

MILITARY OCEAN TERMINAL, SUNNY POINT

NORTH CAROLINA

LOCATION

The Military Ocean Terminal, Sunny Point (MOTSU) is located in southeastern North Carolina along the lower Cape Fear River in Brunswick County. MOTSU is 28 miles south of Wilmington and five miles north of Southport. The terminal straddles the Cape Fear River on a coastal plain and is mostly wooded with numerous ponds and several hundred acres of wetlands. There are five miles of waterfront along the Cape Fear River. The northern rim of the terminal is bordered by Orton Pond and Old Brunswick Town, a historic site. Highways NC 133 and 87 are to the west, and marshlands lie to the immediate south. The Atlantic Ocean is seven miles down river to the south. MOTSU is subject to all four seasons with hot and humid summers but mild, short, and generally snow-free winters.

SIZE

Acres: 16, 324

Square Footage of Buildings: 238,902 SF

Plant Replacement Value: \$656,964,700

HISTORY

After World War II, and as a result of the July 1944 Port Chicago, CA, accidental detonation which killed 320 people and injured another 370, the Department of Defense sought to identify an appropriate site at which to build a seaport facility for the sole purpose of safely transshipping munitions. A relatively remote area with deep water access was selected on the west bank of the lower Cape Fear River. Work began in 1952 and MOTSU was completed in 1955. The first ship called on MOTSU in November 1955. The terminal went to full capacity for the Cuban Missile Crisis and subsequently supplied 85% of all munitions in support of the Vietnam conflict. Two wharf mounted container cranes were installed in 1974 in anticipation of ammunition containerization. During the Cold War, MOTSU's primary mission was to support forward deployed forces in Central Europe through the European Call Forward program. During Desert Shield / Desert Storm, MOTSU loaded 504,905 measurement tons on 44 breakbulk vessels. In 1998, the Army and Air Force began cycling their ammunition prepositioned afloat vessels through MOTSU. Subsequently, all prepositioned vessels were converted from breakbulk to container vessels by 2001. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, 5,775 containers were loaded aboard 12 container vessels. Today, MOTSU remains DOD's premiere ammunition terminal, supporting all ammunition prepositioned afloat programs,

conducting export operations for contingencies and foreign military sales, and receiving retrograde munitions as required.

MISSIONS

The Military Ocean Terminal, Sunny Point, is the premiere ammunition terminal within the Department of Defense. As such, it conducts responsive surface transportation of munitions and hazardous material in support of forward deployed forces worldwide. The terminal is also home of the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's 597th Transportation Terminal Group, which provides command and control over five subordinate terminal battalions throughout the United States which perform terminal operations and distribution support for deploying forces from CONUS. Personnel from MOTSU also provide Single Port Management at the strategic ports of Wilmington and Morehead City, North Carolina. MOTSU deployment specialists support the movement and loading of unit equipment aboard sealift ships at these North Carolina ports, as required. The 1355th Transportation Railway Operating Company, U.S. Army Reserve, is stationed at MOTSU. It provides railway operating and maintenance of way capability during surge operations at MOTSU and other DOD locations requiring rail augmentation.

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

597th Transportation Terminal Group
1355th Transportation Railway Operating Company
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	81
Civilian	238
Contractor	200
Student	0
Other	0
TOTAL	519