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Long Term Risk Management for OE Sites

Long-term risk management measures are needed to support safe reuse of former ordnance and explosive (OE) sites, when a potential for explosive hazards remains even after OE clearance has been conducted.

Today's OE clearance technology reduces the actual explosive risks greatly by physically removing unexploded ordnance from OE sites. However, in certain areas, OE that may be too deep to detect with current technology could remain in the ground even after OE clearance has been conducted. Also, although unlikely, there is a potential for an unexploded ordnance item to be undetected during clearance.

The potential risk of remaining OE can be managed effectively by implementing long-term risk management measures that are consistent with reuse and community needs. Key points to consider when selecting risk management measures are:

- Does it inform the community about potential hazards?
- Does it educate the community about what to do if they encounter a potential hazard?
- Does it foster cooperation among individuals, organizations and federal, state and local government agencies?
- Does it establish local initiatives to provide for enforcement?
- Does it establish procedures for monitoring the effectiveness over time?

The Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup Community Involvement Workshop on March 8, 2000 will include small group discussions to initiate a process for identifying and evaluating long-term risk management measures that may be used at Fort Ord. Because long-term risk management measures will likely require active community participation, the Army would like to first hear your ideas about what types of measures would work at Fort Ord. Representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California-EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control will also be present to hear your input at this meeting.

