



FACT SHEET

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES (OE) CLEANUP



Winter 2003

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 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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands 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.



Fire crews preparing for the burn; the Army later postponed the burn because of weather conditions

BURN POSTPONED

The Army postponed the prescribed burn scheduled for November 19, 2002 because they were not certain that the desired weather conditions would be present for the burn.

The Army was preparing to burn the 500-acre Ranges 43–48 area but postponed the burn on November 18, stating that the predicted weather showed that the 19th was no longer a permissible burn day.

The Army will wait until the 2003 burn season begins in July before trying to burn the Ranges 43–48 area again.

The Army was planning to burn Ranges 43–48 in order to clear the dense brush covering the area, allowing UXO teams and OE detection instrument operators to safely access the surface and remove dangerous items from the area.

OE-15DRO.1–2 WORK FINISHING

Supplemental work in OE-15DRO.1–2 (Del Rey Oaks parcels) to protect the public and support the early transfer of the land is close to being completed.

Crews have partially excavated a berm in southeast OE-15DRO.1 suspected of containing OE; removed and sifted the soil from a 2-acre area saturated with machine-gun links; and removed subsurface OE along the site's edge.

As of January 31, 2003, 11 UXO items and 74 lb of OE scrap have been removed from OE-15DRO.1–2 during this supplemental work.

CURRENT SITE ACTIVITIES

OE-15SEA.1–4: Cleanup work in OE-15SEA.1–4 (Seaside parcels) is approximately 65% complete. The cleanup of this approximately 400-acre site is a high priority because of its proximity to the Seaside community. This work will reduce OE hazards and serve as an initial step towards the safe reuse of the land.

Currently, teams are digging suspected OE items in OE-15SEA.1 and OE-15SEA.2 and conducting geophysical surveys in OE-15SEA.3 and OE-15SEA.4.

As of January 31, 2003, 351 UXO items and 2,387 lb of OE scrap have been removed from OE-15SEA.1–4 during this work.

In mid-January, teams excavated items found near General Jim Moore Boulevard using a miniature open front barricade. This “engineering control” is used during excavations to protect the public by reducing fragmentation that could result from the unintentional detonation of an OE item.

During this work, General Jim Moore Boulevard was closed as a safety measure. Beginning mid-March, General Jim Moore Boulevard may be closed again while additional excavations are performed near the road.



A view of the miniature open front barricade used during excavations near General Jim Moore Boulevard

OTHER CURRENT OPERATIONS

OE RI/FS: The Army is conducting a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to address OE cleanup requirements at the former Fort Ord. The Army expects to complete the OE RI/FS in 2005.

As part of the OE RI/FS, a draft Track 1 RI/FS was issued in November 2002. It covers selected sites where OE was suspected of being used but was not found during reconnaissance or sampling. The Army is currently accepting comments from the public on the Track 1 RI/FS; the deadline for receiving comments has been extended to February 25, 2003.

MRA Fire Safety 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 clearing the vegetation in the existing fuel breaks and establishing an additional 2 miles of fuel breaks. During this recent work, 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. By cutting vegetation and removing OE, the Army restored 47 miles of old roads, trails, and fuel breaks in the MRA that were regularly used during military training activities. During this work in 2001, 217 UXO and 4,721 OE-scrap items were removed.

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.

OE REMOVAL WORK PLANNED FOR TWO SITES

Removal work is scheduled to begin at OE-15SEA.4 (eastern section) in mid-February and a removal action is being planned for OE-15MOCO.2 to address the immediate threat posed to the public by these sites. A threat exists because of the sites' proximity to the public, the known presence of OE on these sites, and trespassing incidents that have occurred despite security measures currently in place.

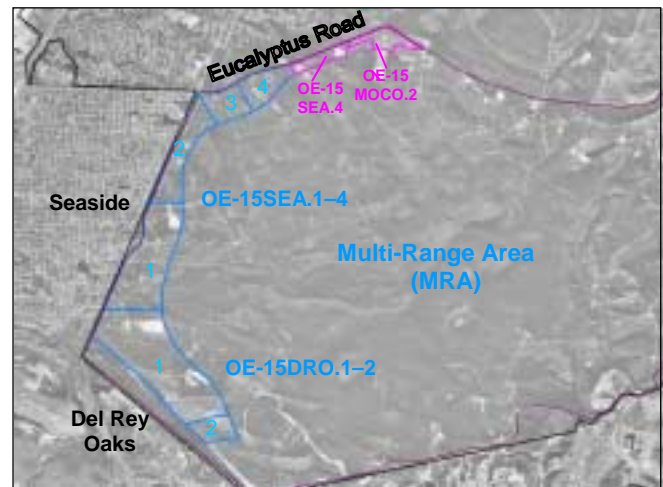
OE-15SEA.4 and OE-15MOCO.2 comprise the northernmost portion of the MRA. These sites are close to residential communities, schools, and recreational areas and are bordered to the north by Eucalyptus Road, which is regularly used by hikers, bikers, and joggers.

Barbed-wire fences, locked chain-linked gates, warning signs, and patrols restrict access into these sites. These security measures, however, do not completely prevent trespassing, which is dangerous given the grenades, mines, missiles, mortars, projectiles, and rockets that have been found or used on these sites.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) for the removal work in OE-15MOCO.2 will be issued to the public and regulatory agencies for a 30-day review period before removal work begins in the site. The NOI will explain why a removal action is needed at OE-15MOCO.2 and how it will be performed.

A NOI covering the removal action in OE-15SEA.4 was completed in February 2002.

The Army is evaluating possible activities for other sites at the former Fort Ord where OE hazards need to be reduced.



Locations of current and future OE cleanup operations at the former Fort Ord

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) 242-7924 gail.youngblood@monterey.army.mil

FORT ORD OE CLEANUP PROGRAM FIGURES (1994 THROUGH JANUARY 2003)

- ◆ 6.1 million anomalies investigated
- ◆ 72,487 UXO items removed
- ◆ 5,733 high-explosive UXO items removed
- ◆ 251,254 lb of ordnance-related scrap removed



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