

HAWTHORNE ARMY DEPOT

NEVADA

LOCATION

Hawthorne Army Depot (HWAD) is located in Mineral County, Nevada, approximately 135 miles southeast of Reno, Nevada. HWAD is bordered on three sides by mountains; the Wassuk Mountain Range on the west, the Gillis Range on the east, and the Excelsior Mountains on the south. Walker Lake borders the depot on the north. The community of Hawthorne is two miles south of the Main Gate on the depot. Geographical location of HWAD provides for rapid deployment of munitions and materials to CONUS and OCONUS shipping and operating activities. Most major ports on the west coast can be reached within 23 hours by truck and 3-5 days by rail. Ideal climatic conditions are a major asset, further enhancing the depot's capability. The isolation of HWAD virtually ensures zero encroachment problems. The extremely low humidity and low annual rainfall prevalent in the HWAD region are conducive to long-term material storage, both inside and outside. When required, airlifts of ammunition can be made from the local airport immediately adjacent to the depot, or by utilization of Naval Air Station Fallon, which is 72 miles northeast of HWAD. HWAD sets on an active geothermal source, and exploratory efforts indicate capabilities of a 15-20 mega watt electrical generation plant.

SIZE

Acres: 147,236

Square Footage of Buildings: 9,674,802 SF

Plant Replacement Value: \$3,596,014,000

HISTORY

The installation was originally constructed in 1928 as a US Naval Ammunition Depot. HWAD was constructed as a result of an explosion at Lake Denmark, New Jersey and the necessity to locate munitions facilities away from populated areas for safety reasons. The early mission of the depot was to store, service, and issue ammunition to the Pacific Area. During WWII, HWAD rapidly expanded to meet the urgent requirements of the military. This expansion included load, assembly and pack of bombs, rockets, depth charges and undersea mines. HWAD was one of the major producers of ammunition during the course of WWII. During crisis periods, such as the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Balkans Conflict, and the current war on terrorism, HWAD continues to supply ammunition to all military branches. The 1970's saw construction of the Western Area Demilitarization Facility (WADF), the world's largest demilitarization facility, capable of demiling all types of conventional ammunition. WADF is one-of-a-kind facility with a replacement cost of \$338M for recycling, reutilization, and resale of munitions components derived from environmental friendly demilitarization. The WADF continued to expand by adding a Plasma Ordnance Demilitarization System, a new Hot Gas Decontamination System and Propellant recycling facility, deactivation furnace and bulk explosive incineration systems at

an ongoing investment of \$50M. HWAD obtained some of the first Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Air Permits in the nation for open burning and open detonation and continues to utilize existing permitted facility for treatment of unsafe ammunition/propellant. Training of military personnel has always been a part of the HWAD mission.

MISSIONS

HWAD is a premier site for receipt, storage, and issue of conventional ammunition for the Department of Defense. Shipments are made by rail, truck and air from the depot to all military services. HWAD is the Army's largest facility for demilitarization of conventional ammunition and is the center of expertise for recycle and reuse of munitions components. The HWAD mission also supports multiple service target range scrap removal and decontamination. This mission allows critical training to continue to occur on ranges utilized by various military units throughout the United States and has solved the issue of range scrap decontamination and demilitarization. HWAD is also the home for testing Marine Corps munitions and weapon systems. Navy activities include rework and shipping of undersea mine components. HWAD is the major facility for recycling Navy batteries. HWAD's mission increased with the war on terrorism, and we are actively engaged in training various military Special Forces units, due to the unique geographic features from desert climate to high mountain terrain of up to 11,000 feet. HWAD is a final participant in the plan to relocate and store elemental mercury from the Defense Logistics Agency stockpiles throughout the United States.

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

Naval Undersea Warfare Center
Marine Corps Programs Office

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	74
Civilian	45
Contractor	435
Student	0
Other	13
TOTAL	567