

Appendix M
Notification and Voluntary Relocation Plan

FORMER FORT ORD, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

NOTIFICATION AND VOLUNTARY RELOCATION PLAN

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Prepared by



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**U.S. ARMY
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FORMER FORT ORD
NOTIFICATION AND VOLUNTARY RELOCATION PLAN

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FORMER FORT ORD NOTIFICATION AND VOLUNTARY RELOCATION PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Purpose of the Notification and Relocation Plan

This plan describes the actions that will be taken by the U.S. Army to: (1) notify Monterey County residents about a prescribed burn at Munitions Response Site (MRS)16 planned for mid-year 2006, and (2) provide temporary relocation for Monterey County residents who choose to relocate outside of Monterey County during the fire. This plan describes the roles and responsibilities of the various Army organizations and contractors, and local government and community organizations, prior to, during, and after this prescribed burn.

In 2002, the Army, after consultation with the regulatory agencies and a public involvement process, decided to proceed with an interim action on three sites known as Ranges 43-48, Range 30A, and MRS-16 (OE-16). In the 2002 Record of Decision [Interim Action for Ordnance and Explosives at Ranges 43-48, Range 30A, and Site OE-16 (September 13, 2002)], the Army selected a cleanup approach which includes prescribed burns. This prescribed burn will initiate cleanup activities on MRS-16.

1.2 Purpose of the Prescribed Burn

The purpose of the prescribed burn is to burn off vegetation on the surface of MRS-16 so that the Army can safely remove unexploded munitions and explosives left over from when Fort Ord was a training facility. This cleanup program is an interim action based on a finding by the Army, in consultation with regulatory agencies, that the munitions and explosives remaining at MRS-16 pose an imminent threat to public health, safety or the environment.

1.3 Background

1.3.1 Why Vegetation Clearance is Needed

From 1917 until 1994, Fort Ord served as a training and staging area for the U.S. Army. During those years of training, soldiers fired millions of rounds of small arms ammunition. They also fired grenades, mortars, rockets and artillery. Inevitably, a small percentage of these munitions and explosives didn't detonate when they were fired and could still explode if disturbed by someone digging them up or even walking over them. These munitions and explosives are present on the ground or near the surface.

These items are generally referred to by the term "Munitions and Explosives of Concern" or "MEC." MEC are a serious risk – some of them are sufficiently explosive to penetrate a tank, and could seriously injure or kill anyone trespassing on the land.

These highly explosive items also pose significant safety challenges for the professionals who have been hired to remove them. The surface of

much of the lands rated as high priority for cleanup is covered with thick vegetation that makes it impossible for workers to see the ground and the high explosive items hidden by the brush. Consequently, the Army's explosive safety experts have determined that the MEC cannot be safely removed until the vegetation is thoroughly cleared.

In 2002, the Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) signed an Interim Action Record of Decision in which they concluded that, because of the proximity to homes and schools, and the sensitivity of the particular items, the Army would proceed with an interim action cleanup of MEC on Ranges 43-48, Range 30A, and MRS-16 (formerly OE-16). These areas are considered an imminent threat. The agencies also concluded that prescribed burns would be used to remove vegetation on these sites.

1.3.2 The 2003 Voluntary Relocation Program

In 2003 the Army conducted a prescribed burn on Ranges 43-48. The Army provided a voluntary relocation program during the 2003 prescribed burn. The Army paid reasonable travel expenses for those people who chose to relocate during the prescribed burn. Residents were given an opportunity in the months prior to the prescribed burn to register to be part of the voluntary relocation program.

1.3.3 What the Army is Planning for MRS-16

In 2006 the Army is planning to conduct a prescribed burn at MRS-16. Previously this site was called OE-16. This is one of the three sites – Ranges 43-48, MRS-16, and Range 30A -- identified for priority cleanup in the 2002 Interim Action Record of Decision.

That Record of Decision stated that the Army would proceed with the cleanup on these three sites using: (1) prescribed burning for vegetation clearance, (2) surface and subsurface removal of MEC, and (3) detonation of MEC with engineering controls. The Army also agreed to conduct a voluntary relocation program.

Early in 2006 the Army announced that it was considering amending the 2002 Interim Action Record of Decision for the prescribed burn on MRS-16. The Army evaluated whether it would terminate the voluntary relocation program. Following a public comment period and consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Army decided it would offer voluntary relocation during the MRS-16 prescribed burn.

1.4 Considerations for the Relocation Program

Although the Army decided to offer the Voluntary Relocation Program for the MRS-16 prescribed burn, certain characteristics of the prescribed burn plan will have an impact upon the voluntary relocation program, as discussed below:

1.4.1 Inability to Provide an Exact Date for Relocation

The Army will not ignite the prescribed burn until all the prescribed conditions are present for a successful burn. Equipment, supplies, and personnel may be in place and standing by for a number of days prepared to take advantage of an optimum burn period.

The Army will provide notice to people via Internet (e-mail) and telephone auto-dialer when a burn is probable (when the Army mobilizes helicopters and other fire-fighting equipment), then notify them again if the burn is actually ignited.

1.4.2 The Duration of the MRS-16 Prescribed Burn

The MRS-16 prescribed burn is expected to have a much shorter duration than the 2003 fire. Ignition is expected to last only 3 hours, and the smoke will likely be in the air several more hours. For this reason, the Army currently plans to reimburse for only one day's meals and lodging. It is possible that an additional day's lodging and meals could be reimbursed if smoke remains in the air longer than anticipated.

1.4.3 Minimal Health Impacts from the Smoke

The Army conducted extensive air monitoring during the Ranges 43-48 prescribed burn. In particular, measurements were made during the October 2003 fire to determine if there were contaminants in the smoke.

Air quality measurements were made for contaminants that are present in all burning vegetation, as well as contaminants that would be put in the air only if there was detonation of munitions and explosives of concern. A prescribed burn is hot enough to detonate a percentage of unexploded munitions and explosives lying on the ground. Some community members were concerned that this would expose the community to toxic substances that they believed made a fire at Fort Ord a greater health risk than any other fire that exposed the community to smoke.

The air monitoring program provided the following results:

- Munitions-related chemicals (i.e., explosives residues) were not detected in any of the air samples (MACTEC, 2004). The smoke from the Fort Ord prescribed burn was no different from any other vegetation burn of similar vegetation type.
- Particulate matter (PM₁₀) was observed at nearly every monitoring station at levels above the 24-hour California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) of 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) used as a screening level (MACTEC, 2004).
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conducted an independent evaluation of the 2003 Ranges 43-48 prescribed burn air monitoring results. ATSDR staff determined that "smoke from this burn and future burns do not present a public health hazard." However, ATSDR noted that short-term exposure to the smoke could cause minor respiratory and eye irritation in

sensitive individuals, but these effects would have been temporary, and would have dissipated shortly after exposures ended. ATSDR recommended the Army continue with the community notification program and best fire management practices; and recommended that people who have respiratory illnesses or are especially sensitive to smoke should stay indoors or move to another area during burn events (ATSDR, 2005).

Based on the analysis of the air monitoring results and an evaluation of applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) specified in the original Record of Decision, the Army has determined that prescribed burning can be conducted in a manner protective of human health and the environment and in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements.

2.0 THE NOTIFICATION PROGRAM

2.1 Overview

This section describes the manner in which the public will be notified about the prescribed burns and given information about the voluntary relocation program offered by the Army.

Four different types of notification will be provided:

- Notification that the Army will be conducting a prescribed burn and is offering a voluntary relocation program. This notification will occur at least several weeks prior to any prescribed burn.
- Notification that a prescribed burn is imminent and could occur anytime.
- Notification that a prescribed burn has already been ignited. This notification will occur within approximately 60 minutes following ignition of the prescribed burn.
- Notification that the prescribed burn has been completed.

More information on the mechanisms for notification is provided in the following sections.

2.2 Notification that the Army Will Be Conducting a Prescribed Burn and Is Offering Voluntary Relocation

The Army plans to conduct the MRS-16 prescribed burn when an appropriate combination of atmospheric conditions and moisture levels in the vegetation occurs. This will ensure that the fire will remove the vegetation with minimal smoke impacts on the surrounding community. These conditions will occur during a period of several months in the summer (beginning about July 15) to early fall. This period of time is usually referred to as “burn season.”

The Army will take the following actions to ensure that the community is aware that a prescribed burn will occur during the burn season:

2.2.1 Community Bulletin

The Army will issue a community bulletin in late June or early July 2006 announcing that a prescribed burn will occur mid-summer or early fall. This community bulletin will be sent by bulk mail to approximately 50,000 addresses in Monterey County. This community bulletin will discuss how the fire will be conducted and will provide information about health risks associated with exposure to smoke. It will also discuss steps individuals can take to minimize exposure to smoke. The mailer will also describe the registration procedure for those people who wish to enroll in the relocation program or who wish to enroll for direct notification via e-mail or auto-dialer telephone.

The community bulletin will contain a summary of major points in both English and Spanish. In addition, copies of the document written entirely in Spanish will be made available upon request.

2.2.2 Press Release

The Army will prepare a press release announcing the beginning of “burn season” and will send that press release to the following media:

- Monterey County Herald
- Salinas Californian
- El Sol (Spanish)
- Monterey County Weekly
- California State University Monterey Bay Otter Realm
- Monterey Bay Military News
- Santa Cruz Sentinel
- Soledad Bee
- Carmel Pine Cone
- Good Times
- Metro Santa Cruz
- Gonzales Tribune
- King City Rustler
- Greenfield News
- KCBA (Fox)
- KOIN (CBS)
- KSBW (NBC)
- KSMS (Spanish)
- KBTV – radio
- KCDV – radio
- KKMC – radio
- KMBY – radio
- KWAY – radio
- KDON – radio
- KMJO – radio
- KOCN – radio

- KTOM – radio
- KSES – radio
- KLOK – radio
- KRKC – radio
- KSEA – radio
- KDRH – radio
- KKMC – radio

A draft version of a press release is provided in Appendix 1.

2.2.3 Press Kit

The Army will prepare a press kit containing various background documents, including the community bulletin and the 2002 Record of Decision. The Army will provide this press kit to all major newspaper, radio and television stations in Monterey County.

2.2.4 Display Advertisements

The Army will place half or full-page paid advertisements announcing the upcoming prescribed burn in the following newspapers:

- Monterey Herald
- The Californian (Salinas)
- Monterey County Weekly
- El Sol (Spanish)

These display ads will invite individuals to enroll for direct notification via e-mail or auto-dialer telephone or register for the relocation program.

The text of a display advertisement is provided in Appendix 2.

2.2.5 Flyer

The Army will also prepare a flyer (8.5 x 11, double-folded) announcing the prescribed burn. The flyer will provide information on who to contact for additional information regarding the prescribed burn and the opportunity for individuals to sign up for notification by e-mail or auto-dialer telephone. It will also provide information about the voluntary relocation program. The flyer will be prepared in both English and Spanish. The flyer will be distributed through schools, homeowners associations, labor unions, farm worker organizations, farm bureau, and other community organizations. A draft text of the flyer is provided in Appendix 3.

2.2.6 Information Letter to Physicians and Health Professionals

The Army will work with the Monterey County Public Health Officer to prepare a letter written specifically for physicians and other health professionals. This letter will describe what is known about the possible health effects of smoke, the constituents in the smoke, and identify those populations most likely to be impacted by smoke exposure. This document

will be distributed to physicians and health organizations throughout Monterey County. A draft version of the letter to physicians is provided in Appendix 4.

2.2.7 Coordination with Community Organizations

The Army will contact other community organizations and ask if they have any special requirements.:

2.2.7.1 County Health Department

The Army will consult with the County Health Department and other appropriate health service providers to discuss: (a) how they will be informed when burns will occur; and (b) what information they need to answer questions

2.2.7.2 California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB)

The Army will consult with CSUMB to ensure that students and faculty are informed that a prescribed burn is planned during “burn season.” It is possible, however, that the prescribed burn will occur during the summer, when there are few students or faculty on campus.

2.2.7.3 Emergency Service Providers

The Army will consult with emergency service providers – police, fire, and hospitals – on how best to inform them of the occurrence of burns and any events surrounding the burns.

2.2.7.4 Nursing Home Operators

The Army will provide information about the upcoming burn and notification/relocation program to local nursing homes/elder care facilities.

2.2.7.5 Schools

The Army will provide information to school districts and private schools in nearby and downwind areas, and offer briefings.

2.2.7.6 Downwind Home Owners Associations

The Army will consult with historically downwind homeowners associations listed below to inform them of the planned prescribed burn and invite them to distribute flyers to their members. These associations include:

- Toro Park HOA
- Spreckels Indian Springs HOA
- Las Palmas HOA
- Torro Sunshine HOA
- Toro Hill HOA
- Serra Village HOA

- Creekside HOA
- San Benancio HOA
- Hidden Hills HOA

2.2.7.7 Labor, Construction, Farming and Farm Worker Organizations

The Army will provide information about the upcoming burn and notification/relocation program to labor unions, construction, farming and farm worker organizations, inviting them to distribute flyers to their members. A Spanish language flyer will be provided, if appropriate.

2.2.7.8 Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network

The Army will provide information and, upon request, conduct briefings for the Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network. The Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network is a community-based organization that has received a Technical Assistance Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide information to the community about the cleanup programs and its impacts. In particular, its focus is to provide information to minority, low-income or disadvantaged segments of the community.

2.2.8 Information Hotline

The Army has established an information hotline capable of handling numerous calls and will post appropriate announcements alerting the community that a prescribed burn is planned or is imminent and could occur anytime. The Army has retained a translation service capable of providing translation in a number of languages.

2.2.9 Web Page Announcement

The Fort Ord Cleanup Program maintains a web page that is accessed by several thousand people a month. An announcement of the upcoming prescribed burn will be posted on the web page. A form will be provided on the web page that people can download and mail or fax to register for the direct notification program. Information about the relocation program will also be posted on the website.

2.2.10 Public Service Announcement

The Army will develop a public service announcement and distribute it to television and radio stations for broadcast to the community.

2.2.11 Update Direct Notification List

The Army will send a letter to everybody who enrolled for the 2003 voluntary relocation program asking them to confirm that they wish to receive direct notification by e-mail and/or auto-dialer telephone. Some percentage of the addresses will no longer be valid, and the mailing list will be updated. All individuals who request notification in response to the

community bulletin, display ads, or meetings with community groups will be added to the list.

2.2.12 Communication with Non-English Speakers

The flyer will be available in both English and Spanish versions. The community bulletin will contain a summary of major points in both English and Spanish. In addition, copies of the document written entirely in Spanish will be made available upon request. The Army has retained a translation service that will, on request, provide translation in several languages.

All press releases and other publicity materials sent to the media will be sent to Spanish-speaking media and any other ethnic media that can be identified.

The Army will also provide information to cultural or ethnic organizations, churches or community groups to inform them of the prescribed burn.

2.2.13 General Interested Party Mailing List

The Army will provide information about the upcoming burn and notification/relocation program to those individuals on the general interested party mailing list and e-mail notification list.

2.3 Notification that a Prescribed Burn Is Imminent and Could Occur Anytime

When the Army anticipates that the proper combination of atmospheric conditions and moisture in the vegetation could occur, it will mobilize fire-fighting equipment. The most expensive equipment to put on hold is the helicopters. When conditions are sufficiently promising that the Army feels justified in mobilizing the helicopters, the Army will notify the public that a prescribed burn could be imminent. The public will be informed that fire-fighters and equipment will be on-call during this period of time and a fire could be ignited on any day within the “window of opportunity.” The public will be informed that it may not be possible to provide any additional pre-notification before the prescribed burn is ignited.

The mechanisms by which the community will be informed include:

2.3.1 Contact Direct Notification List Using Auto-Dialer and E-Mail

As discussed above, the Army has established and will maintain a list of individuals who have requested direct notification. These individuals will be contacted using e-mail and/or an auto-dialer telephone system. They will be informed that a prescribed burn could occur anytime in the next several days.

2.3.2 Web Page Update

An announcement will be placed on the Fort Ord Cleanup Program web page saying that a prescribed burn could be ignited any time in the next several days.

2.3.3 Press Release

The Army will prepare a press release announcing that a prescribed burn could be conducted some time within the several days and will send that press release to the media identified in 2.2.2. A draft press release is provided in Appendix 5.

2.3.4 Press Kit

The Army will update the press kit as needed, and make sure they have been sent to all major newspaper, radio and television stations in Monterey County.

2.3.5 Information Hotline

An announcement will be posted to the hotline indicating that a prescribed burn is imminent and could occur anytime. The Army will ensure that sufficient staffing is available to handle an increased volume of incoming calls, and will train staff to respond to hotline inquiries during any prescribed burn. The Army has retained a translation service capable of providing translation in a number of languages, including Spanish.

2.3.6 Public Service Announcement

The Army will develop a public service announcement indicating that a prescribed burn is imminent and could occur anytime, and will distribute it to television and radio stations for broadcast to the community. Draft text for a public service announcement is shown in Appendix 6.

2.3.7 Update Notification List

Based on inquiries received as a result of the program above, the Army will update the direct notification list.

2.3.8 Coordination with Community Organizations, Schools, and Health Provider

Based on its initial contacts with community organizations during the announcement of burn season, the Army will develop a priority list of community organizations, schools and health care providers that will be notified by phone or e-mail informing them that a prescribed burn is imminent and could occur anytime. They will also be provided literature they can distribute to clients, students, etc.

Types of organizations to be contacted include:

- County Health Department
- Emergency Service Providers – police, fire, and hospitals
- Nursing Home Operators

- School Personnel
- Downwind Home Owners Associations
- Labor, Construction, Farming and Farm Worker Organizations
- Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network

2.4 Notification that a Prescribed Burn Has Just Been Started

The decision to ignite the prescribed burn will occur when all the conditions involving atmospheric mixing level, wind, and moisture levels in vegetation are within a pre-established “prescription” of conditions appropriate for a prescribed burn. The Presidio of Monterey Fire Department will be responsible for fire management, and will make the decision to ignite the fire, in consultation with other agencies. Typically this consultation will occur each morning. If appropriate conditions could occur later in the day, then fire officials will remain on call the entire day. This consultation could include a test-burn of a small area to verify that the proper conditions are present for a prescribed burn.

Notification will begin immediately as soon as the prescribed burn is started. The notification methods that will be employed include:

2.4.1 Notification of People on the Direct Notification List Using E-Mail and Auto-Dialer Telephone

As soon as the decision to ignite the burn occurs, the Army will transmit an e-mail and/or auto-dialer phone message to everyone on the direct notification list, telling them that the prescribed burn has been started.

2.4.2 Hotline Announcement

Once a prescribed burn has been lit, an announcement will be placed on the hotline indicating that a prescribed burn has been started, and giving an option of talking with a live person. The hotline will be staffed during the burn (daylight hours) so that anyone calling in can talk with a live person.

2.4.3 Web Page Notification

An announcement will be placed on the web page indicating that a prescribed burn has been started.

2.4.4 Press Release

A press release announcing that a prescribed burn has been lit will be sent by e-mail or fax to the media list shown above. Draft language is provided in Appendix 7.

2.4.5 Personal Contacts with Community Organizations, Schools

A list of key organizations will be notified by phone or e-mail that a prescribed burn has been started.

2.4.6 Announcement to Emergency Service Providers

The Army will notify emergency service providers of its decision to ignite the prescribed burn using e-mail, fax or phone.

2.5 Notification that the Prescribed Burn Has Been Completed

An announcement that the prescribed burn has been completed will be made in the following manner:

2.5.1 Notification of People on the Direct Notification List Using E-Mail and Auto-Dialer Telephone

The Army will transmit an e-mail and/or auto-dialer phone message to everyone on the direct notification list telling them that the fire has been completed.

2.5.2 Hotline Announcement

An announcement will be placed on the hotline announcing that the prescribed burn has been completed.

2.5.3 Web Page Notification

An announcement will be placed on the web page announcing that the prescribed burn has been completed.

2.5.4 Press Release

A press release will be issued to the media by e-mail or fax announcing that the prescribed burn has been completed.

2.5.5 Personal Contacts with Community Organizations, Schools

A list of key organizations will be notified by phone or e-mail that a prescribed burn has been completed.

2.5.6 Announcement to Emergency Service Providers

The Army will notify emergency service providers using e-mail, fax or phone that the prescribed burn has been completed.

3.0 THE RELOCATION PROGRAM

3.1 Overview

The amount of smoke in the air from the MRS-16 burn should be significantly less than there was during the fire of 2003, because the size of the fire is much smaller and the duration much shorter. Most healthy people should experience few, if any, impacts from the smoke. Any impacts that may occur, such as eye irritation, should be temporary and go away when smoke is no longer in the air. People who are concerned can avoid exposure by taking reasonable precautions such as limiting outdoor activity and staying indoors when smoke is present. People who are especially sensitive to smoke or have pre-existing respiratory or heart conditions may want to stay indoors or could leave the area for the duration of the fire. People should consult with their health service provider if they have questions. Individuals experiencing medical emergencies related to smoke exposure during prescribed burns should call 911 or their health service provider.

Additional reference material regarding health risks is provided in Appendix 8.

The Army does provide a voluntary relocation program for those people who choose to leave the area during the MRS-16 prescribed burn. This program provides reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses for any Monterey County resident who wishes to temporarily relocate outside of Monterey County.

3.2 Objectives of the Relocation Plan

The objectives of the Relocation Plan are to:

- ❑ Provide potentially affected people with sufficient information – in a form that is usable and easy to understand –to help people make an informed judgment on whether to relocate during any prescribed burn.
- ❑ Ensure that the relocation process itself is as efficient and “user-friendly” as possible, so that unnecessary bureaucracy or delays in reimbursement do not aggravate the nuisance of relocating.
- ❑ Use the taxpayers’ money prudently.
- ❑ Comply with all federal procurement laws and regulations.

3.3 Who is Eligible for Relocation

The Army is making this relocation program available to residents of Monterey County who wish to be temporarily out of the area during the prescribed burn at MRS-16.

The Army will require proof of Monterey County residency (such as a driver’s license, utility bill, or checkbook with a Monterey address) and the head of

household will be asked to sign a statement saying that he or she is a U.S. citizen or legal alien. Under U.S. law, a child who is a U.S. citizen is considered to be the head of household, and other family members who are not citizens can be relocated as well. The applicant will be asked to show a photo ID at the time of registration.

The Army will coordinate with other service providers to assist those who cannot meet these requirements.

3.4 Areas that Could Be Impacted by Smoke

The Army is making every effort to select a day when weather conditions will cause the smoke to rise to a high elevation, and then be dissipated, with minimal smoke impacts upon the community. Under these conditions, few people would be impacted. However, it is challenging to anticipate weather and wind direction.



Based on past fires, if people are impacted by smoke the areas most likely to be impacted are downwind (east or southeast of the former Fort Ord) with the wind blowing in from the ocean. This includes people located along Monterey-Salinas Highway/Highway 68, Reservation Road/River Road, and Spreckels. Some opponents of prescribed burns believe that individuals as far away as Gonzales and King City could be impacted by smoke.

However, atmospheric conditions could cause the smoke to move in other directions, as they did during the 2003 prescribed burn. This is why the Army will only reimburse for relocation outside of Monterey County. This ensures that people who relocate will not be impacted, regardless of shifts in wind or other changes in weather conditions.

3.5 The Voluntary Nature of the Relocation Program

The Army will reimburse reasonable travel expenses of residents of Monterey County who wish to leave the area during the prescribed burn, so long as they complete the necessary forms and provide appropriate identification prior to relocation. The Army does not require submission of information from a physician, or other proof of a prior medical condition. Individuals who are not certain whether relocation is necessary are encouraged to speak with a physician or other health professional. No individuals will be moved on an involuntary basis.

3.6 What Relocation Costs Will Be Covered

The Army will pay the following relocation costs:

3.6.1 Meals

The Army will provide reimbursement for meals up to a federally established limit for the Monterey area. This is the same limit paid to all Federal employees – for all agencies, military and non-military – when they travel in the Monterey area. The 2006 limit for meals is \$64 a day for adults. Children under 12 receive 50% of the adult daily rate (\$32). These limits are adjusted each year, based on surveys of costs for meals in the Monterey area. If people travel only part of a day, the daily rates for meal reimbursement rates are adjusted based on the portion of the day that was traveled.

3.6.2 Lodging

The Army will reimburse hotel or motel expenses for individuals who choose to relocate to a hotel or motel outside of the exclusion zone (Monterey County) shown in the map above. The reimbursement will not exceed the federally established standard for lodging in the Monterey area. Because of the tourist season in Monterey there are two rates for the Monterey Area. From May 1 to October 31 (the period during which the fire will likely be conducted), the 2006 rate is \$103 per family per night. These rates are adjusted annually, based on a survey of lodging costs in the Monterey area.

People who relocate will be required to submit originals of their hotel bills with their reimbursement request. The Army will not reimburse lodging costs if you stay with family and friends. However, you will still receive reimbursement for meals, as described above.

3.6.3 Transportation costs

The Army will pay transportation costs to relocate. Normally this transportation will be in a private auto owned by or arranged for by the individual choosing to relocate. The Army will reimburse transportation costs from homes to the place where people are relocating, and back again, at the federal mileage rate at the time of relocation. The current rate is 44.5 cents per mile. The total mileage that will be reimbursed is a maximum of 300 miles, unless special arrangements are approved during an interview that will occur after the relocation application has been submitted.

3.6.4 Inability to Wait for Reimbursement

The Army recognizes that waiting for reimbursement could be a financial hardship for some people, since reimbursement may not be received for 30-45 days from the time a reimbursement request is submitted.

For those people for whom waiting for reimbursement would be a financial hardship, the Army will provide assistance with travel. Those who claim financial hardship must register for the relocation program by July 14, 2006.

3.6.5 Transportation

Individuals or families who choose to relocate are expected to make their own arrangements for transportation to wherever they choose to relocate. In exceptional circumstances – which must be described on the initial relocation application – the Army may provide vouchers for taxis or other public transportation.

3.6.6 Medical Emergencies During a Prescribed Burn

People who experience a medical emergency should contact their healthcare provider or call 911. Government programs are available to cover emergency medical treatment for low-income people.

3.6.7 Special Requirements

Individuals may request reimbursement for special requirements such as moving bed-ridden people or moving medical equipment. These special requirements must be identified when the applicant initially registers for relocation. The Army must pre-approve expenditures for special requirements.

3.7 Costs Not Covered by the Army

The Army will NOT pay the following expenses:

3.7.1 Rent, mortgage, or utilities on homes during temporary relocation.
Rent mortgage and utility payments are not considered to be additional costs caused by relocation.

3.7.2 Wages or leave lost during relocation

Because this is a voluntary relocation program, made available to anyone who chooses to relocate, federal law does not allow federal agencies to reimburse people for wages or leave lost while they relocate. Individuals considering relocation should take this into account in reaching their decision whether to relocate.

3.7.3 Damages caused by the person relocating, family guests or pets

Damages to a hotel or motel, or other temporary housing, that are caused by the persons relocating, their family, guests, or pets are not the responsibility of the Army.

3.7.4 Expenses Incurred for Care of Pets

The Army will not be responsible for making arrangements for relocating pets, and will not reimburse the cost of kenneling, pet-sitting, or other special costs incurred for care of pets.

3.7.5 The cost of meals or temporary housing beyond the date on which the Army announces that the relocation period had ended.

The Army is not responsible for meals and lodging beyond the announced date of return.

3.7.6 Expenses related to accidents, injuries, or illnesses that people experience during the temporary relocation period

If individuals experience accidents, injuries, or illnesses while they are relocated, the cost of treating these injuries or ailments is not the Army's responsibility.

3.3.7 Charges to hotel or motel rooms for other than lodging.

The Army is responsible only for the cost of lodging (up to the federal limit) and the per diem paid for meals. Other charges made on hotel bills, such as room service or other food or beverages, long distance telephone charges, video rentals, pay-per-view television programs, or damages to the hotel, are the responsibility of the person who is relocating.

3.3.8 Expenses incurred while searching for temporary lodging

The Army will not reimburse individuals for costs that are incurred searching for temporary lodging.

3.3.9 Duplicate benefits

The Army will not reimburse for expenses that have already been paid by someone else, such as a social welfare agency.

3.3.10 Other expenses the Army has not approved

Unless specifically requested at the time of application and approved by the Army, the Army is not liable for any additional expenses beyond those specified in Section 3.6 above.

3.8 Provision of Truthful Information

Applicants will be asked to sign a statement that the information they provide is truthful and that they understand that accepting federal money under false pretenses could subject them to criminal prosecution

3.9 Registering for Relocation

Individuals who wish to relocate under this program will be asked to complete an Application for Relocation prior to the prescribed burn. Individuals will be asked to submit name, address, contact information, and identify any special requirements.

Applicants will also be asked to sign a form stating that the applicant is a U.S. citizen or legal alien. [Under U.S. law, a child who is a U.S. citizen is considered to be the head of household, and other family members who are not citizens can be relocated as well.]

Applicants must appear in person at the relocation office (or at a signup meeting that will be held in Seaside) between June 20 – July 14 to provide photo identification. Applicants must also show proof of Monterey County residency. This proof can take the form of a driver's license with a Monterey County address, a utility bill with a Monterey County Address, military or student identification cards, or a checkbook with a Monterey County address. After July 14, 2006, the Army will do its best to accommodate people who wish to relocate. Those who wish to register should contact the Army.

Applicants who wish to claim financial hardship must submit their application prior to the July 14 deadline.

A draft application for relocation is provided beginning on the next page.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
FORT ORD PRESCRIBED BURN PROGRAM
MONTEREY, CA**

REGISTRATION FOR TEMPORARY RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

DATE OF APPLICATION _____ **INTERVIEWED BY:** _____

APPLICANT'S NAME¹: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (if different) _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLD WHO WILL RELOCATE:

Name(s)	Age	Relationship²
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

OTHER REQUIREMENTS/SPECIAL NEEDS:

- Financial hardship (unable to wait for reimbursement)
- Other (describe) _____

¹ The head of household (reimbursement check will be issued to this person)
² For example: husband, wife, son, daughter, mother-in-law.

WHEN A PRESCRIBED BURN IS STARTED I WISH TO BE NOTIFIED BY:

Phone. Phone number to call: _____

E-mail. E-mail address: _____

Fax. Fax number: _____

I understand that the Army will make only one attempt to contact me.

CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (family member or friend):

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone # (____) _____

PROOF OF MONTEREY COUNTY RESIDENCY: (Attach photocopy)

Driver's License (Exp. Date _____) Utility Bill

CSUMB student card with current sticker Military ID

Other (describe): _____

PICTURE ID: Attach photocopy

CERTIFICATION OF LEGAL RESIDENCY IN THE UNITED STATES

I certify that I am: (check one)

A citizen of the United States; OR

An alien lawfully present in the United States; OR

My child is a citizen of the United States.

Name of child _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Accuracy and Honesty of the Information in this Application:

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and honest to the best of my knowledge. I understand that accepting federal money under false pretenses could subject me to criminal prosecution.

Signature _____ Date _____

FOR ARMY USE ONLY:

Date Application Completed _____ Initial _____

Date Entered in Data Base: _____ Initial _____

Applicant Number _____

3.10 The Reimbursement Process

3.7.1 The Army will provide reimbursement request forms and written instructions for completing the forms in both English and Spanish to each person who registers for relocation.

3.7.2 Submission of Request for Reimbursement

Individuals who relocate must keep original receipts for lodging, transportation (except mileage on private automobile), or other expenses approved by the Army, and upon their return, submit a request for reimbursement with all their original receipts. No receipts are required for meals, mileage, and pre-paid lodging.

The Army will provide assistance, upon request, in completing the form, including language translation assistance. The Army has retained a translation service that will, on request, provide translation in several languages.

3.7.3 Time Limit for Submission of Reimbursement Requests

Requests for reimbursement must be submitted within 30 days from the end of the relocation period.

3.7.2 Time Needed for Reimbursement

Once the reimbursement form has been completed and approved, a check is normally issued within 30 days.

4.0 POST-RELOCATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Once the prescribed burn and relocation program have been concluded the Army will:

4.1 Evaluate the Relocation Program

All people who are relocated will be asked to complete an evaluation form in which they evaluate the manner in which the relocation was handled, and suggest changes in the program for future prescribed burns. All Army staff or contractors who were active in implementing the relocation program will also be asked to participate in this evaluation, and recommend improvements in the program.

4.2 Prepare a Report on the Relocation Services Provided and Recommended Improvements

The Army will prepare a report summarizing the relocation services provided and recommendations for improving the relocation program for subsequent prescribed burns.

4.3 Prepare and Distribute a Community Bulletin

The Army will prepare and distribute a Community Bulletin describing the manner in which the fire was conducted, the results of the air monitoring programs, the relocation services provided, and changes that will be made in the fire management or relocation programs prior to subsequent prescribed burns.

5.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The roles and responsibilities for implementation of this notification and relocation program are:

5.1 The Fort Ord BRAC Office

The Fort Ord BRAC Office will be the lead agency for the implementation of this notification program.

5.1.1 Point of Contact

The Fort Ord BRAC Office primary point of contact is Melissa Broadston, (831) 393-1284.

5.1.2 Responsibilities

The Fort Ord BRAC Office will:

- ❑ Prepare and distribute all notifications, publicity materials, and community bulletins
- ❑ Assist the Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs Office with the preparation of news releases, media kits, and coordination of interviews and talk show appearances
- ❑ Maintain and update the notification list before and after prescribed burns
- ❑ Notify all individuals on the notification list when helicopters are mobilized and when a fire is ignited
- ❑ Establish and maintain the hotline and web page
- ❑ Coordinate with community groups and emergency service providers
- ❑ Prepare reports summarizing the services provided and recommendations for any changes needed in the program

5.2 The Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs Office (POM-PAO)

5.2.1 Point of Contact

The POM-PAO primary point of contact is Natela Cutter, Director, POM - Public Affairs, (831) 242-6430.

5.2.2 Responsibilities

The POM-PAO will:

- ❑ Will review draft press releases and public service announcements prepared by the Fort Ord BRAC office and will distribute press releases and public service announcements to the media
- ❑ Will screen media inquiries and will schedule media interviews with qualified technical personnel

- Will coordinate a media tour or media center during the actual prescribed burn

APPENDICES

The public information and publicity materials that are shown on the following pages are intended to illustrate the type of publicity materials that will be prepared by the Army. The final wording may differ from that shown in these appendices.

**APPENDIX 1: DRAFT PRESS RELEASE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF BURN SEASON**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARMY ANNOUNCES PRESCRIBED BURN THIS YEAR

For information contact: 831-242-6430

The Army plans to conduct a 60-acre prescribed burn in summer or fall 2006 to clear brush to safely remove unexploded munitions and explosives left over from when the Army used Fort Ord to train soldiers. Some of the shells and explosives used in training didn't explode and still remain on the ground, particularly on former firing ranges.

The former range area subject to the 2006 prescribed burn is referred to as Munitions Response Site 16 (MRS-16) and was included in the 2002 Superfund decision document that selected prescribed burns for vegetation clearance and subsequent removal of munitions as the cleanup remedy. The Army has to burn off the brush before it is safe for cleanup workers to enter the land to remove unexploded ordnance.

Because the Army will wait for the optimum conditions for burn and smoke management before igniting the prescribed burn, it will be difficult to give an exact date when the fire will occur until shortly before the fire is lit. Proper weather conditions usually occur during the drier months of summer or early fall. The Army will announce when suitable prescribed burning conditions are considered imminent, and when the prescribed burn is ignited. The Army will provide direct notification by e-mail or auto-dialer telephone for anyone who wants to receive such notification. People who want to be put on the list for direct

notification should phone the Army at (800) 852-9699, or download an enrollment form at www.FortOrdCleanup.com.

The fire planned for 2006 is only about 5 percent the size of the fire in 2003 that burned nearly 1,500 acres. That fire was planned to burn 500 acres, but escaped the primary containment lines. The Army has tripled the size of the primary containment lines to control this prescribed burn, and has changed the guidelines for the conditions necessary before a prescribed burn will be lit. The prescribed burn will be managed by the Presidio of Monterey Fire Department.

The ignition phase is expected to last up to three hours. While the Army will do everything it can to minimize smoke, some smoke will be in the air both during and after the fire and may cause minor eye or respiratory irritation. The smoke from prescribed burns at Fort Ord has been sampled and determined to be no different than smoke from other prescribed fires in similar vegetation.

Once the prescribed burn has been ignited, people with pre-existing respiratory diseases may want to take precautions such as staying indoors with doors and windows closed and limiting physical activity while smoke is present. Or people might choose to leave the area for a few hours. Anyone who experiences difficulty breathing should seek medical help.

The Army had proposed to eliminate the voluntary temporary relocation program. However it was decided to continue the program for Monterey County residents who wish to relocate, for this burn. The Army may reimburse county residents who choose to travel out of the area the day and night of the fire. Monterey County residents who want to enroll for the voluntary relocation

program need to apply in person at the Relocation Office in Building 4463, Gigling Road, on the former Fort Ord by July 14, 2006. After July 14, 2006, the Army will do its best to accommodate persons who wish to relocate. Continue to check for updates by calling (831) 242-7383 or (800) 952-9699, or visit website www.FortOrdCleanup.com.

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APPENDIX 2: TEXT FOR DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT

PRESCRIBED BURN PLANNED THIS FALL

The Army plans to conduct a prescribed burn at the former Fort Ord sometime before the end of the year. The Army must burn off the vegetation so that workers can safely locate and remove dangerous ordnance and explosives left over from when Fort Ord was a training facility. The prescribed burn will be a carefully controlled fire that will be set under weather conditions selected to both burn off vegetation and minimize smoke impacts. The ignition phase will take up to three hours, with the possibility of smoke in the air for several more hours. The total area that will be burned is approximately 60 acres.

Call hotline (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699, or visit www.FortOrdCleanup.com for updates.

The Army will assemble the necessary fire-fighting equipment as soon as appropriate atmospheric conditions are forecasted. But the Army won't light the fire until the ideal conditions have actually occurred. Once these conditions occur, the decision to ignite the prescribed burn will occur in just minutes.

The Army will notify the community when it mobilizes the helicopters used in fire operations; the last step before a fire. This is a signal that a fire could be started at any time. The Army will notify the community as soon as the prescribed burn is started. The Army will post notifications on the website, hotline, and through the Direct Notification Program. To request direct notification, call (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699.

Prior to the 2003 prescribed burn, members of the community expressed concern that smoke from a fire at the former Fort Ord would contain toxic substances that would pose a health risk to the community. The smoke from 2003 prescribed burn has been sampled and determined to be no different than smoke from other prescribed burns in similar vegetation. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health agency, concluded that the effect of the 2003 burn was "no apparent public health hazard," and no adverse health effects are expected from exposure to smoke. Short-term exposure to the smoke could cause minor respiratory and eye irritation in sensitive individuals, but these effects would have been temporary and would have dissipated shortly after exposures ended. ATSDR recommended that people who have respiratory illnesses or are especially sensitive to smoke should stay indoors or temporarily leave the area during burn events.

To reduce exposure to smoke, when smoke is present stay indoors and avoid vigorous exercise. Seek medical care if breathing becomes difficult.

The Army had proposed to eliminate the voluntary temporary relocation program. However it was decided to continue the program for Monterey County residents

who wish to relocate, for this burn. The program will reimburse for authorized expenses including meals, lodging and travel. You must register for the relocation program. Register in person at Relocation Office by **July 14, 2006** with:

- a photo ID
- proof of residence (driver's license, gas or phone bill, CSUMB student body card)
- a signed statement that the applicant (or a family member who is a minor) is a U.S. Citizen or legal alien (federal law limits payment of relocation to U.S. citizens and legal aliens only)

If relocation will cause financial hardship, the Army can provide assistance with housing and meals if registration is completed by **July 14, 2006**. The Army will do its best to accommodate special circumstances.

For more information, contact us at: (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699, or check the web site at www.FordOrdCleanup.com.

APPENDIX 3: DRAFT TEXT OF FLYER

Prescribed Burn Planned This Fall

The Army plans to conduct a prescribed burn at the former Fort Ord sometime before the end of the year. The Army must burn off the vegetation so that workers can safely locate and remove dangerous ordnance and explosives left over from when Fort Ord was a training facility. The prescribed burn will be a carefully controlled fire that will be set under weather conditions selected to both burn off vegetation and minimize smoke impacts. The ignition phase will take up to three hours, with the possibility of smoke in the air for several more hours. The total area that will be burned is approximately 60 acres.

The Army will assemble the necessary fire-fighting equipment as soon as appropriate atmospheric conditions are forecasted. But the Army won't light the fire until the ideal conditions have actually occurred. Once these conditions occur, the decision to ignite the prescribed burn will occur in just minutes.

The Army will notify the community when it mobilizes the helicopters used in fire operations; the last step before a fire. This is a signal that a fire could be started at any time. The Army will notify the community as soon as the prescribed burn is started. The Army will post notifications on the website, hotline, and through the Direct Notification Program. To request direct notification call (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699.

Prior to the 2003 burn, members of the community expressed concern that smoke from a fire at the former Fort Ord would contain toxic substances that would pose a health risk to the community. The smoke from 2003 prescribed burn has been sampled and determined to be no different than smoke from other

prescribed burns in similar vegetation. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health agency, concluded that the effect of the 2003 burn was “no apparent public health hazard,” and no adverse health effects are expected from exposure to smoke. Short-term exposure to the smoke could cause minor respiratory and eye irritation in sensitive individuals, but these effects would have been temporary and would have dissipated shortly after exposures ended. ATSDR recommended that people who have respiratory illnesses or are especially sensitive to smoke should stay indoors or temporarily leave the area during burn events.

To reduce exposure to smoke, when smoke is present stay indoors and avoid vigorous exercise. Seek medical care if breathing becomes difficult.

The Army had proposed to eliminate the voluntary temporary relocation program. However it was decided to continue the program for Monterey County residents who wish to relocate, for this burn. The program will reimburse for authorized expenses including meals, lodging and travel. You must register for the relocation program. Register in person at Relocation Office by **July 14, 2006** with:

- A photo ID
- Proof of residence (driver’s license, gas or phone bill, CSUMB student body card)
- A signed statement that the applicant (or a family member who is a minor) is a U.S. Citizen or legal alien (federal law limits payment of relocation to U.S. citizens and legal aliens only)

If relocation will cause financial hardship, the Army can provide assistance with housing and meals if registration is completed by July 14, 2006. The Army will do its best to accommodate special circumstances. After July 14, 2006, the Army will do its best to accommodate people who wish to relocate. Please contact the Relocation Office at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699

Relocation Signup Workshop

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Oldemeyer Center

986 Hilby Avenue, Seaside

Relocation Office

Bldg. 4463 Gigling Road

Former Fort Ord

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday: 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Closed Federal holidays

Other hours are available by appointment.



APPENDIX 4
DRAFT LETTER FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Dear Physicians,

The U.S. Army plans to conduct a "prescribed burn" at the former Fort Ord military reservation prior to the rainy season that begins in the fall. The purpose of the Army's prescribed burns on the former Fort Ord is to burn off vegetation on areas formerly used as weapon ranges to allow cleanup workers to see unexploded munitions or explosives laying on the ground that could explode if workers walk on them. Once it is safe to go into these areas, workers will remove and dispose of any munitions and explosives.

Because the area to be burned is small, less than 60 acres, the total amount of smoke that is expected to be generated should be significantly less than the amount of smoke generated from the Ranges 43-48 burn, which burned nearly 1,500 acres, over several days. The Army is making every effort to minimize the impact of smoke on the surrounding communities.

The area that is being cleaned up will be turned into a natural area and habitat reserve. But this land will remain unusable until the munitions are removed. In the past children have been killed or injured playing with unexploded ordnance they found when they entered the area, despite numerous signs and fences.

The Army conducted extensive air monitoring during the 2003 prescribed burn. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, evaluated the results from samples evaluated by independent laboratories and concluded that smoke from a prescribed burn at the former Fort Ord is no different than smoke from a comparable vegetation fire elsewhere. ATSDR says that smoke from prescribed burns at Fort Ord do not present a public health hazard, although they can lead to short-term eye and respiratory irritation for those living near the fire. These health effects are temporary and of concern primarily to people who already have respiratory health concerns.

ATSDR prepared a fact sheet for the public summarizing its conclusions. A copy is attached. For a copy of ATSDR's complete health assessment, go to http://www.fortordcleanup.com/adminrec/ar_pdfs/AR-OE-0522/OE-0522.pdf.

When smoke is present, people with pre-existing health conditions that could be irritated by the smoke should:

- Reduce outside activities; remain indoors as much as possible with doors and windows closed
- Limit physical activity.
- Drink plenty of liquids.
- Consider using an over-the-counter nasal moisturizing spray (saline).

- Consider using a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) room filtration unit.
- Leave the area temporarily

The Army will notify community members when the firefighters go on the standby mode for an imminent burn, and when the prescribed burn is actually started. Community members are encouraged to enroll in the notification program by calling (831) 242-7383 or (800) 852-9699 or get details at www.FortOrdCleanup.com.

The Army provides a voluntary relocation program under which people can be reimbursed for meals, lodging and transportation costs to leave the area the day and evening of the fire. Those who wish to take advantage of this program should register by July 14, 2006.

For further information, or to receive phone or e-mail notification that a fire has been ignited, please call the Fort Ord Cleanup Program Office at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699. Information is also available online at www.fortordcleanup.com.

Sincerely,

**APPENDIX 5 – DRAFT PRESS RELEASE
IMMINENT PRESCRIBED BURN**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORT ORD PRESCRIBED BURN COULD HAPPEN ANY DAY

For information contact, 831-242-6430

The U.S. Army, Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Office, today announced that it could conduct a prescribed burn sometime in the next few days. The Army has mobilized helicopters and other fire-fighting equipment.

The Army needs to burn off the brush so that it can safely remove the unexploded munitions and explosives left over from the days when Fort Ord was used as a military training center.

In order to minimize smoke, the Army will wait until the ideal conditions exist, then will light the prescribed burn. There will be only a few minutes from the time a decision is made until the fire is ignited.

The Army will post daily updates on its hotline at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699, and on its website: www.FortOrdCleanup.com. The Army will also provide direct notification by e-mail or auto-dialer telephone for people who sign-up in advance. People who want to be put on the list for direct notification should phone the Army at (831) 242-7383 or (800) 852-9699, or get details at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. Monterey County residents may also sign up for a voluntary relocation program that will pay for meals, lodging and transportation for people who choose to leave the area the day and evening of the fire.

The Army plans to light the prescribed burn under atmospheric conditions that will minimize smoke impacts. But if you are someone with an existing health

problem that is aggravated by smoke, the Army suggests that when smoke is in the air you might want to take such precautions as closing your windows, remaining indoors as much as possible, limiting physical activity, and drinking plenty of liquids, or leave the area for the duration of the fire.

The Army urges anyone who has breathing problems during the prescribed burn to call their physician or health provider, or 911.

The Army is burning off brush so it can safely remove unexploded munitions and explosives. These were left over from when the Army used Fort Ord to train soldiers to fire artillery and use explosives. Some of the shells and explosives used in training didn't explode, so they still remain on the ground, particularly on former firing ranges.

The Army wants to clean up this land before someone is killed or seriously injured, but the land is covered with brush. Before it is safe for cleanup workers to enter the land, the Army has to burn off the brush. Cleanup workers will then be able see the ground and can avoid stepping on something explosive.

APPENDIX 6: DRAFT PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
IMMINENT PRESCRIBED BURN

**Public Service Announcement
Army Announce Prescribed Burn Imminent**

The Army plans to conduct a prescribed burn at the former Fort Ord. The Army could light the fire sometime in the next few days, whenever the proper atmospheric conditions occur to minimize smoke impacts and provide adequate fire control. The Army has mobilized helicopters and other fire-fighting equipment.

The smoke from a prescribed burn at the former Fort Ord is no different than smoke from a comparable fire anywhere else. But smoke from any vegetation fire could cause temporary eye and respiratory irritation. If you are someone who has health problems that can be made worse by smoke, the Army recommends that you take such precautions as closing your windows, remaining indoors as much as possible, limiting physical activity, being sure you have adequate supplies of your medications and taking them as prescribed, and drinking plenty of liquids.

If you would like to receive personal notification by e-mail or phone that a prescribed burn has been started, or you would like to enroll in the Army's temporary relocation program, get more information by calling the hotline at (831) 242-7383 or (800) 852-9699, or by going online at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. You can also call the hotline to get daily updates on the prescribed burn.

**APPENDIX 7: DRAFT PRESS RELEASE/PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENT**

PRESCRIBED BURN STARTED

PRESS RELEASE/PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT – Prescribed Burn Started

The Army has started a prescribed burn on the former Fort Ord. The fire was started at _____ AM. The ignition phase is expected to last up to 3 hours. The purpose of the fire is to clear vegetation so it is safe for cleanup workers to remove unexploded munitions and explosives left over from when Fort Ord was an Army training center.

If you are someone who has health problems that can be made worse by smoke, the Army recommends that you take such precautions as closing your windows, remaining indoors as much as possible, limiting physical activity, being sure you have adequate supplies of your medications and taking them as prescribed, and drinking plenty of liquids. Or you may prefer to leave the area for the rest of the day.

If you have breathing problems during the fire, call your health provider or dial 911 to get medical advice or treatment.

More information is available by calling the hotline at (831) 242-7383 or (800) 852-9699, or by going online at www.FortOrdCleanup.com.

**APPENDIX 8: REFERENCES ON POSSIBLE HEALTH RISK ASSOCIATED
WITH SMOKE FROM PRESCRIBED BURNS**

Potential Health Impacts from Exposure to Smoke

Prescribed burns and wildfires are a frequent occurrence in California, and in Monterey County. Prior to 1998, fires at Fort Ord, whether prescribed burns or fires set off accidentally by firing of ordnance or explosives, were a normal occurrence. People who lived near Fort Ord prior to 1998 have been exposed to fires much larger than that currently planned, often under climatic conditions that were far less than ideal.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) encourages people to avoid breathing smoke from prescribed burns. In a fact sheet the agency stated:

“Healthy adults are not usually at a major risk, but people with heart or lung diseases, such as congestive heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema or asthma can be at risk. Children and the elderly are also more susceptible to the harmful effects of smoke.”

The CARB says the most likely symptoms for anyone who is impacted by smoke are “symptoms similar to that of a cold or allergy, including a scratchy throat, cough, irritated sinuses, headaches, running nose, and stinging eyes.” The CARB also states that: “People with lung diseases, such as asthma or bronchitis, may find it difficult to breathe, may cough, or feel short of breath.”

The CARB says that “healthy adults generally find that their symptoms (runny noses, coughing, etc.) subside after the smoke is gone.” If symptoms persist, people should consult their physicians.

A prescribed burn will, as a side effect, detonate a certain percentage of unexploded ordnance and explosives, putting emissions into the air.

Prior to the 2003 prescribed burn, members of the community expressed concern that smoke from a fire at the former Fort Ord might contain toxic substances that would pose a health risk to the community due to the presence of munitions in the burn area. During the 2003 fire, the Army conducted extensive air quality monitoring using a monitoring plan developed in consultation with environmental regulatory agencies. Air quality measurements were made for contaminants that are present in all burning vegetation, as well as contaminants that would be put in the air only if there was detonation of munitions and explosives. A prescribed burn is hot enough to detonate a percentage of unexploded munitions and explosives lying on the ground. All samples were evaluated by independent laboratories and toxic substances were not detected.

The Army sent the results of the air quality monitoring to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and asked ATSDR to evaluate the air monitoring results to determine whether smoke from the prescribed burn represents a potential health hazard to the surrounding communities. ATSDR is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR’s mission is to serve the public by providing trusted health information that will prevent harmful exposures and disease related to toxic substances.

ATSDR concluded that the effect of the Ranges 43-48 burn was “no apparent public health hazard,” and no adverse health effects are expected from exposure to smoke. The ATSDR stated that short-term exposure to the smoke could cause minor respiratory and eye irritation in sensitive individuals, but these effects would have been temporary and would have dissipated shortly after exposures ended. ATSDR recommended the Army continue with the community notification program and best fire management practices; and recommended that people who have respiratory illnesses or are especially sensitive to smoke should stay indoors or temporarily leave the area during burn events.

Additional information about possible health impacts of smoke is available at:

- California Air Resources Board (800) 952-5588 • www.arb.ca.gov
- Breathe California Central Coast (831) 373-7306 • <http://www.breathecentral.org/> [Note: This site is currently under construction, and may be unavailable temporarily.]
- Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (the principal federal public health agency responsible for evaluating the human health effects of exposure to hazardous substances) • (415) 947-4317 or (888) 422-8737 • www.atsdr.cdc.gov.