



FACT SHEET

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES (OE) CLEANUP



Spring 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 bordered by 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

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

Between September 2001 and February 2002 limited surface OE removal actions were conducted over the visible and accessible ground 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.



A site restoration crew sprays straw over a berm on the Del Rey Oaks site.

DEL REY OAKS SITE COMPLETE

Supplemental OE removal work in the Del Rey Oaks OE sites (OE-15DRO.1–2) was performed in order to complete an action that began in 2000 to protect the public and support the early transfer of the land.

Crews partially excavated a berm in southeast OE-15DRO.1 suspected of containing OE; removed and sifted the soil from a 2-acre area next to the berm that was cluttered with machine-gun links; and geophysically investigated the approximately 30-ft-wide eastern edge of the site. These three work areas totaled approximately 11 acres.

To complete the 2000 OE investigation and removal work on this site, crews operated ordnance detection equipment over the entire 11-acre supplemental work area, and they excavated and removed all suspected OE items that were detected.

During this supplemental work, crews detected and investigated approximately 2,500 anomalies (irregular subsurface items), which resulted in the removal of 9 UXO and 57 OE-scrap items.

The draft after-action report for this supplemental work is currently under regulatory agency and public review until May 28, 2003. The report is available in the Fort Ord Administrative Record, in the information repository at the CSUMB library, and on the Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup website, www.fortordcleanup.com.

SEASIDE WORK CONTINUES

Cleanup work in the Seaside OE sites (OE-15SEA.1–4) is approximately 75% complete.

The cleanup of this nearly 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, and quality control (QC) inspectors are re-checking completed excavations.

As of April 30, 2003, 503 UXO items and 4,140 lb of OE scrap have been removed from OE-15SEA.1–4 during this work.

OE ITEM FILLERS IDENTIFIED

In mid-March, the Army used specialized equipment to identify the filler of five 4-in. Stokes trench mortars and a Livens projector found in OE-15SEA.1. The Army determined that four of the items were filled with smoke and the other two were empty.

The Army is required to verify the filler of these types of munition before they are destroyed onsite.

General Jim Moore Boulevard was closed as a safety precaution during this work.



A smoke-filled 4-in. Stokes mortar found in OE-15SEA.1

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 deadline for receiving comments was extended to February 25, 2003. The Army is planning to issue the draft final Track 1 RI/FS in May 2003.

MRA FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM—A system of fuel breaks in and around the Multi-Range Area (MRA) has been developed to reduce and control the threat of wildfire. Maintenance work completed between 2002 and 2003 included vegetation cutting in the existing fuel breaks and the establishment of an additional 2 miles of fuel breaks. During this work, 1,112 UXO items and 15,537 lb of OE scrap were 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 or CSUMB libraries; visit the Fort Ord Administrative Record office (appointments are recommended); or contact Melissa Hlebasko by e-mail at melissa.hlebasko@monterey.army.mil or by phone at (831) 393-1284.

FUTURE WORK SITES: OE-15MOCO.2 AND RANGES 43-48

The Army is currently planning a non-time critical removal action (NTCRA) at site OE-15MOCO.2 and site preparatory work at Ranges 43-48.

OE-15MOCO.2 NTCRA—A removal action will be performed in OE-15MOCO.2 to address the immediate threat posed to the public by this site's proximity to the public, the known presence of OE on this site, and trespassing incidents that have occurred despite security measures currently in place.

OE-15MOCO.2 comprises the northernmost portion of the MRA. This site is close to residential communities, schools, and recreational areas, and is 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 this site. 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 this site.

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

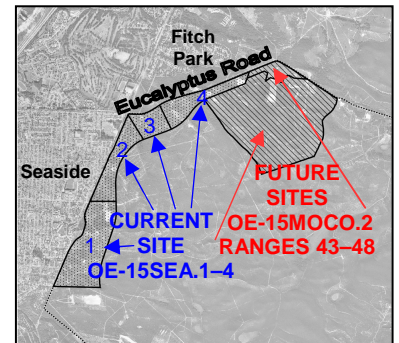
RANGES 43-48

To help prepare for the removal work that will be performed after the prescribed burn at Ranges 43-48, crews will begin hauling away the accessible tanks, armored personnel carriers (APCs), and vehicles littering the site, which were once used as targets for OE training.

The 2003 burn season occurs from July 1 to December 31.



An APC used as a target in Ranges 43-48



Locations of current and future OE cleanup operations

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 APRIL 2003)

- ★ 6.2 million anomalies investigated
- ★ 72,518 UXO items removed
- ★ 5,733 high-explosive UXO items removed
- ★ 252,971 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