US ARMY ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
MARYLAND

LOCATION
Aberdeen Proving Ground is located in Harford County, Maryland on the northwest shore of the Chesapeake Bay approximately 6 miles southwest of the mouth of the Susquehanna River. The northern portion of Harford County resides in the Piedmont Plateau and the Southern half in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Elevation within the county ranges from 40 feet above sea level to 750 feet above sea level. The installation is located adjacent to the city of Aberdeen with a population of over 13,500. This area is a burgeoning technology center and is within easy access to several major metropolitan areas: Baltimore, approximately 35 miles to the southwest; Washington D.C., 70 miles to the southwest; Wilmington, Delaware, 43 miles to the northeast; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 70 miles to the northeast. The installation comprises two principle areas, separated by Bush River and approximately 11 road miles apart from gate to gate. The northern area is known as the Aberdeen Area, and the southern sector is the Edgewood Area. APG property not attached to the main installation includes the Churchville Test Site in Harford County and Carroll Island and Graces Quarters in Baltimore County. APG is subject to all four seasons with temperatures ranging from an average high in July of 88.5 F to an average cold in January of 23 F.

SIZE
Acres: 72,406.07

Square Footage of Buildings: 14,546,799 SF

Plant Replacement Value: $2,845,026,000

HISTORY
Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Army’s oldest active proving ground, was established on 20 October 1917 and shortly thereafter, in 1918, the Army established Edgewood Arsenal under the Chemical Warfare Service. APG was to be used for proof-testing a variety of Army ordnance. The mission of the installation was later expanded to include the operation of an Ordnance training school and the developmental testing of small arms. During the decade of the 1930s the Ordnance Specialist School for enlisted personnel was transferred to APG and plans were developed for the Army to consolidate and expand its performance of ballistics research, which resulted in the creation of the Ballistics Research Laboratory. As the mission grew, so did the size of APG - 7,000 acres were added in 1942 and 1,800 acres were added in 1945. Two of the many contributions to the war effort made at APG were the world’s first digital computer, the ENIAC, and the first man-portable antitank weapons system, the Bazooka. In 1962 as a result of reorganization, the Army centralized all of the then existing testing assets in a new center of excellence headquartered at APG – the US Army Test and Evaluation Command. Another significant change occurred in 1971 when Edgewood Arsenal, the former Chemical Center and current chemical and biological research, development and engineering center for the Army, was merged into APG creating a unique
and diversified installation. In 1985, the APG Support Activity (now the US Army Garrison APG) was created to handle base operations for the entire installation and the Combat Systems Test Activity (now the US Army Aberdeen Test Center) was established as a separate activity to continue its mission of assuring our fighting forces have the finest weapons and equipment possible. The DOD chemical demilitarization program was activated at the installation in 1986. APG continues to serve the country through its support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism.

**Missions**

Aberdeen Proving Ground is DOD’s Center of Excellence for Land Combat Systems supporting the nation through the efforts of 66 highly integrated resident organizations engaged in Research, Development and Engineering; Test, Evaluation and Analysis; Operations and Training on Land and Sea Systems, Warfighter Systems, Chemical and Biological Defense and Homeland Security. APG is a charter member of the Chesapeake Regional Ranges Cooperative and as such works with partners, Naval Air Warfare Center, Patuxent River; Fort AP Hill; Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren; US Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk VA.; NASA/Wallops, Wallops Island, VA.; and the MD ARNG, Chestertown, MD. The installation lies three miles east of Interstate 95, is only 40 miles from the Port of Baltimore and has a Norfolk Southern Railroad siding on the installation. APG is home to Phillips Army Airfield that is capable of handling almost any plane in the inventory including the C-130, C-141, DC-10 and C-5A.

**Major Units/Tenants**

Guardian Brigade & Technical Escort Unit  
1st and 9th Area Medical Laboratory  
203rd Military Intelligence Battalion  
US Army Ordnance Center & School  
US Army Developmental Test Command & US Army Aberdeen Test Center  
US Army Research Laboratory  
US Army Material Systems Analysis Activity  
US Army Soldier & Biological Chemical Command  
US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense  
US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine  
US Army Environmental Center

**Population**

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