
Frequently Asked Questions: Security at Ordnance Sites

U.S. ARMY PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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The cleanup of ordnance and explosives at the former Fort Ord is a long-term project. Over the next 12 to 15 years, it is very important that the Army control access to and educate our neighbors about the dangerous areas that MUST remain off-limits until the clean up is finished.

Can I accidentally wander into a dangerous area that has not been cleaned up yet?

No, it is not possible to wander into a dangerous area that has unexploded ordnance above ground. In 1996, the Army installed the four-strand barbed wire fence that surrounds the dangerous area and warning signs were posted. Cable barriers at access roads to the Multi-Range Area were also replaced with chain-link gates.

During my work commute, I saw teenagers trying to steal the warning signs from the fences. What is the Army doing to patrol the area? Who should I call to let them know about this incident?

The Presidio of Monterey Police Department (federal police) patrol this area periodically every day. In addition, the Ordnance and Explosives removal contractors are the Army's extra eyes and ears during their regularly scheduled work days.

If you see someone trying to steal the warning signs from the fences or who are trespassing beyond the fence, you should immediately call the Presidio of Monterey Police Department at (831) 242-7851. These actions could result in citations and prosecution at the federal magistrate court level.

There are elementary schools near these dangerous areas. What is the Army doing to educate the kids about these dangerous areas?

Since 1997, the former Fort Ord has had an Ordnance and Explosives School Safety Program. Eighteen schools surrounding the former Fort Ord are invited to participate in the school safety program each year. To date, approximately 2700 elementary and middle school students from schools that have accepted the invitation, have participated in this program.

My house / business is very close to one of these fenced-off ordnance areas.

Where can I go to find out about when this particular area will be cleaned-up?

Community Involvement Workshops, which are held monthly, are an excellent source of information. Community members can propose future topics for discussion, as well as talk to specialized staff who can give you a direct answer to any question that you might have. The website listed at the bottom has meeting schedules. You can also get on our mailing list to be notified of what's happening on the cleanup.

Why is the cleanup of ordnance and explosives taking so long?

Certain safety procedures must be followed to ensure the safety of the ordnance and explosives removal workers. This limits the amount of area that can be cleaned up per year. The Army is also responsible for making sure that our cleanup activities do not destroy the environment. Therefore, habitat management requirements also restrict the amount of area that can be cleaned up per year. Lastly, there is a limited amount of money available per year that is appropriated by Congress to conduct cleanup at closed military installations. This money must be spread out over many closed installations that are conducting cleanups.

If I sign up on your mailing list, will you keep my name and address confidential?

Yes, we keep our information mailing list completely confidential.

Visit Our Web Site: www.fortordcleanup.com

To arrange a classroom presentation about Ordnance and Explosives: call Lyle Shurtleff, Community Relations Manager (831) 393-9691