

## Types of Former Military Bases August 2008

The cleanup and transfer process for bases depends largely on the type of military installation. In general, there are three types of bases: Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) sites, and active bases<sup>i</sup>. The following chart lists the major characteristics of each:

Type of Base	Characteristics
Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include any military base closed prior to 1986.</li> <li>• Include properties ranging from privately-owned businesses to national parks.</li> <li>• DoD is responsible for the cleanup of FUDS.</li> <li>• The US Army is the executive agent and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manages and directs the FUDS program.<sup>ii</sup></li> <li>• There are more than 9,900 properties that fall under this program.</li> </ul>
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Sites <sup>iii</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BRAC process<sup>iv</sup> is a more formal, independent, and non-political system to reorganize and dispose of former military base, established in 1988 by an <a href="#">Act of Congress</a><sup>v</sup>.</li> <li>• Prior to BRAC, FUDS and other sites were closed, remediated, and reused at the discretion of DoD without a formal process.</li> <li>• There have been five BRAC rounds: 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, and 2005. The first four rounds resulted in 97 major closures, 55 major realignments, and 235 minor actions. The 2005 BRAC round will close 22 major bases and realign 33 others.<sup>vi</sup></li> </ul>
Active Bases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleanup also occurs on an ongoing basis at active installations.</li> <li>• Ongoing compliance and restoration are key parts of DoD environmental cleanup program at active bases.</li> <li>• RCRA and CERCLA are both drivers for the cleanup.</li> <li>• There are a handful of active bases listed with the EPA Superfund (CERCLA) National Priorities List (deemed the most seriously contaminated).</li> </ul>

<sup>i</sup> There are some closed military bases that are not FUDS (i.e., closed before 1986) and not BRAC sites (i.e., closed as part of a specific round of closures). Securing remediation funding for these sites can be difficult because they do not fall under any specific cleanup program.

<sup>ii</sup> There is often limited information on the level and type of contamination at FUDS because military operations on these sites occurred decades ago. USACE will only fund a cleanup if it can be proven that DoD owned the property prior to 1986. States have found that the chain of title is difficult to prove in some cases which can result in unfunded cleanups.

<sup>iii</sup> See the NGA [BRAC Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

<sup>iv</sup> The BRAC process was originally entitled the “Base Closure and Realignment” process but is generally referred to as the “Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)” process.

<sup>v</sup> 10 USC 2687

<sup>vi</sup> [2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission Report to the President](#)