locations
- Ground truthing at locations of potential remnant earth anchors
- Borehole sampling to identify potential contamination associated with anchor systems
- Surface soil sampling to assess if explosive constituents were present in surface soil



## Final Remedial Investigation

Joint Base McGuire, Dix, Lakehurst  
Lakehurst Area

August 2024

Military Munitions Response Program  
ZZ002 Former Mobile Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment  
Munitions Response Site (MRS), ZZ004 Former Small Arms Range  
MRS, ZZ005 Former Trap Range MRS, and SAR Pre-42  
Rifle/Skeet Munitions Response Area (ZZ006) MRSs



*Final Remedial Investigation Report  
available to the public at <https://ar.cce.af.mil>*



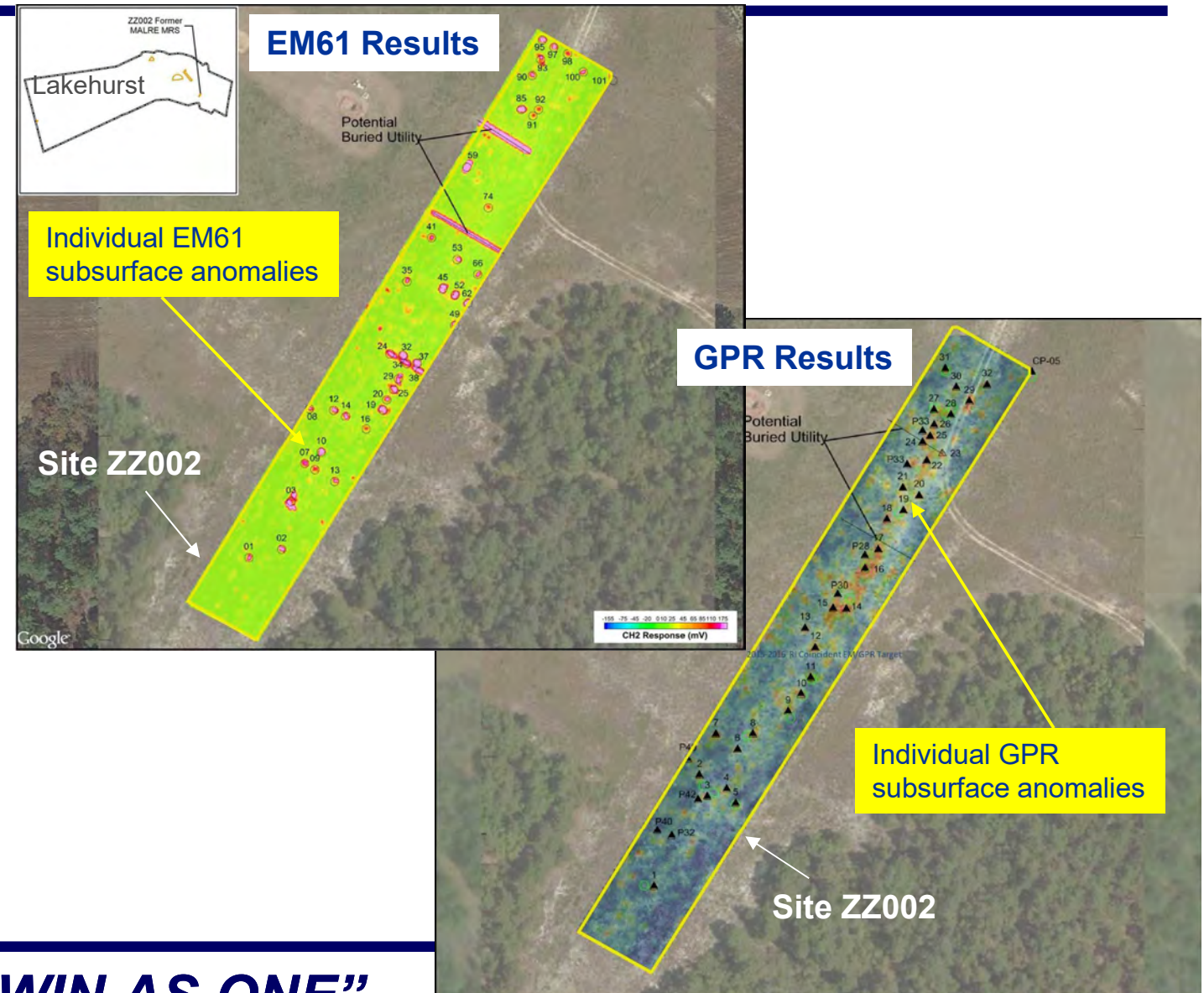


# Previous Investigations at ZZ002 Remedial Investigation (2024) (continued)



## ■ Geophysical Surveys:

- 100% coverage EM61 survey (detecting metallic objects)
  - 42 EM61 anomalies indicated presence of metallic objects potentially related to anchor bars
- 100% coverage GPR survey (detecting metallic and nonmetallic objects)
  - 12 GPR anomalies suggested potential locations of concrete and metal rod and/or hook anchor components
- Based on both EM61 and GPR, 16 anomalies representing possible earth anchor locations selected for ground truthing (see next slide)



\*EM61 – Electromagnetic Induction Sensor (metal detector) EM61-MK2  
\*GPR – Ground Penetrating Radar

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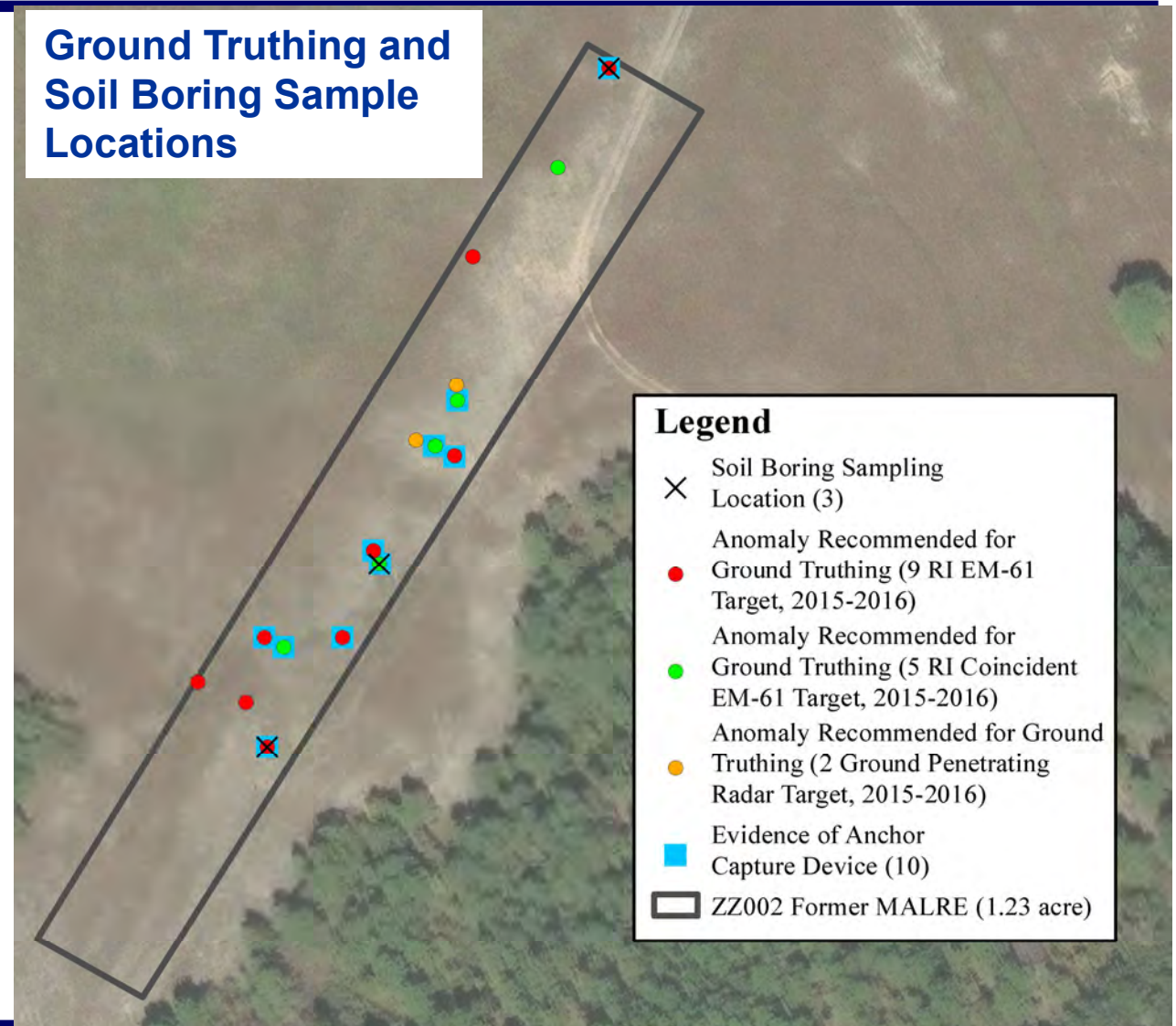


# Previous Investigations at ZZ002 Remedial Investigation (2024) (continued)



- **Ground Truthing:**
  - 16 geophysical anomalies chosen for ground truthing
  - 10 locations determined to be related to anchoring capture devices based on ground truthing
- **Soil Boring Sampling**
  - Three soil boring sample locations were selected to determine if explosives constituents were present in subsurface soil
  - No explosives constituents were detected in any soil boring samples
  - No environmental impacts to subsurface soil identified

Ground Truthing and  
Soil Boring Sample  
Locations



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# Previous Investigations at ZZ002 Remedial Investigation (2024) (continued)

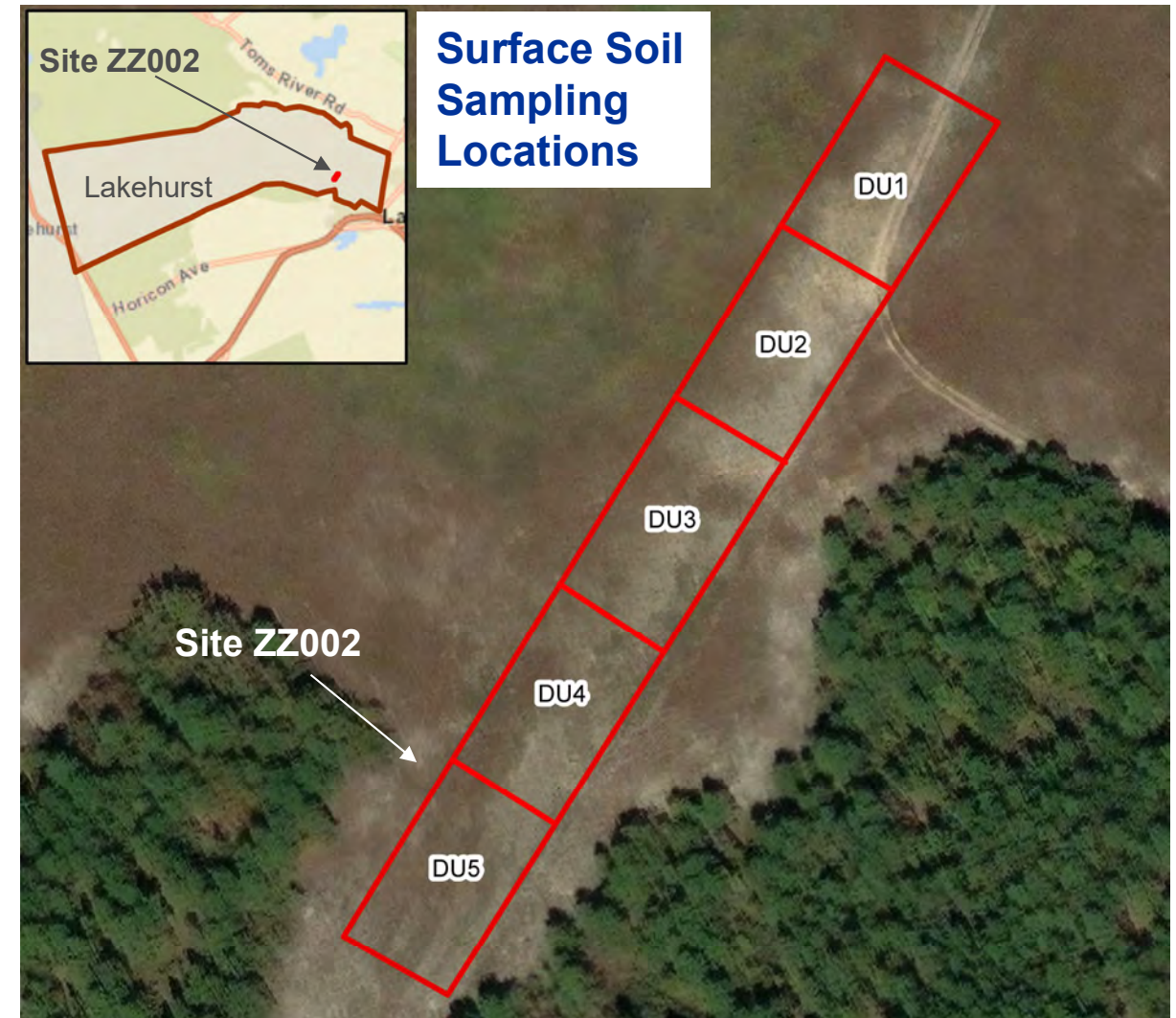


- **Surface Soil Sampling:**

- A total of 5 incremental samples collected in 5 decision units
- Explosives compounds were non-detect in all samples
- No environmental impacts to surface soil identified

- **Groundwater Evaluation**

- Evaluation of groundwater was not warranted based on MC soil (surface and subsurface) sampling results





# Proposed Plan



## ■ USAF proposes that No Action is required for ZZ002:

- MEC was not found at ZZ002 during previous investigations
- All soil samples at ZZ002 (surface and subsurface collected up to a depth of 10 feet) were non-detect
- Based on soil sampling results, no human health or ecological risk assessments were required
- Groundwater evaluation was not warranted because no MC was detected in soil
- As a result, the USAF proposes no action with respect to both MEC and MC

### Final Proposed Plan for Lakehurst Former Mobile Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment Munitions Response Site (ZZ002), Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey

June 2025

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) invites you to comment on the proposed remedy for the ZZ002 Former Mobile Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (MALRE) Munitions Response Site (MRS) located at the Lakehurst Area of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL), New Jersey (Figure 1).

The ZZ002 MRS is part of the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). The purpose of the MMRP is to identify and address munitions and munitions-related contaminants from former activities at closed and closing military munition ranges.

This Proposed Plan summarizes previous investigations completed at the ZZ002 MRS and documents that no remedial action is necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

This Proposed Plan also summarizes information that can be found in greater detail in the 2006 Preliminary Assessment (PA) Report and other supporting documents, which can be accessed at the Administrative Record (AR) website referenced on the right side of this page. Information related to the ZZ002 MRS from the 2024 Final Remedial Investigation (RI) Report, which was prepared for multiple MMRP sites (ZZ002, ZZ004, ZZ005, and ZZ006), is also summarized.

This Proposed Plan is issued by the USAF, the lead response agency for MMRP activities, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the lead regulatory agency for the site, who will jointly select the final remedy after reviewing and considering all information submitted during the 30-day public comment period.

As required by Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 120(e)(4) and the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) with the United States Air Force (USAF) for JB MDL, the USEPA must

co-select the final remedy. In addition, the USAF will consult with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The USAF, in conjunction with the USEPA, may modify the proposed remedy or select another response action based on new information or public comments.

#### — MARK YOUR CALENDARS —

Public Comment  
Period August 4, 2025  
to September 2, 2025

In Person and Virtual  
Public Meeting August 7, 2025

Details of the public meeting will be advertised in the Asbury Park Press, Burlington County Times, and Pine Barrens Tribune. JB MDL Restoration Advisory Board members will also receive meeting details via email.

For questions and comments about this Proposed Plan, please contact:

James Richman,  
Remediation Program  
Manager  
787 CES/CEIE  
2403 Vandenberg Avenue  
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst,  
NJ 08641  
[james.richman.1@us.af.mil](mailto:james.richman.1@us.af.mil)  
(609) 754-2267

For information please see the AR file, online at:

<https://ar.cce.af.mil/>





# 30-Day Public Comment Period



**Public Comment Period: August 4 to September 2, 2025**

- We encourage and enable the public to get involved, to ask questions, and to comment on the proposed remedy for Site ZZ002
  - Orally or in writing at tonight's meeting
  - Fill out a form and email or mail it (postmarked) by September 2, 2025 (mail and e-mail provided on the next slide)

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# 30-Day Public Comment Period



## PROJECT CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about this Proposed Plan, please contact the following:

**Deputy Chief of Public Affairs**  
**(609) 754-2104**

**James Richman**  
**Remediation Program Manager**  
**2403 Vandenberg Avenue**  
**Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst**  
**NJ 08641**

[james.richman.1@us.af.mil](mailto:james.richman.1@us.af.mil)  
**(609) 754-2267**

**Christine Rodriguez**  
**Program Manager**  
[christine.rodriguez.11@us.af.mil](mailto:christine.rodriguez.11@us.af.mil)  
**(701) 509-4303**



## INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Documents relating to this Proposed Plan can be found for public review at the following information repositories:

**Online Administrative Record File:**  
<https://ar.cce.af.mil/>

**Ocean County Library\* 101 Washington St Toms River, NJ 08753**  
<https://theoceancountylibrary.org/>  
**(734) 349-6200**

**\*Please call or visit the library website for current hours of operation**

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# Next Steps



- The USAF will take public comments under consideration and prepare responses to comments
- We will consider all comments and prepare a Record of Decision (ROD), including a responsiveness summary
- Final ROD will be placed at the information repositories



# Comments and Questions



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- To assist us with recording your comment, please state your first and last name

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