

4.6 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

This section incorporates by reference information from the Other Physical Attributes Baseline Study of Fort Ord, California, which is available for review at the public information repository established at the Seaside Branch Library (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District 1992e).

4.6.1 Law Enforcement

Law enforcement service on Fort Ord is provided by the Army's Law Enforcement Command. Law Enforcement Command employs 144 federal civilian and 10 military patrol personnel who respond to crimes on the installation. The Law Enforcement Command uses 34 vehicles to patrol Fort Ord.

Other law enforcement agencies in the vicinity of Fort Ord include the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, the Marina Public Safety Department, and the Seaside Police Department.

4.6.2 Fire Protection

Fire protection service to Fort Ord is mainly provided by the Fort Ord Fire Prevention and Protection Division, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, which operates two fire stations and a total of 12 fire vehicles. These fire vehicles include four Class A pumpers, four brush/grass fire trucks, one ladder truck, two crash/rescue trucks, and one rescue vehicle. The two fire stations are staffed by 40 firefighters. The fire department responds to an average of 2,243 calls per year. Incidence of wildfires on the installation has increased since 1986, when 98 wildfires occurred, to 155 in 1991 and 178 as of July 31, 1992. Approximately 70% of these fires have occurred in the 8,000-acre inland range area, while the other 30% occurred elsewhere on the installation. The size of the fires has averaged 30 acres, ranging from 0.25 acre to several hundred acres.

A portion of eastern Fort Ord lies within the Salinas Rural Fire Protection District, which maintains an automatic aid agreement with Fort Ord for fire response. The Salinas Rural Fire Protection District operates three fire stations; the closest to Fort Ord is located in the Toro area. Other fire protection agencies in the vicinity of Fort Ord include the Marina Public Safety Department and the Seaside Fire Department.

4.6.3 Medical Services

The following is a brief summary of medical services provided in the study area. (Refer to 4.2.3, "Social Services", above for a detailed discussion of medical services provided at Fort Ord and its vicinity and of military retiree benefits.)

4.6.3.1 Fort Ord

Fort Ord has 10 medical clinics without beds; four dental clinics; and a full-service hospital, the Silas B. Hays Army Community Hospital. The hospital has 125 beds but is licensed to provide up to 440 beds. Silas B. Hays Army Community Hospital is the only military hospital in the Monterey area. In 1990, Silas B. Hays Army Community Hospital had 57.9% occupancy. Occupancy is the average percentage of beds that is expected to be occupied at any time. (American Hospital Association 1990.)

If active duty personnel need medical services that can not be provided at Silas B. Hays Army Community Hospital, they are transported to the nearest military facility: either David Grant U.S. Air Force Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield or Naval Hospital Oakland.

4.6.3.2 Fort Ord Vicinity

The Monterey Peninsula and western Monterey County are served by three nonmilitary hospitals; all are CHAMPUS providers. These are Natividad Medical Center and Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital in Salinas, and the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula in Monterey.

4.6.3.3 Natividad Medical Center

Natividad Medical Center has 166 beds, of which 52 are part of the hospital's nursing home facility. The hospital provides all types of medical care, including emergency room, general medicine, surgery, intensive care, and obstetrics. The number of births at Natividad has substantially increased in recent years (Jones & Stokes Associates 1991). In 1990, there were 6,025 admissions and an occupancy of 63.3% (American Hospital Association 1990).

4.6.3.4 Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula

The Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula offers general medical and surgical facilities and has 170 beds. In 1990, there were 11,144 admissions and 84.7% occupancy (American Hospital Association 1990).

The Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula is unique in its high occupancy rate and its proximity to the retirees living on the Monterey Peninsula.

Until September 1992, the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula was the first referral from Silas B. Hays Army Community Hospital in its capacity as a CHAMPUS provider. As of September 1, 1992, Natividad Medical Center is the first referral for CHAMPUS/PRIME and CHAMPUS/EXTRA subscribers. The Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula still provides CHAMPUS services for CHAMPUS/STANDARD subscribers.

4.6.3.5 Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital

Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital offers a wide variety of medical services, including open heart surgery and neurosurgery. The existing structure has 223 beds with 10,226 admissions in 1990 and an occupancy of 65% (American Hospital Association 1990). The hospital obtains funding from patient fees and the Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital District, which obtains a portion of property tax revenues collected from residents living in Salinas, Gonzales, Castroville, and surrounding unincorporated areas (Monterey County Local Agency Formation Commission 1991). Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital is a CHAMPUS/Standard provider similar to the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

The Natividad Medical Center is the CHAMPUS/PRIME and CHAMPUS/EXTRA provider for the area, effective September 1, 1992, and is the first referral for overflow from Silas B. Hays Army Community Hospital. According to Foundation Healthcare projections, Natividad Medical Center is expecting an average of five inpatients per day. Natividad Medical Center has indicated that they have ample capacity to treat existing inpatients and outpatients following closure of Hays Hospital. (Natividad Medical Center, Patient Financial Services pers. comm.)

The Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, and Natividad Medical Center served an estimated population of 270,000 and had admissions totaling approximately 27,400 during 1990. Based on population served, number of admissions, and occupancy rate, it is estimated that the three hospitals have a reserve capacity of approximately 11,000 admissions. Using the 1990 proportion of admissions to population served, it is estimated that at 100% occupancy the hospitals have an ability to serve an additional maximum population of approximately 110,000. Some constraints in services provided may occur before reaching 100% occupancy.

4.6.4 Emergency Medical Services

Emergency medical services are provided by ambulance coverage, 911 emergency services, and air transport and rescue services.

4.6.4.1 Ambulance and 911 Emergency Services

Fort Ord currently provides its own ambulance coverage and its own emergency telephone service. Hays Hospital has three ambulances that serve the installation; no off-installation emergency responses are made, although patients are transferred occasionally. In 1990, Silas B. Hays Army Community Hospital had 994 ambulance responses on the installation. The average response time was 8 minutes. Emergency room services at Silas B. Hays Army Community Hospital currently serve approximately 30,000 persons a year; approximately 1,500 of these patients have life- or limb-threatening emergencies.

Monterey County Communication Center coordinates off- installation 911 calls in the study area, which includes police, fire, and emergency medical services (first responder services). Second response is hospital services. Peninsula Paramedics, a private ambulance firm, operates both emergency and transfer services in the surrounding communities. Peninsula Paramedics makes approximately 1,200 ambulance responses per year.

4.6.4.2 Air Transport and Rescue Services

Monterey County uses a private company, Calstar, for air transport services in the north Monterey County area. Calstar has two helicopters stationed in Gilroy, which do not have winch-lift capability and are limited to one or two patients. In the south county area and for rescue operations, the county uses Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic (MAST) emergency services. (Monterey County Communication Center pers. comm.)

This MAST program has provided the central coast area with search, rescue, and air ambulance service since the 1970s and responds to more than 100 emergencies a year. These services are used by several public service providers, including sheriff, fire, and county agencies, under a letter of agreement. MAST missions are flown out of Fort Hunter Liggett and Fort Ord; each have a Medical Evacuation (MEDIVAC) operation that includes a helicopter that can transport four ambulatory patients. The MEDIVAC helicopters also have winch-lift capability that allows rescues in remote areas and water rescues.

Total MAST missions are approximately five to seven per month from Fort Hunter Liggett and once a month from Fort Ord. Hours of operation at Fort Ord are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m., with a response time of 20 minutes maximum from notification to takeoff. On weekends and holidays, Fort Ord personnel are on standby, which increases response time to 40 minutes from notification to takeoff. Fort Hunter Liggett personnel are usually called on during weekends and holidays, even though they are a backup, because of their quicker response time.

For most coastal rescues the U.S. Coast Guard from the San Francisco Air Station is used. They have winch-lift capability and on-board medics.

4.6.5 Seismic Safety

Affected environment information for seismic safety can be found under 4.3, "Soils, Geology, Topography, and Seismicity", discussed above.

