

HISTORY

The Radford Army Ammunition Plant was among the first single-base smokeless powder facilities authorized under the National Defense program, serving as a model for similar plants. Construction began on September 7, 1940, and by April 5, 1941, RFAAP was producing a wide range of propellants and energetics to support overseas war efforts in Europe and the Pacific.

Following World War II, operations at both the main plant and the New River Unit were temporarily halted. The nitric acid area was reactivated from 1946 to 1949 to produce ammonium nitrate and propellant production resumed in 1949. During the Korean War, large-scale rehabilitation efforts from 1950 to 1958 expanded the plant's capacity, including a new area dedicated to cast propellant charges for rockets and missiles.

From 1964 to 1974, the Vietnam War drove increased production, followed by a post-war decline in output and staffing. During this time, the plant also underwent infrastructure upgrades to meet evolving military needs.

In 1995, Alliant Techsystems became the operating contractor and continued modernization efforts. On July 1, 2012, BAE Systems assumed operations and has sustained improvement initiatives since.



MISSION

To provide America's warfighters with superior performing propellants, energetics, and munitions to enable engagement and destruction of targets with total confidence.



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PROVIDING READINESS

RFAAP proudly stands as a cornerstone of American military readiness, committed to delivering state-of-the-art propellants, energetics, and munitions to our brave service members. By equipping the joint warfighter with superior-performing ammunition, RFAAP ensures they can face any challenge with unparalleled confidence, precision, and reliability. Our mission embodies the unwavering resolve to safeguard our nation's security and empower those who defend our freedoms.



RFAAP continues to innovate and excel in producing the vital materials that sustain our military's operational edge. With a steadfast focus on quality and performance, we contribute to the effectiveness of our armed forces and the enduring legacy of American strength. RFAAP is more than a production facility—it is a testament to American ingenuity and our collective commitment to those who wear the uniform.



CAPABILITIES

Manufacture, development and testing of:

- Energetics
- Single-base propellants
- Multi-base propellants
- Acid recycling
- Solvent products
- Solventless products



FACILITIES

- 6,901 acres of land
- 1,038 buildings
- 214 Igloos
- 657,000-square-foot storage capacity
- Energetics research and development



DEMILITARIZATION

- RFAAP thermally treats approximately 37,000 lbs of energetic material per month at the open burning ground.
- All burns at the open burning ground are conducted in a specially designed refractory lined pan rather than the ground.
- RFAAP currently has two contained burn chambers (equipped with air pollution control devices to monitor and reduce emissions) that are used as the primary method of treating energetic waste.
- Items that cannot be safely treated in the incinerators are burned in the open burning ground in accordance with strict permit limits and conditions to ensure the safety of personnel and the community.
- RFAAP staff consistently strive to minimize open burning and have made significant progress.
- RFAAP is constructing two contained burn chambers for energetic waste to further reduce reliance on open burning.