



FACT SHEET

MILITARY MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM (MMRP)



Summer 2004

Former Fort Ord, Monterey, California

For Public Use

SITE DESCRIPTION

Fort Ord is a 28,000-acre former Army base located near Monterey Bay in northwestern Monterey County. The base is 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, munitions responses, including investigations and removal actions, have been performed to address explosive hazards and to prepare Fort Ord property to be transferred to federal, state, and local agencies and communities.

SITE TERMINOLOGY REVIEW

As described in previous fact sheets, the Army implemented new terminology to describe its ordnance and explosives (OE) cleanup program:

- The OE cleanup program is now referred to as the MMRP.
- OE sites are now munitions response sites (MRSs).
- The term now used to describe items with explosive hazards is munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), which includes unexploded ordnance (UXO).
- OE scrap is now referred to as munitions debris.

Ranges 43–48 Munitions Response Update

DIGITAL MAPPING UNDERWAY

In late June 2004, the Army began digitally mapping the first 150 acres of the 500-acre Ranges 43–48 munitions response site (MRS) that have been cleared of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) with analog geophysical detection instruments.

To map MRS-Ranges 43–48, geophysical teams are primarily using a “towed array”. The towed array consists of three digital geophysical survey instruments (EM61-MK2 metal detectors) that are linked together and placed on top of a cart,



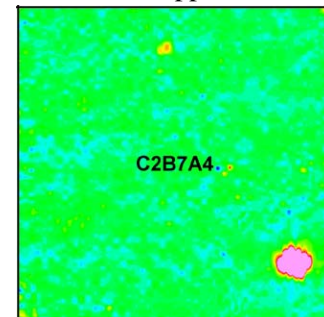
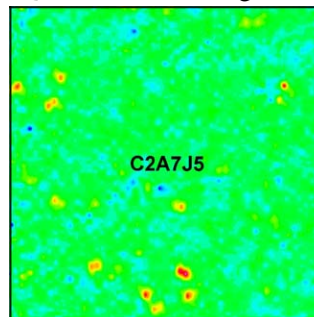
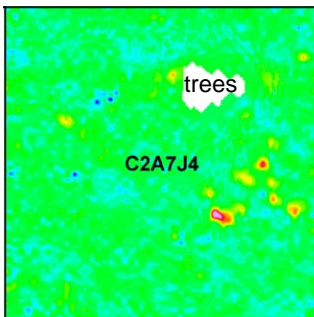
The EM61-MK2 towed array collecting geophysical data from MRS-Ranges 43–48.

which is pulled over the ground with a tracked all-terrain vehicle (ATV) (pictured above). The towed array can collect data four times faster than the smaller operator-pulled cart, which is used where trees or other obstacles block the towed array.

The data collected with the digital geophysical survey instruments is being used to create color maps of the individual 100-ft by 100-ft work areas (grids) comprising the site. These color maps display the responses recorded by the survey instruments and, by doing so, provide a permanent digital record of the condition of the grids following the analog removal of MEC. Yellow-orange, orange, red, and pink spots mark where the instrument response is high (these spots are suspected anomalies); green and blue show where it is low. Because the suspected anomalies potentially represent MEC in the subsurface, they need to be investigated.

After geophysical teams attempt to locate the suspected anomalies again to confirm that they need to be investigated, MEC removal crews excavate the anomalies until they find their sources. Possible anomaly sources include MEC, munitions debris (expended munitions or fragments), range-related debris (e.g., nails), “hot” (magnetic) rocks, or inert ordnance items planted as a quality control (QC) test of the mapping operations.

As of July 31, 2004, MEC removal crews have dug 100 anomalies detected by the mapping. The digs resulted in three MEC (two 22mm subcaliber projectiles and a fuze), 31 expended projectiles (22mm subcaliber and 40mm), and fragments. They have also recovered all of the QC items from the grids that have been mapped so far.



The yellow-orange, orange, red, and pink points on these digital maps (anomalies) indicate potential subsurface MEC in grids near Range 45. Removal crews dug these anomalies and found mostly expended 22mm subcaliber projectiles 1 to 2 feet below the ground surface.

Ranges 43–48 Munitions Response Update

MEC Recovered from Site Approaches 6,000

The number of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) recovered from the Ranges 43–48 munitions response site (MRS) is now close to 6,000. The majority of the items removed so far include:

- 22mm subcaliber practice projectiles
- 35mm subcaliber practice rockets
- 57mm high-explosive (HE) projectiles
- 60mm HE mortars
- 66mm high-explosive antitank (HEAT) and incendiary rockets
- 75mm HE and shrapnel projectiles

Of the 6,000 MEC, approximately 4,600 were found on the surface, 1,000 in the subsurface, and 300 during the removal of tanks, vehicles, and other metallic range targets.

The work completed to this point on MRS-Range 43–48 includes the cutting of leftover burnt brush, removal of MEC from the site’s surface, and removal and cutting of range targets. Future site work includes sifting one or more of the seven ranges within the site that contain sensitively fuzed MEC and conducting quality control (QC) inspections.



Removal crews searching for MEC with Schonstedt magnetometers near Range 45

Sampling Planned for Watkins Gate Burn Area

The Army is planning to collect geophysical data from the Watkins Gate Burn Area (WGBA) (the approximately 1,100-acre area between Ranges 43–48 and the Seaside MRSs that was unintentionally burned in October 2003). Geophysical teams will operate digital geophysical survey instruments over 100-ft-long sections of each grid in the WGBA to gather data on the area’s subsurface conditions. This data will be used to identify areas cluttered with metallic debris and determine the level of effort required for any future munitions responses on the WGBA. No excavating will be done during this work.

New Reports on Munitions Responses Available for Review

Reports on the munitions responses conducted on the Seaside sites (MRS-SEA.1–4) and the Eucalyptus Fire Area (EFA) were recently made available to the public and regulatory agencies for review. The deadline for submitting comments to the Fort Ord BRAC office is August 22, 2004 for the MRS-SEA.1–4 report and October 6, 2004 for the EFA report.

2004 Fuel Break Maintenance Work Almost Done

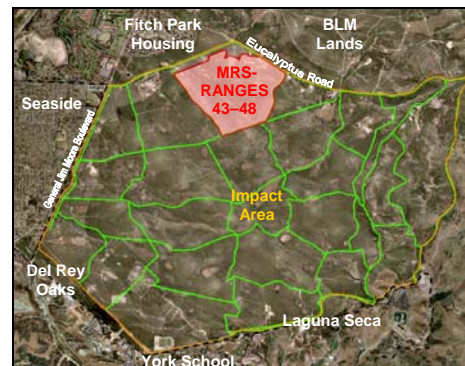
Starting in mid-June 2004, the Army has been cutting the approximately 195 acres of vegetation re-growth from the system of fuel breaks in and around the Impact Area.



A worker cutting vegetation from the South Boundary Road fuel break with a string trimmer.

As of July 31, 2004, the Army’s annual maintenance work on the fuel breaks system is approximately 90% done. Work is expected to be completed August 2004.

Under this year’s maintenance work, the South Boundary Road fuel break is being widened from east of York School to Laguna Seca. Throughout this work, South Boundary Road has been closed to pedestrians and bicyclists during the morning and afternoon as a safety precaution.



Locations of Ranges 43–48 (red) and Impact Area (green)

PROJECT INFORMATION

Site Name: Fort Ord, California	
Location: Marina and Seaside, Monterey County, California	
Point of Contact:	Gail Youngblood, Fort Ord BRAC Environmental Coordinator (831) 242-7924 gail.youngblood@monterey.army.mil

**Fort Ord MMRP Figures
(1994 THROUGH AUGUST 1, 2004)**

- 🔥 **10.2 million** anomalies investigated
- 🔥 **6,854** high explosive (HE) MEC items recovered
- 🔥 **702,277 lb** of munitions debris removed
- 🔥 **1.9 million lb** of range-related debris removed

This fact sheet recaps the significant events of the Fort Ord 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 CSUMB library; visit the Fort Ord Administrative Record office in the city of Seaside 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.