

Fact Sheet: Ordnance and Explosives Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study For Former Fort Ord

June 29, 2001

Fort Ord OE Program Background

Since 1917, Fort Ord was a training ground for soldiers who prepared to serve in WWII, Korean and Vietnam Wars, and other military actions. Fort Ord was closed in 1994, and the majority of the 28,000 acres of former military land became available for conversion from military to civilian use.

Throughout the history of Fort Ord, training activities included the use of ordnance and explosives (OE). The types and ages of OE used here changed over time due to advances in technology. The OE found on Fort Ord includes artillery projectiles, rockets, hand grenades, land mines, pyrotechnics, bombs, demolition materials, and other items.

Before the land can be available for public use, it must be safe. The Army has been conducting an OE removal program at Fort Ord since 1993. Since then, approximately 12,000 acres have been identified as sites containing or suspected to contain OE. To date, approximately 3,000 acres have been investigated and/or cleared to minimize immediate explosive hazards associated with OE.


The Army is also addressing OE at Fort Ord through the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process. The OE RI/FS will evaluate the current conditions of OE sites and other areas of Fort Ord, and evaluate the long-term remedial alternatives for each area as appropriate. Extensive coordination with regulatory agencies and the local communities is also an important aspect of the OE RI/FS.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to describe the OE RI/FS approach and the current status of the project. Your participation is important to us - be sure to check the latest on the Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup Program at regularly scheduled Community Involvement Workshops and at

<http://www.fortordcleanup.com>.

Basics! RI/FS Process

The Army follows the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process that is described in Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended by Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), and National Contingency Plan (NCP). Here's the overall flow of typical RI/FS:

- (1) Scoping: Review available information, begin forming ideas on how to conduct RI/FS.
- (2) Community Relations: Document community relations activities in a community relations plan, and establish an administrative record.
- (3) RI/FS: Conduct site investigation, develop and evaluate remedial alternatives.
- (4) Proposed Plan: Describe the remedial alternatives and discuss the rationale supporting the preferred alternative. There will be a 30-day public comment period and an opportunity for a public meeting.
- (5) Record of Decision: Consider public comments, provide a summary of comments and responses, and document the selected alternative.
- (6) Remedial Design/Remedial Action: Implement the selected remedial action. 

Fort Ord OE RI/FS Approach

Because there are numerous OE sites at varying stages of investigation and cleanup at Fort Ord, areas with similar site condition and/or past investigation history are grouped and handled in one of four tracks (Tracks 0, 1, 2 and 3). There will be a Record of Decision for each track under the OE RI/FS. Also, various aspects of response actions necessitate separate studies to be conducted. Studies such as an evaluation of detection tools and vegetation clearance methods will be made available separately for regulatory agencies and public review, increasing community input opportunities. Community involvement activities for the OE RI/FS are integrated with the community relations program for the entire Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup program, and is documented in the Community Relations Plan that is updated annually.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California-EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) provide the regulatory oversight for the Fort Ord OE RI/FS program. In 2000, an agreement was signed among the Army, U.S. EPA and DTSC to address OE at Fort Ord using the provisions of the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA). The FFA provides a process for cooperative, expedited cleanup at Fort Ord, and provides guidance for developing the project schedules.

Your Safety is Our Priority: Don't Go In There!!!

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) can be very unstable and may be a serious safety hazard.

DANGER and NO TRESPASSING

signs are posted around areas where UXO may be present. The most dangerous areas are fenced and warning signs are posted. Please **DO**

NOT ENTER these areas for your safety. If you find any object that could be UXO,

DON'T TOUCH IT, CALL FEDERAL POLICE

at 242-7851 or 242-7852.

Visit & access documents at:

1 Website: <http://www.fortordcleanup.com>

2 One of the following locations:

Fort Ord Administrative Record
Bldg. 4463 Gigling Road, Ord Military
Community (Fort Ord), (831) 393-9186

Chamberlain Library
Bldg. 4275 Gen. Jim Moore Blvd.
Ord Military Community (Fort Ord)
(831) 242-7680

Monterey County Libraries Seaside Branch
550 Harcourt Avenue, Seaside
(831) 899-2055

CSU Monterey Bay Library Learning
Center, Bldg. 12 Third Street, Seaside
(831) 582-3733

OE RI/FS Documents

While some studies are separately conducted and the information is used to support specific track(s), others address issues that relate to the entire OE RI/FS process. They are:

OE RI/FS Work Plan: Provides the overall framework for the OE RI/FS. It includes an initial evaluation of available OE-related information, conceptual models, a description of the elements of the OE RI/FS, a brief discussion of methodologies to be used, and a list of tasks to be completed.

Literature Review: An extensive search and review of historical information related to the use of OE at Fort Ord, including previous archive searches, training maps, aerial photographs, range control files, newspaper articles, and interviews, was conducted. Literature Review identifies areas with no evidence of past OE use, areas where past OE use is known or suspected, and areas of potential concern where more information is needed.

Sampling and Analysis Plan: This plan will lay out the available statistical sampling methods and data quality objectives for site characterization activities. Draft plan will be available for public review in July 2001. Site-specific sampling plans will be developed subsequently, using the process outlined in the Sampling and Analysis Plan.

Health and Safety Plan: Various contractors must have health and safety plans to perform project work to identify safe worker practices and maintain safe working conditions. These plans are not intended to address community health and safety.

Community Relations Plan: The Community Relations Plan describes the community relations activities to support the environmental cleanup program at Fort Ord, and to comply with the community involvement requirements of the National Contingency Plan. It is updated annually. The next update will be available for public review in July 2001.

For more information please contact:

Gail Youngblood or Lyle Shurtleff
U.S. Army Presidio of Monterey
Environmental and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 5004
Monterey, CA 93944-5004
Phone: (831) 393-9691

Project Status: Track 0 (No evidence of OE)

Track 0 Technical Memorandum: For specific areas at Fort Ord where no evidence of OE was found through Literature Review, Track 0 Technical Memorandum provides area-specific supporting documentation and a process for documenting No Action for these (and other) areas.

Track 0 Proposed Plan: Proposed (1) No Action for areas where no evidence of OE was found, and (2) a plug-in No Action-decision process for additional areas that meet Track 0 condition. A 30-day public comment period began February 1, 2000 and was extended to April 4, 2000. A public meeting was held on February 16, 2000.

Track 0 Record of Decision: The Record of Decision includes a responsiveness summary and is currently under Army and regulatory agency review. Once the Record of Decision is signed, it will be made available in the Administrative Record and there will be a notice of availability in a local newspaper.

Project Status: Tracks 1 and 2 (Investigation/cleanup performed)

Evaluation of Previous Work: Track 1 will look at OE sites where previous investigation indicated no further actions were necessary. Track 2 will assess the adequacy of previously conducted OE removal actions and investigations conducted at those sites. Draft Final Plan for Evaluation of Previous Work was issued in September 2000 and describes how the adequacy of previously conducted OE investigations and removal activities will be evaluated. Agency and public comments on the draft plan were considered and incorporated into the draft final plan.

Ordnance Detection & Discrimination Study (ODDS): In order to assess the effectiveness of OE investigations using detection tools, the performance of the detection tool itself must be known. Various field tests have been completed, and evaluation of the data obtained from the field tests is in progress. A draft report will be available for public review in July 2001.

Site Assessment Plan: Draft Reconnaissance Plan was issued in September 2000 to provide a procedure for inspecting a suspect OE area for physical evidence of OE. This plan has been renamed Site Assessment Plan and will be issued as a draft final plan in August 2001.

Track 1 Remedial Investigation Report: The report (expected in late 2001) will provide site-specific information for areas suspected of OE, but follow-on investigation found no hazard. It will provide supporting documentation recommending for no further action for these areas.

Long-Term Risk Management: Public workshops were held in March and April 2000 to gather community input to identify viable risk management measures that may be used at Fort Ord after appropriate cleanup actions are completed. The information will be included in the feasibility study-portion of the Track 2 and Track 3 RI/FS reports.

Risk Assessment: An Army-EPA-DTSC team effort to develop a risk assessment model for explosive safety risks kicked off this month.

Track 2 RI/FS Report: The report (expected in 2002) will provide site-specific evaluation of the OE removal work conducted and remaining risk, and examine appropriate actions (further cleanup and/or long-term risk management measures) that may be needed at each site. It will provide an evaluation of alternatives using the nine criteria specified in the National Contingency Plan.

Project Status: Track 3 (areas need more information)

Vegetation Clearance Study: OE action often requires the area be cleared of vegetation to enable OE teams and tools to operate effectively and safely. The study will evaluate various vegetation clearance methods. Draft Final Vegetation Clearance Study Work Plan was issued in May 2000 and the study is in progress.

Detonation Sampling and Analysis: This study will estimate the soil and air emissions that occur when detonating unexploded ordnance. Draft Final Ordnance Detonation Sampling and Analysis Plan was issued in April 2000. The next step is air emissions modeling to refine the field sampling protocol.

Track 3 RI/FS Report: The report (expected in 2004) will provide site-specific evaluation of site conditions and risk, and examine appropriate actions (further investigation, cleanup or long-term risk management measures) that may be needed at each site. It will provide an evaluation of alternatives against the nine criteria specified in the National Contingency Plan.
