

# Fact Sheet

## DoD Advanced Geophysical Classification Accreditation Program

### Overview

DoD experience cleaning up Munitions Response Sites (MRS) has shown that approximately 95% of excavated objects are not buried munitions, but debris that does not present an explosive hazard. Following many years of research and development, the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) have successfully demonstrated the ability of advanced classification to reliably distinguish buried munitions (termed “targets of interest” or “TOI”) from non-explosive debris (non-TOI) at several MRS. This program has the potential to save DoD billions of dollars in remediation expenses.

The DoD Environmental Data Quality Workgroup (EDQW) has developed the DoD Advanced Geophysical Classification Accreditation Program (DAGCAP) to accredit organizations that perform advanced classification at DoD MRS. DAGCAP uses third-party accreditation bodies (ABs) to provide a unified program through which geophysical classification organizations (GCOs) can demonstrate competency and document conformance to a set of requirements. Requirements are based on the international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*<sup>1</sup> supplemented by the DoD Quality Systems Requirements for Advanced

Geophysical Classification (DoD QSR).

### DAGCAP – How it works

Through a competitive source selection process, DoD has selected and formally recognized two ABs to administer the program. Contact information for both ABs is presented in the resources section at the end of this fact sheet. GCOs will be free to select either AB for accreditation services, and must contact the AB directly to begin the application process. Each AB administers its accreditation program in accordance with its internal quality systems requirements. They accept applications, conduct assessments, issue assessment reports, monitor implementation of corrective action responses and issue accreditation certificates. Each AB publishes a list of GCOs that hold current accreditation. The DoD EDQW provides management and oversight of the program.

### The process – how organizations become accredited

1. The GCO develops and implements quality systems documentation meeting all applicable requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 and the DoD QSR.
2. The GCO selects an AB and submits an application to the AB. The GCO must submit its quality systems documentation along with its application.

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<sup>1</sup> As used in the ISO/IEC standards, the term “laboratory” refers to any organization that conducts testing or calibrations.

# Fact Sheet

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3. The AB will review the application for completeness, requesting any additional information, if necessary.
4. Once the application is complete, the AB will begin the assessment process in accordance with its internal policies and procedures. In general, this will consist of an:
  - a. Off-site document review
  - b. On-site assessment
  - c. Observation of an organizational demonstration of capability (DOC) to be conducted at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Advanced Classification Demonstration Site. (this will be scheduled through the AB and in coordination with the EDQW)

The GCO will work directly with the AB to schedule all aspects of the assessment.

5. The AB will provide the GCO with an assessment report identifying any deficiencies and requesting a corrective action plan.
6. If required, the GCO will submit its corrective action plan, for review and acceptance by the AB.
7. Once the GCO has completed corrective action, the AB will conduct any assessment activities it deems necessary to verify that corrective action has been successfully implemented.
8. Upon successful completion and documentation of corrective action, the AB will issue the accreditation certificate, including the expiration date.
9. The AB will post contact information for all accredited GCOs on its website and provide this information to the EDQW for posting on DENIX.

10. DoD organizations typically will select accredited GCOs using a competitive procurement process.

### Benefits of DAGCAP

- Promotes fair and open competition among commercial entities offering advanced classification services,
- Streamlines the process for identifying and procuring competent GCOs,
- Promotes interoperability among the DoD Components, and
- Promotes the collection of data of known and documented quality.

### Resources

#### Accreditation Bodies

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

<https://www.a2la.org/>

Laboratory Accreditation Bureau (L-A-B)

<http://l-a-b.com/>