



Arkansas Fort Chaffee

Facility and Location

Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center is in northwest Arkansas located one mile southeast of Fort Smith Regional Airport. The Arkansas River flows eastward along the northern border of the post. Fort Chaffee is primarily used as a training facility by regional National Guard and Army Reserve units as well as active military units from other installations but it currently houses no active units. Fort Chaffee was originally named Camp Chaffee and was established in response to the need for more troops prior to World War II involvement. Construction on Camp Chaffee was started in September 1941, with troops arriving on the base in December 1941. In March 1956, the name of Camp Chaffee was officially changed to Fort Chaffee, to indicate and recognize the permanent nature of the base. During World War II, Fort Chaffee also served as a POW camp, housing 3,000 German prisoners of war. Fort Chaffee has twice since served as a primary center for housing foreign refugees. It held Vietnamese refugees in 1975 Cuban refugees in 1980. More recently, it served displaced residents from Hurricane Katrina. Fort Chaffee served as the home of the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center from 1987 to 1993. In September 1997, command of Fort Chaffee was transferred to the Arkansas Army National Guard. In recent years, Fort Chaffee has forfeited large portions of land to the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, an organization whose purpose is stimulating the local economy.

Media Sampled and Findings

Drinking Water — In 2011, two of two samples detected perchlorate at 0.08 and 0.09 ppb.

Appropriate Actions