

# EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE

## TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACTS

A SUCCESS STORY

**E**ielson AFB is located approximately 20 miles southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. A small arms firing range was established in the basement of a building at Eielson to facilitate year-round target practice for Air Force personnel. The firing range was subsequently closed, and the basement area was added to the National Priority List because of lead contamination.

In 1996, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was tasked with decontaminating and demolishing the firing range so the space could be used for storage, offices, or other industrial purposes. To accelerate cleanup of the firing range and ensure compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) regulations, the Alaska District selected TERC as the contract vehicle. The Corps and its TERC contractor, Jacobs Engineering, quickly established a close

### TERC WORKS



*Removal of lead-contaminated sands from firing range.*



Field work completed in 3 weeks despite unfavorable conditions.

working relationship among representatives from Eielson AFB, EPA Region 10, and ADEC.

The TERC contractor performed a bench-scale treatability study and an engineering evaluation/cost analysis on the firing range sands to determine the most cost-effective means of treatment and disposal. The study

showed that none of the previously considered alternatives were the “best value” for disposal of the firing range sands. The flexible nature of the TERC contracting mechanism enabled the Corps to select and direct a different method for treating and disposing of the sands.

Despite formidable winter weather conditions and limited daylight hours, the field work portion of the project was completed in less than 3 weeks. Rather than dispose of approximately 125 tons of the lead-contaminated sand as hazardous waste, the contractor shipped the sand to a lead smelter for use as a substitute flux material. This innovative approach saved approximately \$100,000 over the more costly alternative of transporting the contaminated sand to a permitted hazardous waste disposal facility.

Innovative disposal approach saved \$100,000.

Chief features of this highly successful TERC effort were the smooth, speedy “cradle-to-grave” accomplishment of the project, the cost-effective method of disposal, and the use of partnering to streamline efforts.



**ALASKA DISTRICT**

POINT OF CONTACT—

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