

# FACT SHEET

# FORMER FORT ORD MILITARY MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM

Spring 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](http://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](mailto:melissa.broadston@monterey.army.mil) or by phone at (831) 393-1284.



## Ranges 43–48 Munitions Response Update

### RANGE 45 SIFTING, DIGITAL WORK CONTINUE

The Army is continuing removal work at Ranges 43–48. Current activities include sifting operations at Range 45 and digital operations in the east side and center of the site.

Sifting operations at Range 45, a 14-acre former firing range, are approximately 60% complete.

The Army has scraped off the top 2 ft of the ground and piled up the soil (approximately 70,000 cubic yards) in the middle of the site.

The Army is now running the pile of soil through a mechanical sifter. The sifter passes the soil through several small screens that filter out debris. The sifter then moves the “clean” soil to an asphalt area. Meanwhile, the debris is taken to a sorting area, where it is inspected for munitions and explosives of concern (MEC).

So far, 80 MEC items have been found in the debris, including over thirty 40mm high explosive (HE) projectiles. Any MEC encountered is safely destroyed.

After all the soil has been sifted, MEC removal and geophysical teams will search for MEC in the subsurface of Range 45 with analog and then digital detection instruments.

Meanwhile, geophysical teams are digitally mapping the east side of Ranges 43–48.

Mapping is done after analog teams have searched for and removed subsurface MEC.

## SITE WALK CONDUCTED IN EAST GARRISON AREA 2 (EGA2)

The Army in March 2005 walked the dirt roads, trails, and open areas of the 114-acre EGA2, 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 approximately 8.5 miles of the site and detected 238 anomalies. The team found mostly debris at the anomalies that were dug.

Fifteen anomalies did result in munitions-related items. The items consisted of practice mines, pyrotechnics, and small arms. None of these items are considered dangerous.



Over 8,500 munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) have been removed from Ranges 43–48, including this 155mm high explosive (HE) projectile.

### Ranges 43–48 Cleanup by the Numbers

Status of work at 500-acre site (as of 5/30/05)

- 254 acres searched with analog instruments
- 250 acres digitally mapped
- 3.4 million anomalies investigated
- 8,508 MEC recovered
- 276,177 lb of munitions debris removed

This process creates color digital maps that serve as a permanent record of the site conditions following the analog MEC removal work. The maps also show the spots where MEC might still be in the ground (anomalies). MEC removal teams are currently investigating the anomalies detected digitally in the middle of Ranges 43–48.

MEC removal teams to date have investigated nearly 40,000 anomalies shown on the digital maps of the site and recovered 367 MEC.

The site walk team also observed a ranger training area and an obstacle course in the southeast portion of the area. These facilities may have been used by soldiers for tactical training, which typically involves non-explosive military munitions.

A report on the EGA2 site walk is scheduled to be available to the public and regulatory agencies for review in early June 2005.



Fifteen munitions-related items were found during the EGA2 site walk, including this expended German WWII practice antitank (AT) 42 Teller mine.

## Document Review Update MR RI/FS DOCUMENTS

The Army has recently made available to the public several reports related to “tracked” areas and sites at the former Fort Ord. These parcels have been addressed under the Army’s ongoing Munitions Response Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (MR RI/FS).

The reports, described below, are available at the Fort Ord administrative record office or online at [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).

### *Revised Track 0 Plug-in Approval Memorandum, Selected Parcels-Group B:*

This is a final decision document stating that no action is required for 30 Track 0 parcels comprising 216 acres. These parcels are located mostly in the northern and southernmost portion of Fort Ord. Track 0 areas contain no evidence of

MEC. The public review period ended April 25, 2005.

***Finding of Suitability to Transfer Track 0 and Track 0 Plug-in B Parcels:*** This report documents the environmental suitability to transfer 30 Track 0 and Track 0 (Group B) parcels. The public comment period ended April 25, 2005.

***Track 0 Plug-in Approval Memorandum, Selected Parcels-Group C:*** This is a final decision document stating that no action is required for 24 Track 0 parcels totaling 512 acres. These parcels are all located in the northern portion of Fort Ord and are next to or near Track 1 sites. The public review period ends June 6, 2005.

### ***Track 0 Record of Decision (ROD) Explanation of Significant Differences.***

This document clarifies the scope of the Track 0 plug-in process.

***Track 1 ROD:*** This is a final decision document stating no further action

related to MEC is required at 21 Track 1 sites equaling 1,733 acres. Track 1 sites were either not used for training, not used for training with explosive items, or used for training with only pyrotechnic or practice items.

***Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum MRS-6 Expansion Area:*** This final decision document adds the 26.4-acre area between MRS-6 and MRS-1 to the Track 1 plug-in process. The public review period ends June 9, 2005.

### ***Draft Track 2 MR RI/FS Parker Flats Munitions Response Area (MRA):***

This document presents the RI, FS, and risk assessment for 13 sites inside the Parker Flats MRA. These sites total approximately 600 acres. Track 2 sites are where MEC was found and a removal action has been completed. The public review period ended May 30, 2005.

## Other MMRP News

### Phase II Work Starts on MOCO.2

The Army in February 2005 began Phase II MEC removal work on MRS-MOCO.2. The Army expects to finish the work on this 33-acre site later this year.

The Army completed the Phase I work in February 2004. Under Phase I, the Army investigated all the accessible portions of MRS-MOCO.2 (approximately 27 acres) and recovered over 550 MEC.

Phase II work focuses on areas where the subsurface could not be investigated because of obstacles such as asphalt, drainpipes, and the site fence.

The Army has to use large excavating equipment to remove the asphalt and pipes. Once they are gone, the areas can be searched for MEC with analog and digital geophysical detection tools.

The Army has finished investigating the areas along the metallic site fence. In between replacing the old fence with new 4-strand barbed wire and concertina wire, a 25-ft-wide area along the fence line was searched with analog and digital instruments.

The Army to date has recovered one MEC item during the Phase II work.

### WGBA Survey Completed

The Army in April 2005 finished geophysically surveying the Watkins Gate Burn Area (WGBA). This surveying will help the Army determine the amount of work needed to clean up the subsurface of this approximately 1,100-acre area.

The WGBA is the land between the Ranges 43–48 and Seaside sites that was unintentionally burned in October 2003. The Army removed nearly 500 MEC from the surface of the WGBA in 2004.

The survey shows two large areas with high subsurface anomaly densities in the eastern portion of the WGBA.

### Impact Area Mapped

The Army finished an airborne survey of the Impact Area in February 2005.

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

The data from this airborne mapping will be used to identify large areas cluttered with metallic debris and

determine the resources required for future cleanup work in the Impact Area.

## General Information

### Site Name:

Former Fort Ord

### Location:

Monterey County, CA

### Point of Contact:

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### Fort Ord MMRP Figures

(1994 through May 30, 2005)

- 🌿 **12.9 million** anomalies investigated
- 🌿 **7,433** high explosive (HE) MEC items recovered
- 🌿 **797,899 lb** of munitions debris removed

### Work Sites Map

