

FACT SHEET

Fall 2004

FORMER FORT ORD MILITARY MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM

Monterey County, California

For Public Use

SITE BACKGROUND

Fort Ord is a 28,000-acre former Army base located near Monterey Bay in northwestern Monterey County.

It became a training installation in 1917 and was used to train Army infantry, cavalry, and field artillery units for WWI and II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. Training activities included the firing of a variety of military munitions.

In 1991, the site was included on the Base Realignment and Closure list and closed in 1994.

Since then, removal actions have been performed to address the explosive hazards posed by military munitions remaining at former training sites on the base and to prepare Fort Ord property to be transferred to federal, state, and local agencies.

ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

This fact sheet recaps the significant events of the Fort Ord Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) and is provided as part of the community relations program.

For more information on the MMRP, log on to our website at www.fortordcleanup.com; visit the information repository in the CSUMB library; visit the Fort Ord Administrative Record office in the Ord Military Community at Building 4463, Room 101, Gigling Road; or contact Melissa Broadston by e-mail at melissa.broadston@monterey.army.mil or by phone at (831) 393-1284.



Ranges 43–48 Munitions Response Update **8,000 AND COUNTING**



This 60mm high explosive projectile is one of over 8,000 MEC found so far in Ranges 43–48.

The number of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) recovered from the surface and subsurface of Ranges 43–48 surpassed 8,000 in October 2004.

This number is expected to continue increasing, as MEC removal teams have begun working on the central section of the site. This is where most of the target areas for the seven firing ranges in this site are located.

MEC removal teams to date have detected over 2 million anomalies (potential MEC in the subsurface) with analog geophysical instruments. The teams dug these anomalies and recovered over 3,100 MEC buried in the ground. The items found include high explosive (HE) and practice hand grenades, rockets, and projectiles.

Meanwhile, geophysical teams are digitally mapping the northeastern section of the site. Digital mapping is being done after the analog removal to record subsurface conditions and locate remaining anomalies. To do the mapping, a cart containing a system of digital geophysical survey instruments is towed over the ground with an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). The data collected with the survey instruments is used to create color digital maps of the subsurface environment.

So far, approximately 2,000 additional anomalies have been identified from the color digital maps, verified, and dug. While most of the digs have resulted in debris, 35 MEC have been recovered.

Quality control (QC) and government quality assurance (QA) have begun inspecting the areas where the analog and digital processes have been completed.

Sifting Set to Begin at Range 45

The Army will begin sifting the 12-acre Range 45 area later this fall. The Army will sift this area because it is saturated with metallic debris that prevents geophysical instruments from detecting individual anomalies that could be MEC.

Armored bulldozers will be used to scrape the top 2 feet of soil from the area and pile it up in the middle of the area. The excavated soil will then be run through a sifter, which will remove the metallic debris from the soil.

Once the top 2 feet of soil has been removed from the subject area, MEC removal teams will use analog instruments to find any MEC in the subsurface. Geophysical teams will then use digital survey instruments to map the area and locate any potential MEC.

After QC and government QA inspect the area, the sifted soil will be returned to the Range 45 area.

The Army issued an addendum to the MRS-Ranges 43–48 work plan describing this sifting operation. It was made available to the public and regulatory agencies in August 2004 for a 30-day comment period, which ended September 30, 2004. No comments were received from the public.



A sifter will be used to remove metallic debris from the top 2 feet of soil in the Range 45 area.

Other MMRP News



A helicopter-mounted geophysical system will be used to map the Impact Area from the air in order to identify large areas heavily saturated with metallic debris. (Photo courtesy: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Environmental Sciences Division)

Airborne Reconnaissance Planned for Impact Area

The Army is planning to map the 8,000-acre Impact Area later this year or early next year using recently developed airborne geophysical technology in order to locate large areas cluttered with metallic debris.

This airborne survey will be done using a helicopter equipped with large poles mounted underneath it. Each of these poles contains several digital geophysical detection instruments.

Airborne geophysical technology for detecting military munitions was developed in the '90s. It was successfully demonstrated at the former Badlands Bombing Range in South Dakota in 1999 and 2000.

The system is ideal for mapping large sites because it can cover them in a relatively short period. It also proved at the Badlands to be effective for detecting large munitions, as it located 100-lb bombs dropped on the range.

Tall trees, steep terrain, and smaller munitions, however, may limit the use of this technology at the former Fort Ord. Portions of the base are inaccessible because they contain tall trees or steep slopes that prevent the helicopter from flying at the low altitudes needed to map the land. In addition, the munitions fired at the former Fort Ord are much smaller than those used at the Badlands and therefore may not be individually detectable from the air.

The heavily cluttered portions of the Impact Area are expected to be identified because concentrated quantities of MEC and debris are more detectable than individual items.

The data from this airborne mapping will help the Army determine the resources required for future munitions responses in the Impact Area.

2004 Fuel Break Work Completed

The Army finished its annual maintenance work on the system of fuel breaks in and around the Impact Area in mid-September 2004.

The Army cut approximately 195 acres of re-grown brush from the fuel breaks to keep them clear of anything that could burn in the event of a wildfire in the Impact Area.

The Army also widened to 200 feet a section of the South Boundary Road fuel break from east of York School to Laguna Seca. This entailed not only mowing brush but also removing some trees along both sides of South Boundary Road.

The tree cutting was needed to further improve the fire containment features of this critical fuel break, which separates the Impact Area from York School and nearby homes to the south.

Throughout the widening of this fuel break from mid-July to early September, South Boundary Road was closed to pedestrians and bicyclists during the morning and afternoon as a safety precaution.

Document Review Update Track 1 Proposed Plan

A Proposed Plan for 21 "Track 1" sites at the former Fort Ord was issued September 2004. Comments were accepted at a public meeting held September 29. As requested by the public, the comment period was extended to November 15.

Track 1 sites are those suspected of being used for military munitions training but determined to have been:

- not used for training;
- not used for training with explosive items; or
- used for training with only pyrotechnic or practice items.

The Proposed Plan recommends no further action related to MEC at these sites because MEC is not expected in them.

East Garrison Site Assessment

A technical memorandum for site assessment work planned for two portions of the East Garrison area was issued for review on September 22. The public comment period ended October 29, 2004.

General Information

Site Name:

Former Fort Ord

Location:

Monterey County, California

Point of Contact:

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Fort Ord MMRP Figures

(1994 through October 31, 2004)

- 🔥 **11.7 million** anomalies investigated
- 🔥 **7,215** high explosive (HE) MEC items recovered
- 🔥 **735,236 lb** of munitions debris removed

Work Sites Map

