



FACT SHEET

ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVES (OE) CLEANUP



Summer 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

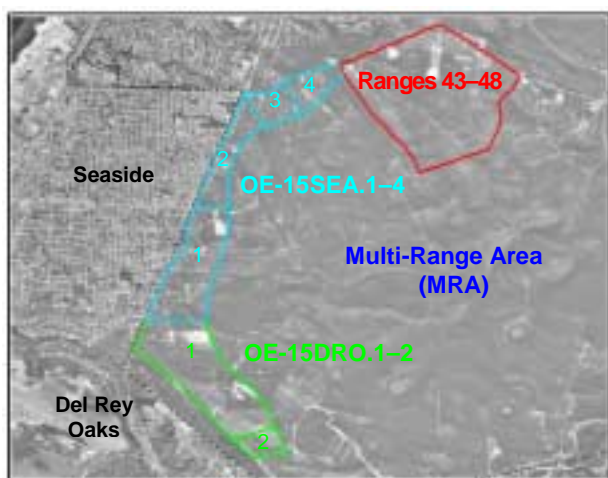
Fort Ord became a training installation in 1917 and was used to train Army infantry, cavalry, and field artillery divisions for WWI and II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. In 1991 the site was included on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list and closed in 1994. Since the BRAC listing and closure 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: The Presidio of Monterey has been removing OE from the former Fort Ord since 1994 to make the base safe for the public and the environment.

Between September 2001 and February 2002 limited removal actions were completed to remove suspected OE from the visible and accessible surface of eight sites: 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



A UXO team searches for OE in soil removed from the Range 26 berm by the scraper in the background

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 vegetation in the site has already been cleared, and crews have removed OE from the site's surface using analog geophysical instruments.

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

As of July 22, 2002 a total of 257 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 an early land transfer.

Currently, crews are deconstructing a berm (mound) in Range 26 (southeast OE-15DRO.1) that is suspected of containing OE. Also, crews will remove the soil from a 2-acre area that is saturated with machine-gun links and sift the soil for potential OE; the crews will then remove subsurface OE from the area and return the sifted soil. Finally, crews will perform a digital geophysical survey and remove subsurface OE along the 3.2-acre eastern edge of the site.

OTHER CURRENT OPERATIONS

OE Team Support: The OE team is helping the cleanup program by supplying UXO avoidance escorts and construction support. The OE team is providing support for weed cutting by BLM crews, erosion control, and road construction.

OE RI/FS: The Army is conducting a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) to address long-term OE cleanup needs. Several reports are complete or are being prepared including an Ordnance Detection and Discrimination Study (ODDS), an OE Sampling and Analysis Plan (OESAP), a vegetation clearance study, and a risk-assessment protocol. The Army expects to complete the OE RI/FS in 2005.

IA OE RI/FS: To protect the public while basewide remedial solutions are being developed, the Army started an interim action (IA) RI/FS for the three highest-risk sites at the former Fort Ord: Ranges 43–48, Range 30A, and OE-16. The IA OE RI/FS was finalized on March 7 and the Proposed Plan comment period ended on May 13.

The Army, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Toxic Substances and Control (DTSC) are considering the public comments that were received and plan to finalize the IA Record of Decision (ROD) in September. The IA ROD will describe the agency-approved action selected for these sites and will include the responses to the public comments.

MRA Fire Prevention and Control 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. This system is being maintained by cutting/mowing the vegetation in the existing fuel breaks and establishing an additional 11,000 linear ft of fuel breaks. During these actions, 721 UXO items and 3,297 lb of OE scrap have been removed.

The fuel breaks system in the MRA was reestablished in 2001. A vegetation clearance and OE removal actions were performed to restore 250,000 linear ft 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.

FUTURE OPERATIONS

Ranges 43–48: Starting summer 2002 crews will begin preparing Ranges 43–48 for work. Crews will first remove and relocate tires and structures, cut down inactive utility poles, and mow/cut the vegetation in the northern portion of the site. After the IA ROD is signed, the Army intends to clear the site's vegetation and then begin removing OE from the site as soon as possible. The purpose of this work is to continue protecting the public from the threat posed by the presence of OE at this site.



Crews search for OE on a fuel break in the MRA

FORT ORD OE CLEANUP PROGRAM FIGURES (1994 THROUGH JUNE 2002)

- ★ 5.9 million anomalies investigated
- ★ 79,025 UXO items removed
- ★ 4,888 high-explosive UXO items removed
- ★ 212 high-explosive UXO items found outside the fenced impact area
- ★ 237,905 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
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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.