

Fact Sheet:

Munitions Response Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for Former Fort Ord

February 2004

Fort Ord Military Munitions Response Program Background

Since 1917, Fort Ord was a training ground for soldiers who prepared to serve in WWII, Korean and Vietnam Wars, and other military actions. Fort Ord was closed in 1994, and the majority of the 28,000 acres of the former military land became available for conversion from military to civilian use.

Throughout the history of Fort Ord, training activities included the use of military munitions. The types and ages of munitions used here changed over time due to advances in technology, and include artillery projectiles, rockets, hand grenades, land mines, pyrotechnics, bombs, demolition materials, and other items. Some munitions did not explode as intended, and remain on or in the ground, still explosive. These are called unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Before the land can be available for public use, it must be safe. The Army has been conducting a munitions response program at Fort Ord since 1993. Since then, approximately 12,000 acres have been identified as sites having or suspected to have explosive hazards. To date, more than 3,000 acres have been investigated and/or cleared to reduce explosive hazards.

The Army is also conducting a Munitions Response Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (MR RI/FS). The MR RI/FS will evaluate the current conditions of munitions response sites and other areas of Fort Ord, and evaluate the long-term remedial alternatives for each area as appropriate. Extensive coordination with regulatory agencies and the local communities is also an important aspect of the MR RI/FS program.

As part of the program, the Army is addressing three high priority areas as interim remedial actions, the first of which is the cleanup of Ranges 43-48 that began in late 2003. Please stay tuned for the latest news about the munitions response program at the former Fort Ord. ◆

RI/FS Process

The Army follows the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process that is described in Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund) and National Contingency Plan (NCP). Here's the overall flow of typical RI/FS:

- (1) Scoping: Review available information, begin to plan how to conduct RI/FS.
- (2) Community Relations: Document community relations activities in a community relations plan, and establish an administrative record.
- (3) RI/FS: Conduct site investigation, develop and evaluate alternative ways of conducting cleanup based on nine evaluation criteria specified in the NCP.
- (4) Proposed Plan: Describe the remedial alternatives and discuss the rationale supporting the preferred alternative. There will be a 30-day public comment period and an opportunity for a public meeting.
- (5) Record of Decision: Consider public comments, provide a summary of comments and responses, and document the selected remedy.
- (6) Remedial Design/Remedial Action: Implement the selected remedial action. ◆

Fort Ord Munitions Response RI/FS

Through the archives search process and many years of investigations, numerous areas have been identified as known or suspected to contain UXO. Areas are grouped into the following four tracks:

- Track 0: Areas with no evidence of military munitions use
- Track 1: Areas that were suspected of explosive hazard, but investigation found no evidence
- Track 2: Areas where UXO removal was conducted
- Track 3: Other areas that need further investigation or cleanup

An RI/FS (or equivalent documentation), Proposed Plan and Record of Decision will be prepared for each track under the Fort Ord Munitions Response RI/FS. Track 0 Record of Decision was signed in 2002, requiring no action regarding munitions response for several Track 0 parcels.

Community involvement for the munitions response program are integrated with the community relations program for the entire Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup program, and is documented in the Community Relations Plan that is updated annually.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California-EPA/Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) provide the regulatory oversight for the Fort Ord Munitions Response RI/FS program. The Fort Ord Federal Facility Agreement specifies the role of the Army, EPA and DTSC and provides a process for cooperative, expedited cleanup at the former Fort Ord. ◆

Your Safety is Our Priority: Don't Go In There!!!

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) can be very unstable and may be a serious safety hazard.

DANGER and NO TRESPASSING signs are posted around areas where UXO may be present. The most dangerous areas are fenced and warning signs are posted. Please **DO NOT ENTER** these areas for your safety. If you find any object that could be UXO,

**Don't Touch It,
Call the Federal Police at
242-7851 or 242-7852.**

For more information contact:

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Fort Ord Munitions Response RI/FS Process

