

FACT SHEET

Winter 2005

Monterey County, California

For Public Use

FORMER FORT ORD MILITARY MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM

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 CLEANUP UNDERWAY



The Army bulldozed the top 2 feet of soil from the Range 45 area and piled it up in the middle of the site. The Army is now sifting the metallic debris out of the soil. Without the interference from the metallic debris, the Army will be able to use geophysical instruments to locate munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) remaining in the area's subsurface.

The Army began scraping and sifting a 14-acre section of Range 45 in December 2004 to remove the metallic debris cluttering the area. Once the cluttered soil is gone, the Army will be able to search for MEC in the subsurface of the former firing range.

Using bulldozers that were armored to protect the equipment operators, the Army scraped off the top 2 feet of the ground and pushed the soil into the middle of the site. This created an approximately 40,000-cubic-yard mound stretching from one end of the site to the other. The Army is now loading the soil into a sifting machine, one section of the mound at a time.

In the sifter, the soil passes through two screens with small holes that filter out the metallic debris. A conveyor belt attached to the sifter moves the "clean" soil to an asphalt area located next to the site. The soil will be temporarily stored there until the Army finishes checking the site for MEC.

A separate conveyor belt moves the metallic debris sifted from the soil into storage bins. The storage bins are hauled from the sifting site to a nearby sorting area, where unexploded ordnance (UXO) technicians inspect the debris for MEC. After the

Ranges 43–48 cleanup by the numbers

Status of work at 500-acre site (as of 2/7/05)

- 249 acres searched with analog instruments
- 133 acres digitally mapped
- 3.2 million anomalies investigated
- 8,172 MEC recovered
- 232,934 lb of munitions debris removed

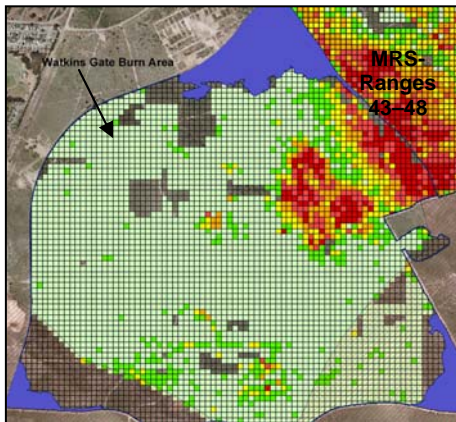
inspections, the debris is placed in large containers and stored for later recycling.

Later this spring, removal teams will be on the ground of the scraped area, searching for MEC in the subsurface with analog instruments. Geophysical teams will then use digital instruments to map the area and locate any potential MEC remaining in the ground. Any MEC found will be safely destroyed.

After contractor quality control (QC) and government quality assurance (QA) determine that the area is clean, the sifted soil will be returned to the site.

Range 45 was primarily used for the firing of high explosive and some illuminating 40mm grenades. The metallic debris leftover from these activities prevented geophysical instruments from detecting individual anomalies that could be MEC in the subsurface.

Other MMRP News



The orange-red areas on this map of the Watkins Gate Burn Area surveying show that the concentration of anomalies is the highest in the eastern portion of the site.

Geophysical Surveying on Watkins Gate Burn Area (WGBA) Almost Done

The Army has geophysically surveyed approximately 85% of the WGBA. This survey will help the Army determine how much future work may be needed on the subsurface of the approximately 1,100-acre area between the Ranges 43-48 and Seaside sites that was unintentionally burned in October 2003. The survey is expected to be finished sometime this year.

The Army removed MEC from the surface of the WGBA in 2004.

Using digital geophysical instruments, the Army has surveyed strips of each accessible grid (100-ft by 100-ft work areas) in the WGBA. From the survey data, the Army has identified anomalies (potential subsurface MEC) on the strips and then calculated the probable density of anomalies in each grid.

The initial survey results indicate that two large areas of grids in the eastern portion of the WGBA have the highest anomaly densities.

One area borders the adjacent Ranges 43-48 site. Its high anomaly density is likely related to military munitions fired from Range 48, as it also covers the easternmost portion of the WGBA.

The other area is located just a few hundred feet to the west. This area may have once been used as a 60mm mortar range, as most of the MEC removed from its surface were this type of military munition.

There are two other much smaller areas of grids with high anomaly densities located in the central and southern parts of the site. Most of the other grids in the WGBA, however, had relatively low anomaly densities.

During this surveying, none of the anomalies are being excavated. The anomaly excavations or any other future subsurface work on the WGBA will be evaluated under the Army's munitions response remedial investigation/feasibility study (MR RI/FS) program.

Impact Area Mapped from the Air

The Army is using a helicopter with geophysical detection instruments mounted underneath it to digitally map the 8,000-acre Impact Area.

The data from this airborne mapping will be used to identify large areas cluttered with metallic debris. It will also help the Army determine the resources required for future cleanup work in the Impact Area.

The mapping is expected to be completed in late February 2005.

Structures and Debris Removed from MOCO.2 and Ranges 43-48

In December 2004, the Army completed the removal of some of the old wooden structures and piles of tires and concrete, metal, and wood debris left on the MOCO.2 and Ranges 43-48 sites. This allows the Army to search for MEC on the land previously covered by these materials.

The Army mechanically dismantled the range towers, sheds, and other structures once used during military training activities. UXO technicians regularly checked the wooden buildings for MEC throughout this process.

A subcontractor then collected all the wood and all the other debris piles and hauled them offsite to the appropriate recycling facility or landfill.



Structures like this wooden building in MOCO.2 were mechanically demolished.

**Document Update
Track 1 Record of Decision (ROD)**

The Army will issue a ROD for 21 proposed Track 1 sites later this spring.

The Track 1 ROD will document the remedial actions selected by the Army for these sites and provide responses to comments received from the public. It will be made available to the public at the Fort Ord administrative record office and online at www.fortordcleanup.com.

Track 1 sites are those suspected of being used for military munitions training but determined to have been:

- not used for training;
- not used for training with explosive items; or
- used for training with only pyrotechnic or practice items, which are not designed to cause injury.

The Track 1 Proposed Plan recommended no further action regarding MEC at these sites and no further remedial action related to remaining ecological risks from soil contamination at Site 3 (MRS-22, the beach ranges).

General Information

Site Name:

Former Fort Ord

Location:

Monterey County, CA

Point of Contact:

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Fort Ord MMRP Figures

(1994 through February 7, 2005)

- **12.5 million** anomalies investigated
- **7,340** high explosive (HE) MEC items recovered
- **759,975 lb** of munitions debris removed

Work Sites Map

