



*Joint Munitions Command*



*Radford Army Ammunition Plant*

# Fact Sheet

## **RADFORD ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT RADFORD, VIRGINIA PLANT “The Heart of the Ammunition Industrial Base”**

### **LOCATION**

Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RFAAP) is a Government-Owned, Contractor-Operated facility located in Montgomery and Pulaski Counties in southwest Virginia. It consists of two separate facilities; the main plant is the Radford manufacturing unit located between the city of Radford and the town of Blacksburg and consists of 4,080 acres. The New River Storage Unit is located 12 miles from the main plant near the town of Dublin and consists of 2,821 acres. Radford Army Ammunition Plant is located approximately 30 miles from Roanoke, Virginia, where the nearest major airport is located. The main plant is subdivided by the New River into a northwestern portion (in Pulaski County) and southeastern portion (in Montgomery County). The Claytor Lake Dam, located ten miles south of the main plant, governs the rise and fall of the New River. The terrain of the main plant is a sloping alluvial floodplain and terrace deposits border the river on the north and eastern sides. The New River Units gently rolling to hilly, with a low ridge along the northwest boundary.

### **HISTORY**

The New River unit, which originally was a separate installation, was constructed in 1940-1941, the main plant of RFAAP was one of the first single-base smokeless powder plants authorized under the National Defense program and served as a planning model for similar plants. The plant was constructed by Hayes Seay Mattern & Mattern Inc. with government oversight and was operated by Hercules from 1941 to 1995. The New River Unit, which originally was a separate installation, was constructed in 1941-1942 as a bag-manufacturing-and loading plant for smokeless and black powders. Following World War II, the two units were combined into a single installation. At the end of World War II, operations at the main plant and the New River Unit were temporarily discontinued. The Nitric Acid area of the plant was reactivated from 1946 to 1949 for the production of ammonium nitrate with propellant production resuming in 1949. The outbreak of the Korean conflict required rehabilitation of large areas of the plant to accommodate military requirements. This construction took place from 1950 to 1958 and included a new area enabling the plant to produce cast propellants charges for rockets and missiles. From 1964 to 1974 the Vietnam War created a need for increase production of various propellants.

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As the Vietnam effort declined the need for propellants also declined, resulting in reduced production and fewer employees. Also during this time, planned improvements were made to the plant in concert with military requirements. In 1995 Alliant Techsystems took over as the operating contractor. In 1996 RFAAP was one of six ammunition plants with active missions. Modernization efforts continue with the DoD, Army and ATK to increase production throughout in vital areas of the plant. In 2011 BAE was awarded the operating contract and became the operating contractor on July 1, 2012.

## **MISSION**

Team Radford provides America's Warfighters with superior performing propellants, energetics and munitions, in order to enable engagement and destruction of targets with total confidence.

RFAAP has embarked upon a transformation/modernization effort. This modernization will result in a modern, flexible and efficient facility that reduces the Army's operating and production costs. This modernization will also ensure continued support to the Department of Defense war fighting requirements.

## **MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS**

- ALTESS-US Army Acquisition, Logistics & Technology Enterprise Systems & Services
- Virginia Tech – Rail Car unloading and Coal Storage
- Pyrotechniques by Grucci - Mfg of fireworks shows and DOD simulators
- NTS - testing & lab support
- Cave Spring Painting - Equipment storage for commercial painting
- Alliant Painting – Equipment storage for residential painting
- Valley Turf – Office & Maintenance Shop for RFAAP mowing contractor and lawn tractor repairs
- US Cellular – Cellular Communications Tower Site
- Crown Castle (CFW Wireless) - Cellular Communications Tower Site
- GDOTS – General Dynamics MK-90 Field Rep Office
- Alexander Arms – Develop, Mfg, & Sales of Commercial & DOD Rifles
- Montgomery County PSA – Drinking Water Sales to Montgomery County
- Med Cal LAP – Manufacture of 25MM & 30MM Ammo
- Alliant Ordnance Bldg. 9503 – Laboratory Facilities
- Appalachian Railcar Service – Railcar Repair
- New River Energetics - Commercial Propellants
- Alliant Techsystems – Medium Caliber LAP

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