

FACT SHEET

FORMER FORT ORD MILITARY MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM

Summer 2005

Monterey County, California

For Public Use

SITE BACKGROUND

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

Fort Ord 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 (BRAC) 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 California State University Monterey Bay (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 RANGE 45 SIFTING RESUMES; SECURITY INCREASED

The Army has restarted sifting the Range 45 area after vandalism delayed the work for six weeks. As a result of the incident, the Army has added more security around the site.

In mid-June 2005, vandals trespassed into Ranges 43-48 and began joyriding an armored front-end loader. The vandals knocked over the electrical control trailer of the mechanical sifter before driving the loader into a reservoir. The control trailer was wrecked. The loader, used to deposit soil onto the sifter, required extensive repairs.

While the equipment was being fixed and replaced, the Army focused on removing the munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) from the southern half of Range 45. This section had already been scraped and sifted.

Now that the equipment is working again, the Army has begun sifting the northern half of the area. Once the sifting is done, removal crews will begin the process of removing MEC from this area.

As of August 1, 2005, the cleanup of Range 45 is nearly 75% complete and over 700 MEC items have been found. The MEC includes 100 high explosive (HE) 40mm projectiles and nearly 80 practice 35mm rockets.

All the MEC recovered is safely destroyed.

SITE WALK CONDUCTED IN EAST GARRISON AREA 4 (EGA4)

The Army in June 2005 walked the dirt roads, trails, and open areas of the 315-acre EGA4, looking for signs of military munitions training.

A three-person team, which included MEC technicians, visually searched the site while detecting anomalies with geophysical tools.

The team walked over 9 miles of the site and detected 68 anomalies. The team found mostly debris at the anomalies that were dug.

Seventeen anomalies did result in military munitions. The items included two expended 3-in. practice MKI Strokes trench mortars, pyrotechnics, the tail fin from a rifle grenade (likely a smoke rifle grenade), and small arms.



Metallic debris sifted from Range 45 ready to be inspected and sorted.

Ranges 43–48 Cleanup by the Numbers Status of work at 500-acre site (as of 8/1/05)

- 261 acres searched with analog instruments
- 250 acres digitally mapped
- 3.4 million anomalies investigated
- 9,279 MEC recovered
- 278,285 lb of munitions debris removed

Meanwhile, the Army has finished the current digital mapping work on Ranges 43–48. The digital maps will serve as a permanent record of the site conditions where analog MEC removal work was completed.

The maps also show spots (called anomalies) that need to be dug because MEC might still be in the ground. The Army is almost done digging these digitally detected anomalies. So far, the Army has dug over 55,000 digital anomalies and recovered 424 MEC from them.

The results of the site walk indicate that soldiers used northeast EGA4 for tactical training. This training typically involves the types of munitions found in the area such as smoke grenades and small arms. More work may be needed to determine the training activities that occurred in the rest of EGA4.

A report on the EGA4 site walk is scheduled to be available to the public and regulatory agencies for review by early September 2005.



An M125 series illumination signal (pyrotechnics) found in EGA4.

Document Review Update TRACK 0 and TRACK 1 FOSTs

The Army has received or is waiting for concurrence from the regulatory agencies on documents proposing the transfer of 58 Track 0 and Track 1 parcels at the former Fort Ord.

Two finding of suitability to transfer reports (FOSTs 8 and 9) were made available to the public and agencies for review in spring 2005.

FOST 8, *Finding of Suitability to Transfer Track 0 and Track 0 Plug-in B Parcels*, covers 29 Track 0 parcels equaling approximately 232 acres. FOST 8 was made available for review March 26, 2005, and the public comment period ended April 26, 2005. No comments were received from the public. FOST 8 was finalized May 31, 2005, and agency concurrence on this FOST was received in June 2005.

FOST 9, *Finding of Suitability to Transfer Track 1 and Track 0 Plug-in C Parcels*, covers 29 Track 0 and Track 1 parcels totaling approximately 1,894 acres. FOST 9 was made available for review May 31, 2005, and the public comment period ended June 30, 2005. No comments were received from the public. The Army is currently awaiting concurrence from the agencies on this FOST.

TRACK 0 and TRACK 1 APPROVAL MEMORANDUMS

Prior to finalizing FOSTs 8 and 9, the Army received agency concurrence on the approval memorandums for 49 Track 0 Group B and C parcels and one Track 1 parcel, the Munitions Response Site 6 (MRS-6) expansion area.

These final decision documents state that no action or no further action related to munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) is required at these parcels.

IMPACT AREA AIRBORNE DIGITAL MAPPING REPORT

The Army issued a report describing the results of the airborne geophysical survey completed over the Impact Area in February 2005. **The public review period ends September 6, 2005.**

The Army used a helicopter with geophysical detection instruments mounted underneath it to digitally map the Impact Area.

The mapping shows that anomaly densities and instrument responses are the highest in uncleared special-case areas within Ranges 43–48 and in the eastern half of the Impact Area. This indicates that these areas may contain large amounts of MEC.

The documents described in this article are available at the Fort Ord administrative record office or online at www.fortordcleanup.com.

Other MMRP News

Phase II MOCO.2 Work Continues

The Army is continuing Phase II removal work on MRS-MOCO.2.

Phase II work focuses on approximately 6 acres where the subsurface could not be investigated under Phase I because of obstacles such as asphalt, culverts, and the site fence.

The Army is currently investigating the asphalt Range 44 pad and a smaller pad to the southwest. The Army scraped the Range 44 pad and piled the excavated soil and debris up on the southwest pad. The Army then searched for MEC on the dug-up Range 44 pad. The Army is now sifting the soil scraped off the Range 44 pad to remove the debris. After the soil is sifted, it is spread back over the Range 44 pad. Once the Range



After scraping the Range 44 pad, the Army is now sifting the excavated soil.

44 pad is done, the Army will investigate the southwest pad.

Other work completed so far includes the investigation the site fence area and the removal of culverts. Removing the culverts required excavating parts of Eucalyptus Road, which has since been repaired.

The Army expects to complete the Phase II work in MOCO.2 this fall.

2005 Fuel Break Work Starts

The Army in July 2005 began its annual maintenance work on the system of 45-ft to 200-ft-wide fuel breaks in and around the base's Impact Area.

The Army is cutting approximately 245 acres of re-grown brush from the fuel breaks. This is being done to keep the fuel breaks clear of anything that could burn in the event of a wildfire in the Impact Area.

The Army re-established the fuel breaks system in 2001 to help reduce and control the threat of wildfires in the Impact Area.

Work since then has included widening the fuel break along South Boundary Road, establishing new fuel

breaks, enhancing existing fuel breaks, and cutting vegetation re-growth.

General Information

Site Name:

Former Fort Ord

Location:

Monterey County, CA

Point of Contact:

Melissa Broadston, Fort Ord BRAC
(831) 393-1284

melissa.broadston@monterey.army.mil

Fort Ord MMRP Figures

(1994 through August 1, 2005)

- 🔥 **12.9 million** anomalies investigated
- 🔥 **7,757** high explosive (HE) MEC items recovered
- 🔥 **807,833 lb** of munitions debris removed

Work Sites Map

