



Sifting and Mapping Operations on Ranges 43-48

Ordnance Removal Continues After Prescribed Burn

Sifting

The Army is continuing removal work at Ranges 43-48. Many explosive items have already been removed from the surface and subsurface in this area. In fact, 278,286 pounds of munitions debris has been removed.

In addition, sifting operations at Range 45, a 14-acre former firing range, are approximately 60 percent complete. This 14-acre area is planned for transfer to Monterey Peninsula College for use as a firing range as part of its police officer training. The Army has scraped off the top two feet of the ground and piled up the soil (approximately 70,000 cubic yards) in the middle of the site.

The Army is now running the pile of soil through a mechanical sifter. The sifter passes the soil through several small screens that filter out debris. (See photo on last page.) The sifter then moves the "clean" soil to an asphalt area. Meanwhile, the debris is taken to a sorting area (pictured above right),



where it is inspected for munitions and explosives of concern (MEC). The sifting operation is expected to be

complete late Fall 2005.

So far, 80 MEC items have been found in the debris sifted out from Ranges 45, including more than thirty 40mm high explosive (HE) projectiles. Any MEC encountered is safely destroyed. After all the soil has been sifted, MEC removal and geophysical teams will search for MEC in the subsurface of Range 45 with analog and then digital detection instruments.

Mapping

Meanwhile, geophysical teams are digitally mapping the east side of Ranges 43-48 (pictured bottom left). Mapping is done after analog teams have searched for and removed subsurface MEC. This process creates color digital maps that serve as a permanent record of the site conditions following the analog MEC removal work. The maps also show the spots where MEC might still be in the ground (anomalies).

Your Opinion Counts!

The Army is interested in learning how you would like to participate in the environmental cleanup at Fort Ord. The Environmental Cleanup Survey can help the Army identify your interest in the cleanup. By completing and returning the survey, you can help yourself, your community and the Army to develop

better communication and understanding. Fill-out the survey on line at www.FortOrdCleanup.com or call 393-1284 and we will mail a copy. If you already sent in a survey, thank you for lending your voice to the cleanup program.

Geophysical Survey and Monitoring Well Installations

New Wells Being Drilled to Monitor Groundwater Quality

In March, a public meeting was held about the groundwater cleanup and upcoming investigations in the Marina area. The following is an update on events since then:

This Fall, residents of Monterey Bay Estates along Quebrada Del Mar Road and Tallmon Street will see construction workers and equipment in the cattle ranch behind their homes. New wells will be installed to monitor groundwater quality in the shallow aquifer and determine the limits of the trichloroethene (TCE) in groundwater from Operable Unit 1 (OU-1) at the former Fort Ord.

A Hollow Stem Auger drill rig will be used to construct these wells. Residents will also see large metal bins parked in the area to hold the soil that results from drilling.

Monterey Bay Estates residents may also notice crews laying long lengths of cable along the ground and attaching them to electronic monitors — this is part of the geophysical survey. After obtaining the necessary measurements (a matter of hours), these cables are

removed from the site. This is called a resistivity survey. These surveys use metal stakes, cables and computers to collect subsurface geophysical data. The data will be collected to aid in determining the approximate depth of the clay layer beneath the aquifer. We anticipate that these survey lines will be run along Crescent Ave, DeForest Road and Melanie Road.

We will also drill soil borings to obtain soil samples below the ground. Groundwater samples will also be collected to determine if there is contamination in the groundwater. The number and locations of soil borings will be selected based on the information provided by the resistivity survey.

The groundwater being investigated in OU-1 is **not** used for drinking water. Water quality is our highest priority. Drinking water samples are regularly tested by the Marina Coast Water District and meet all federal and state standards. This water is safe to drink.

There will be more investigation and/or cleanup activity in this area after the test results at the new wells are

evaluated. The results (in the form of a report) will be posted at the Fort Ord Cleanup Web Site at www.FortOrdCleanup.com.



Fort Ord Impact Area Airborne Reconnaissance Report Completed

The Reconnaissance Report is now available on the Fort Ord web site. You may have seen this odd looking helicopter flying over the Fort Ord Impact Area this past February.

The Army has mapped the 8,000 acre Impact Area using recently developed airborne geophysical technology in order to locate large areas cluttered with military munitions and/or metallic debris. This project was completed and the survey results are now available.

The report is available on line at the document review section of the Fort Ord web site at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. The title of the report is *Draft Final Airborne Geophysical Survey, Former Fort Ord, California, January 29 - February 17, 2005, Revision 1*.

Copies are also available by calling Melissa Broadston at (831) 393-1284.

New Measure to Save Paper

Notifications Being Sent by Email

As of September 1, we'll offer our monthly mailing packet via email. If you currently receive Fort Ord cleanup announcements by email and postal mail, help conserve paper by choosing email-only notifications.

What to do

Send an email to Melissa.Broadston@monterey.army.mil with your home address. In the subject line, let us know that the note is a "request to switch to email-only notifications." Our mailing list is much older than our email list and the information you have provided doesn't always indicate an email-only preference.

Please note

Newsletters and community bulletins, like this one, will still be sent to your home since these are sent via bulk mail, and not directly from our office. Thank you very much for your help to conserve paper.



Visitors Get Closeup View of Entire Impact Area Many Attend Cleanup Open House

Over 150 people spent their Saturday afternoon at the Fort Ord Cleanup Open House and Bus Tour. The June tour featured 10 military munitions cleanup sites throughout the Fort Ord Impact Area. Because each tour was accompanied by an Ordnance and Explosives Safety Specialist, the tour buses were allowed to drive into a cleared area inside the Impact Area. This was a rare opportunity to allow people to get out of the bus and look over the entire Fort Ord Impact Area.

In addition, for the first time, the building used by the Munitions Response contractor, Parsons, was also open to the public for the Fort Ord

Cleanup Open House. Inside, there were booths and posters related to Fort Ord cleanup topics and sign boards that included inert examples of ordnance that have been cleared from Fort Ord.

Mark your calendar for the next tour scheduled for February 2006.

Attention Scout Troops, Clubs and School Groups

Do you have a group of people interested in a free tour of the Fort Ord Cleanup? Free bus tours are available for groups of 24 or more by calling 393-1284.



Prescribed Burn Update Army Plans No Burns in UXO Areas This Year

The Army BRAC Office does not plan any burns in areas that have not been cleared of unexploded ordnance in 2005. The Army continues to focus on removing the munitions and explosives of concern from the areas where vegetation was cleared by the 2003 fire. Please note, there may be burns in other areas (in some cases, where UXO has been removed from the area) of Fort Ord to train local fire firefighters in wildland fire fighting techniques.

The Army is planning a prescribed burn in 2006, although it will only be about 80 acres, a much smaller area than burned in 2003.

However, Monterey Bay Area residents may still see some smoke in 2005. The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) is planning small habitat and firefighter training burns within 147 acres located in the Parker Flats area of the former Fort Ord. The 147 acres will be sectioned into smaller burn areas, approximately 30 acres each. The burns will serve two purposes: 1) burning of vegetation to comply with requirements of a Habitat Management Plan designed to protect and restore habitat reserves; and, 2) local fire agencies will be participating and conducting training for fire personnel utilizing recently obtained wildland firefighting equipment.

For more information on the burns proposed in 2005 contact FORA at (831) 883-3672 or go to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority web site at www.fora.org

How You Can Contact Members of the Fort Ord Cleanup Team

The Army is responsible for conducting cleanup of the former Fort Ord, but it must do so in a manner that complies with federal and state laws and under the supervision of federal and state regulatory agencies. At Fort Ord, the cleanup is supervised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Under an agreement between the agencies, each team assigns a representative to the Base Cleanup Team (called the BCT). This team makes day-to-day management decisions about the cleanup program. Contacts for each of the participating agencies in the Fort Ord Cleanup program are listed below:

California Department of Toxic Substances Control-
Roman Racca (916) 255-6407 rraca@dtsc.ca.gov

California Department of Toxic Substances Control-
Kris Escarda (916) 255-6683 kescarda@dtsc.ca.gov

California Regional Water Quality Control Board-
Grant Himebaugh (805) 542-4636
ghimebaugh@waterboards.ca.gov

United States Environmental Protection Agency-
Claire Trombadore (415) 972-3013
Trombadore@epamail.epa.gov for questions about military munitions

United States Environmental Protection Agency-
Martin Hausladen (415) 972-3007
Hausladen@epamail.epa.gov for questions about cleanup not related to military munitions

United States Army Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure Office- **Gail Youngblood** (831) 242-7924
Gail.Youngblood@monterey.army.mil

United States Army Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure Office- **Melissa Broadston** (831)393-1284
Melissa.Broadston@monterey.army.mil



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