



FACT SHEET

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES (OE) CLEANUP



Fall 2002

Former Fort Ord, Monterey, California

For Public Use

SITE DESCRIPTION

Fort Ord is located near Monterey Bay in northwestern Monterey County, approximately 80 miles south of San Francisco. The base comprises approximately 28,000 acres and is adjacent to Seaside and Monterey to the west, Del Rey Oaks to the south, and Marina to the north.

SITE HISTORY

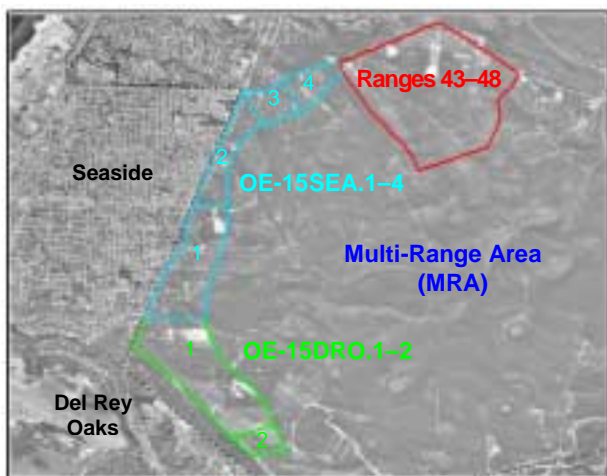
Fort Ord became a training installation in 1917 and was used to train Army infantry, cavalry, and field artillery divisions for WWI and II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. In 1991 the site was included on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list and closed in 1994. Since the BRAC listing and closure of Fort Ord, cleanup operations have been performed to address explosive hazards and to prepare Fort Ord property to be transferred to federal, state, and local agencies and the surrounding Monterey County communities.

PREVIOUS SITE ACTIVITIES

Removal Actions: Since 1994, the Presidio of Monterey has been removing OE from the former Fort Ord to make the base safe for the public and the environment.

Between September 2001 and February 2002 limited removal actions were conducted to remove OE from the visible and accessible surface of eight areas: OE-15MOCO.1, OE-15 (Mortar Alley), OE-16, OE-46, Parker Flats and a 1,094-acre Bureau of Land Management (BLM) area east of Parker Flats, Range 30A, and Ranges 43-48. Vegetation was not disturbed during these actions.

These actions removed 2,542 unexploded ordnance (UXO) items and approximately 45,000 lb of OE scrap.



Locations of current and future OE cleanup operations



An instrument operator searches for OE with a magnetometer in OE-15SEA.1 as another team member prepares to dig any items detected

CURRENT SITE ACTIVITIES

OE-15SEA.1-4: Cleanup operations in OE-15SEA.1-4 (Seaside parcels) are ongoing and will continue into 2003. The cleanup of this approximately 400-acre site is a high priority because of its proximity to the Seaside community. These operations will reduce OE hazards and serve as an initial step towards the safe reuse of the land.

The overall site cleanup is approximately 55% complete. The vegetation in the site has been cleared, crews have removed OE from the site's surface, and most of the geophysical work in the 183-acre OE-15SEA.1 has been completed.

Currently, subsurface cleanup work, which involves several steps, is being performed. First, teams conduct geophysical surveys to detect metallic items in the ground. Data processors analyze the survey data to identify locations of suspected OE items. Crews then dig to find the suspected OE items at these locations, and the items that are found are identified and recorded. Finally, these items are removed or detonated.

As of October 29, 2002, 281 UXO items and 1,873 lb of OE scrap have been removed from OE-15SEA.1-4.

OE-15DRO.1-2: Supplemental work in OE-15DRO.1-2 (Del Rey Oaks parcels) began June 2002 to support the early transfer of land. Operations are approximately 75% complete and are expected to continue into early 2003.

Crews have excavated a berm in southeast OE-15DRO.1 suspected of containing OE, and they have removed and sifted the soil from a 2-acre area saturated with machine-gun links. Currently, crews are detecting and excavating subsurface OE along the site's 30-ft-wide eastern edge.

As of October 29, 2002, 11 UXO items and 74 lb of OE scrap have been removed from OE-15DRO.1-2.

OTHER CURRENT OPERATIONS

OE RI/FS: The Army is conducting a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to address long-term OE cleanup needs. The draft final versions of two reports for the OE RI/FS were recently completed: a technical memorandum evaluating vegetation clearance methods and a risk-assessment protocol evaluating OE risks at OE-impacted sites on the former Fort Ord. Currently, a Track 0 record of decision (ROD) and a Track 1 RI/FS are being developed. The Army expects to complete the OE RI/FS in 2005.

MRA Fire Prevention and Control Program: A system of fuel breaks in and around the MRA has been developed to reduce and control the threat of wildfire. This system is being maintained by cutting/mowing the vegetation in the existing fuel breaks and establishing an additional 2 miles of fuel breaks. During these actions, 1,112 UXO items and 15,537 lb of OE scrap have been removed.

The initial work to reestablish the fuel breaks system in the MRA was performed in 2001. Vegetation clearance and OE removal actions restored 47 miles of old roads, trails, and fuel breaks in the MRA that were regularly used during military training activities. During this work, 217 UXO and 4,721 OE-scrap items were removed.

INTERIM ACTION RECORD OF DECISION (IA ROD)

In Spring 2001, the Army determined that an interim action (IA) was required to protect the public from the threat posed by three high-risk OE sites at the former Fort Ord (Ranges 43–48, Range 30A, and OE-16) while basewide remedial solutions were still being developed. The sites are hazards to the public because they contain dangerous OE items, are close to schools and residential communities, and are prone to trespassing.

In September 2002, the Army and regulatory agencies [Department of Toxic Substances and Control (DTSC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)] signed an IA ROD describing the Army-selected and agency-reviewed cleanup methods for these sites. The selected methods include performing a prescribed burn, a surface and subsurface OE removal, and detonations with engineering controls (dirt, sandbags, contained water). In addition, the IA ROD summarizes the IA OE RI/FS and contains responses to public comments on the Proposed Plan issued in March 2002.

RANGES 43–48

Because the cleanup of Ranges 43–48 is the highest priority of the three IA sites, the cleanup actions selected in the IA ROD will be performed there first.

To help reduce smoke emissions from the prescribed burn (scheduled fall 2002) and enhance the site’s fire containment features, crews completed a preparatory action in and around Ranges 43–48. During this action, crews re-

moved and relocated tires and structures, cut down and removed utility poles, pruned/removed trees, and cleared the vegetation around the northern portion of the site. In addition, fire prevention work was completed in and around the nearby Fitch Park Housing area. Geophysical teams also surveyed the site’s open areas to plan the geophysical work that will follow the prescribed burn.

A prescribed burn will clear the vegetation so that UXO and geophysical teams can safely access the site’s surface to detect and remove the surface and subsurface OE from the site. The burn will only be conducted if conditions (wind, temperature, relative humidity, fuel moisture) allow the burn to effectively clear the vegetation while still being controllable. To check if a prescribed burn has been scheduled, call (800) 852-9699 or log on to the Fort Ord website at www.fortordcleanup.com.

Shortly after the prescribed burn is completed, crews will begin surface and subsurface OE removal operations.

**FORT ORD OE CLEANUP PROGRAM FIGURES
(1994 THROUGH OCTOBER 2002)**

- ★ **6.1 million** anomalies investigated
- ★ **72,465** UXO items removed
- ★ **5,649** high-explosive UXO items removed
- ★ **251,106 lb** of ordnance-related scrap removed

PROJECT INFORMATION

Site Name: Fort Ord, California	
Location: Marina and Seaside, Monterey County, California	
Point of Contact:	Gail Youngblood BRAC Environmental Coordinator Presidio of Monterey (831) 242-7918 gail.youngblood@monterey.army.mil



DO NOT ENTER any fenced area that is marked with a “danger” or “no trespassing” sign. These areas are marked because UXO is potentially unstable, and it is a serious safety hazard that might be present. If you find any object that might be UXO, please **DON'T TOUCH IT!**

Call the Federal Police at (831) 242-7851 or (831) 242-7852

This fact sheet recaps the significant events for the cleanup of OE at the former Fort Ord and is provided as a part of the community relations program. For more information concerning the cleanup, log on to our website at www.fortordcleanup.com; visit one of our information repositories in the Seaside, CSUMB, or Chamberlin libraries; visit the Fort Ord Administrative Record office (appointments are recommended); or contact Lyle Shurtleff by e-mail at cqc@redshift.com or by phone at (831) 393-9691.