

Fort Ord Superfund Site 5th Five-Year Review Completed

U.S. Department of the Army, Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure Office
Monterey County, California | November 2022

The 5th Fort Ord Five-Year Review Has Been Completed

As of September 2022, the U. S. Department of the Army (Army) has completed a formal review of all in-place cleanup remedies for the Fort Ord Superfund Site in Monterey County, California. The results of the basewide review are documented in a report titled *Final 5th Five-Year Review Report for Fort Ord Superfund Site, Monterey County, California*. Four previous five-year reviews of Fort Ord were conducted in 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017. The next five-year review is scheduled in 2027.

What Is a Five-Year Review?

Five-year reviews involve a comprehensive evaluation of the performance of the environmental and munitions cleanup programs and an assessment of the ongoing protectiveness of human health and the environment afforded by the cleanup programs, based on a review of site data and documents, and site inspections for sites with active remedies. Community participation for this Five-Year Review included questionnaires and interviews.

Why Was a Review Conducted?

Five-year reviews are mandated by Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund) every five years after the initiation of remedial actions at sites where the levels of contaminants remaining at the site do not allow unrestricted use and unlimited exposure.

What Were the Main Questions Answered During the Review?

- Are the remedies functioning as intended and as outlined in the Record of Decision (ROD) documents? (RODs select and provides the rationale for the cleanup remedy)
- Are the assumptions used at the time of remedy selection still valid?
- Has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedies?

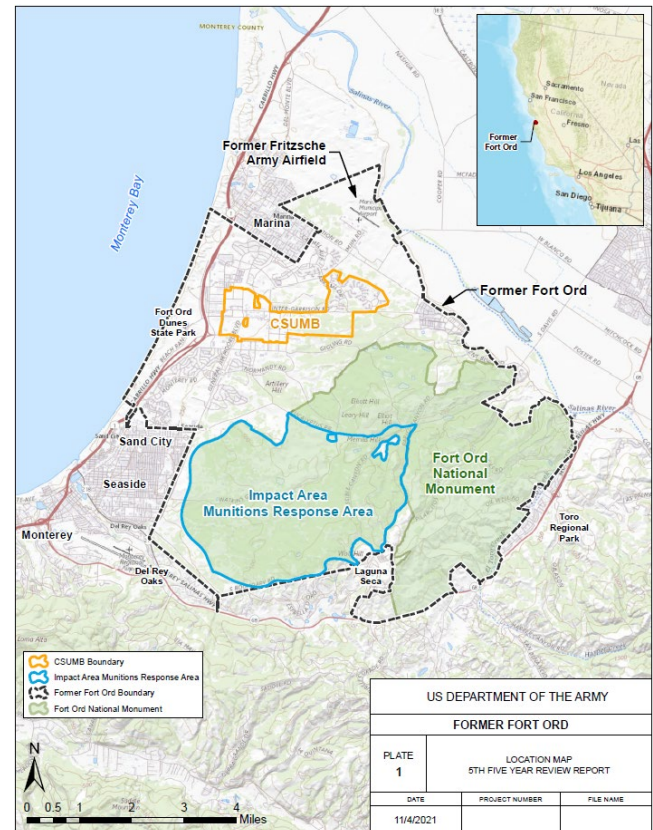
What Were the Results of the 5th Five-Year Review?

The remedies for all of the sites evaluated in the 5th Five-Year Review were deemed protective of human health and the

environment under the current land use and exposure pathways. Potential exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks are being controlled. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has concurred on the findings.

Background

The former Fort Ord Army base is adjacent to Monterey Bay in northwestern Monterey County, California, approximately 80 miles south of San Francisco. The former base consists of approximately 28,000 acres adjacent to the cities of Seaside, Sand City, Monterey, and Del Rey Oaks to the south, and the city of Marina to the north. Highway 1 passes through the western part of Fort Ord, separating the beachfront area from the rest of the base. Fort Ord served primarily as a training and staging facility for infantry troops beginning in 1917 until its closure in 1994.



Activities conducted on the base included housing and administrative functions that supported up to 40,000 military and civilian personnel. Industrial activities and military munitions training have resulted in the identification of

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numerous sites where hazardous substances and pollutants have been detected in soil and groundwater and munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) have been discovered in former munitions training areas. Since 1986, the Army has been conducting investigation and cleanup actions at the former Fort Ord. Initially, the studies concentrated on identifying chemical contaminants in soil and groundwater, generally as a result of industrial and waste disposal activities. In 1993, the Army also began investigating sites where MEC were suspected to be present.

Sites were characterized during Remedial Investigations (RI), and cleanup alternatives were evaluated in associated Feasibility Studies (FS). Cleanup remedy decisions are documented in the Records of Decision (RODs). These documents have undergone extensive regulatory agency and public review. Remedial actions are being or have been implemented at the former Fort Ord sites in accordance with the RODs.

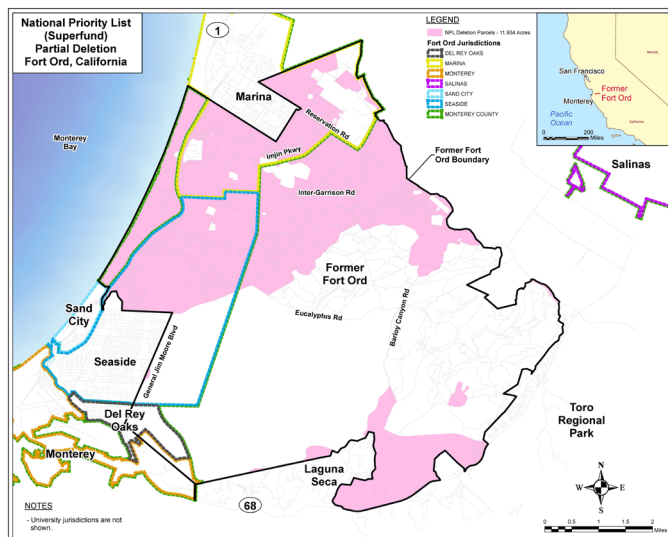
Based on successful munitions and soil cleanup efforts, on May 14, 2021, the EPA published a Federal Register notice announcing the deletion of 11,934 acres of the 27,827 acre Fort Ord Superfund site (see map below), from the National Priorities List (NPL), also known as the “Superfund list.” This partial deletion:

- included a part of the cleanup at a portion of the site where cleanup is finished; and,
- only covered cleanup work for military munitions and soil pollution.

In consultation with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (RWQCB), the EPA determined these portions met the criteria for site deletion, and that all appropriate response actions had been implemented. EPA policy allows for these cleaned up soil areas to be deleted separately from contaminated water and soil gas below the ground. The Army will continue to clean up the groundwater and soil gas on the 11,934 acres included in

this deletion, as well as the remaining 15,893 acres of the site, as these areas are still in the Superfund program and on the NPL. Selected remedies for several sites include land use controls designed to minimize the risks of exposure to prior or current contamination, such as land use restrictions and groundwater well prohibition zones. All land use controls will continue to be implemented and monitored even after the partial deletion. Five-Year Reviews are required when contaminants remain above levels that allow for unrestricted use and unlimited exposure, even if a site has been deleted from the NPL.

The Army is currently investigating potential releases of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. These substances may be present in soil and/or groundwater at Army facilities from PFAS-containing aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) or from other sources. These chemicals may enter the environment through landfills and wastewater due to their presence in consumer products or as runoff to soil and water from other uses. The Army has conducted a Preliminary Assessment (PA) following the CERCLA process. A PA is an initial review and analysis of available information (historical records, sampling data, etc.) to determine whether a release may have occurred and the potential sources and type of release(s). Based on results in the PA, the Army is conducting the next step in the evaluation, a Site Inspection, to determine the presence or absence of PFAS contamination at several sites.

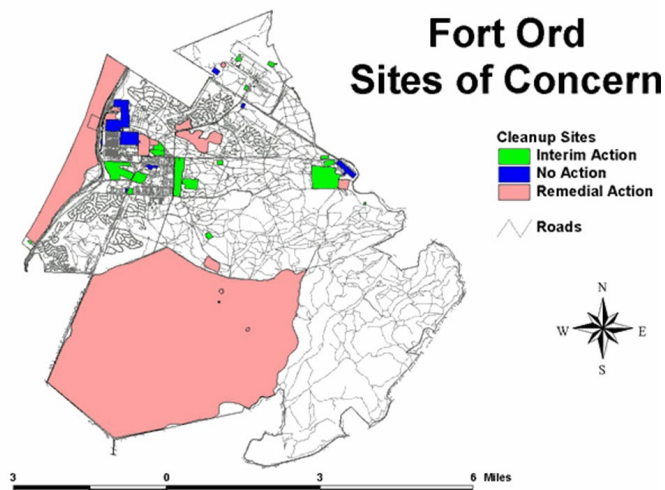


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Soil and Groundwater Cleanup Sites

Soil and groundwater cleanup sites on the former Fort Ord have been grouped into three separate remedial categories; RODs were developed for each group. These categories are illustrated on the figure below. The three categories are described as follows:

1. **Interim Action Sites** (in green) are those that had contaminated soil with a limited volume and extent and, as a result, the soils were excavated as an interim action.
2. **No Action Sites** (in blue) are those that require no further action, either because no release of contaminants was identified at the site or because the site activities are excluded under Superfund (e.g., underground storage tank remediation sites).
3. **Remedial Investigation Sites** (in rose) are those with more complex problems that require significant soil and/or groundwater remediation, development of a risk assessment, and an assessment of the applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements for cleanup.



In addition, three operable unit (OU) sites, which address geographic areas or specific site problems, have undergone considerable investigation and remedial actions. These sites are: OU1, the Fritzsche Army Airfield Fire Drill Area; OU2, the Fort Ord Landfills; and Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride (OUCTP). These OUs are described by their own individual RODs.

Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Sites

Numerous munitions response sites (MRSs) have been identified through archive searches, interviews, and visual inspections.

Types of MEC found include artillery projectiles, rockets, hand grenades, practice land mines, pyrotechnics, bombs,

demolition materials, and other items. Investigations and removal actions have been conducted in many sites since 1993. Several MRSs have undergone sufficient evaluations and have been released for unrestricted use. Munitions responses are in progress in two sites. One of the in-progress sites, the Impact Area Munitions Response Area (MRA), is fenced and danger/warning signs are posted.

Response actions designed to minimize the explosive safety risk to the public under designated future uses are ongoing. Based on the investigation and characterization conducted, RODs have been generated for groups of MRSs to specifically address the hazards.

5th Five-Year Review Findings

Soil and Groundwater Cleanup Sites

No Action Sites

Twelve sites were investigated and recommended for no further action under the No Action ROD. These sites had no land use restrictions and were evaluated in the 2nd Five-Year Review (2007). Based on recommendations in the 3rd Five-Year Review (2012), review of the No Action Sites was discontinued.

Interim Action (IA) Sites

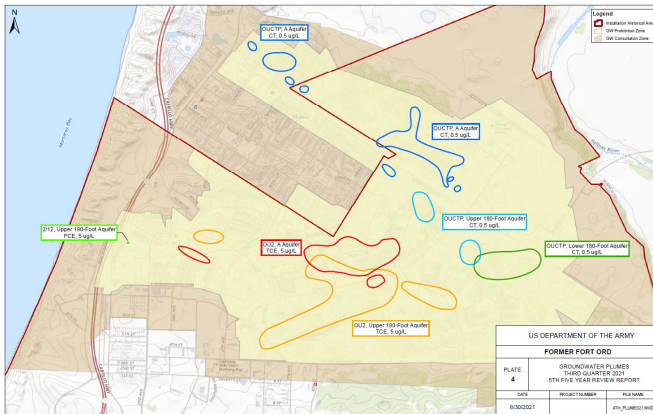
Soil cleanup has been completed at all the interim action (IA) sites through excavation, treatment, recycling, disposal of contaminated soil, and backfill of clean soil as identified in the Interim Action ROD. All 21 IA sites received regulatory agency concurrence for no further action (NFA) between 2002 and 2012. No new IA sites were identified in the 4th (2017) Five-Year Review.

The 3rd Five-Year Review recommended reevaluating 14 of the IA sites for lead because of changes to the exposure assumptions and toxicity data from a revised health guidance value (HGV) and changes to the model used to calculate lead risk. An evaluation of protectiveness was conducted from 2013 to 2017 and found that the lead concentrations were under the screening level for all sites, thereby maintaining the sites' protectiveness status. Based on the recommendation from the 4th Five-Year Review, the IA sites are no longer required to be evaluated in five-year reviews.

Remedial Investigation Sites

The Basewide Remedial Investigation (RI) Sites ROD identified nine sites. In 2002, the agencies concurred that no further action was required for four sites, which were released for unrestricted use. Five remaining active sites and three previously described OUs have been evaluated in detail in subsequent five-year reviews. For sites with groundwater contamination, the groundwater plumes are illustrated on the following figure.

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Potable drinking water on the Former Fort Ord is provided by the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD), and drinking water supplied by the MCWD meets all Federal and State regulatory standards. MCWD regularly tests drinking water quality and reports the results in an annual Consumer Confidence Report that is provided to customers and found at <https://www.mcwd.org/>.

A brief summary of the five active RI sites and three OUs follows. The effectiveness of the site remedies is discussed for each site, and the findings of the 5th Five-Year Review are provided.

Sites 2 and 12 – Soil remediation (a series of soil removal actions) is complete. The Sites 2/12 groundwater plume is being treated by a groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) constructed in 1999. The treatment system has been expanded and modified since original construction, including the addition of wells, treatment and discharge steps.

Additional investigations in 2012 and 2013 determined tetrachloroethene (PCE) in site soil gas was contributing to the groundwater contamination, but soil gas did not make a complete exposure pathway into the existing commercial buildings. A 2014 pilot study showed soil vapor extraction would speed cleanup time and reduce remediation costs. Therefore, a permanent soil vapor extraction and treatment system (SVETS) was installed as a supplemental remedy to the existing GWTP.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment concluded that the treatment systems are performing as intended and identified no issues that affect current or future protectiveness of the Sites 2 and 12 remedy. The remedy was deemed protective of human health and the environment. Monitoring data indicate that the contamination levels are nearing the remedial action goals. The Sites 2 and 12 exit strategy will be followed for reaching the final site closure of Sites 2 and 12.

Site 31 – The selected remedy at Site 31 (former dump site and reported 500-ton incinerator) involved the removal of lead-impacted soil and debris, its placement in

the Fort Ord landfill, and a deed restriction. After the initial remediation at Site 31, a section of the site on the north slope of a steep ravine was found to be contaminated with lead. After cleanup of this area was completed, a land use covenant for the north face of the ravine and the area under the power transmission lines was established. The land use covenant prohibits excavation, uncovering or disturbance of the soil, or use of the area as residential development.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment identified no issues for Site 31. The remedy was deemed protective of human health and the environment as long as the land use restrictions remain in effect.

Site 33 – At Site 33, the golf course maintenance facility, pesticides, herbicides, and metals were detected in soil at concentrations that did not pose a human health risk based on the non-residential reuse planned for this site. In addition, results of the ecological risk evaluation indicated that the low level site contamination was not likely to produce adverse effects in plant or animal populations. The remedy for Site 33, therefore, was a deed restriction on the property that prohibited residential use. The 5th Five-Year Review considered additional remediation conducted by the current property owner to remove the residential use restriction.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment identified no issues for Site 33. The remedy was deemed protective of human health and the environment.

Site 39 – The Inland Ranges were reportedly used beginning in the early 1900s for ordnance training exercises. Over the years, various types of ordnance have been used or found in the Inland Ranges, including hand grenades, mortars, rockets, practice mines, artillery projectiles, and small arms ammunition. Explosive compounds, organic compounds, and metals (principally lead) have been detected in shallow soils at several former firing ranges at levels requiring remediation. Contaminated soils from six former small arms ranges were excavated and placed at the OU2 Landfills under the Basewide Remedial Investigation Sites ROD. Under the 2009 Site 39 ROD Amendment, contaminated soils from 20 former firing ranges in habitat areas (HAs) were excavated and also placed at the OU2 Landfills. Because of changes to the exposure assumptions and toxicity data from a revised health guidance value and changes to the model used to calculate lead risk, the 4th Five-Year Review identified a need to further evaluate the protectiveness of HA-18D and HA-23D for lead under the residential use scenario.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment identified no issues for Site 39. The overall remedy was deemed protective in the short-term of human health and the environment, with long term protectiveness pending full implementation of the remedy. Currently, sites HA-18D

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and HA-23D are only protective as long as there is no residential development on these parcels, therefore, a deed restriction is in place for HA-18D and HA-23D prohibiting residential use. This deed restriction will remain in place until an agreement on the lead cleanup level is reached and, if needed, remediation is complete. Site investigation will continue within Site 39 habitat areas following MEC removal activities. If soil contamination is detected at levels that require remediation, the contaminated soil will be excavated and placed at the OU2 Landfills.

The following sites and OUs have individual RODs for each.

Site 3 – This site, the Beach Ranges, includes the 17 small arms firing ranges west of Highway 1 where the Army completed soil remediation under a ROD specific to Site 3. The area is now a California State Park and land use restrictions prohibit residential use. Post-remediation ecological monitoring program was completed in 2016. Site 3 is also known as MRS-22 under the military munitions response program (Track 1).

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment identified no issues for Site 3. The remedy was deemed protective of human health and the environment.

OU1 – Studies conducted at OU1, the Fritzsche Army Airfield Fire Drill Area, Fort Ord's first site investigation, concluded that soil and groundwater cleanups were required. About 4,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and treated, and the area was backfilled with clean soil. In addition to the soil cleanup, the site's first groundwater treatment facility was constructed in 1988 to remediate trichloroethene (TCE) and other related groundwater contaminants. In 2006, additional groundwater contamination was detected outside the area of the original treatment system and resulted in significant expansion of the OU1 groundwater treatment system. In addition, quarterly groundwater monitoring in 2005 and investigation in 2006 indicated the additional contamination extended beyond the northwest property boundary of the former Fort Ord. In August 2008, operation of an off-site groundwater treatment system began and continued until February 2009 when monitoring data indicated the remediation goals for the off-site area had been attained.

In 2014, the original GWTP and the off-site groundwater treatment system were demolished. The Northwest Treatment System was operated until late 2014 and the 4th Five Year Review determined the Remedial Action Objectives have been achieved. Since then, completion of the Closure Plan, including demolition of the treatment plant and acceptance of a closure report have been

completed, thus OU1 was not included in the 5th Five Year Review.

OU2 – The Fort Ord Landfills consist of approximately 150 acres of landfill area and the associated contaminated groundwater.

The landfill contamination has been addressed in two steps. First, waste and soil from one separate part of the landfill, Area A, were consolidated into the main landfill, allowing for clean closure of Area A (25 acres). Second, an engineered geomembrane cover (or cap) was constructed on all the remaining areas of the landfill (Areas B through F) incorporating soils from various remediation sites to build the landfill cap system. The Army continued using a seven acre portion of the capped Area E for the placement of soils excavated from Site 39 as part of the Phase I vertical expansion. Future soil excavation at Site 39 will be placed as part of the Phase II vertical expansion of Area E. A thermal treatment unit including landfill gas extraction is also operating to collect and destroy landfill gas.

A groundwater treatment facility was constructed in 1995 to remediate contaminated groundwater, primarily TCE, associated with the landfill. During this review period, the OU2 groundwater treatment facility was relocated to the landfill to help shorten the time to clean up the plume.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment recommended expanding the groundwater extraction network to improve plume capture. The technical assessment also identified the need to further assess contaminants migrating into the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer. The remedy at OU2 currently protects human health and the environment because the ongoing remedial activities continue to adequately address all exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks. Areas of the plume that are currently out of capture zones are not currently being used by any potential receptors, and potential exposure pathways are also being controlled by the restrictions of Chapter 15.08 of Title 15, Monterey County Code, and the Covenant to Restrict Use of Property. Additional evaluation of the Upper and Lower 180-Foot Aquifer plumes is needed to determine an appropriate remedy for long-term protectiveness.

OUCTP – The OUCTP is located in the north-central portion of former Fort Ord. Carbon tetrachloride was discharged to the ground after it was used to clean radio parts during the 1950s. Data collected for the site investigation indicated that carbon tetrachloride had migrated through the soil to groundwater. A soil vapor extraction system successfully removed soil vapor contamination.

Groundwater contamination has migrated downgradient and affects three aquifers. The ROD for OUCTP, signed in November 2007, identified enhanced in-situ bioremediation (EISB) as the remedy for the A-Aquifer;

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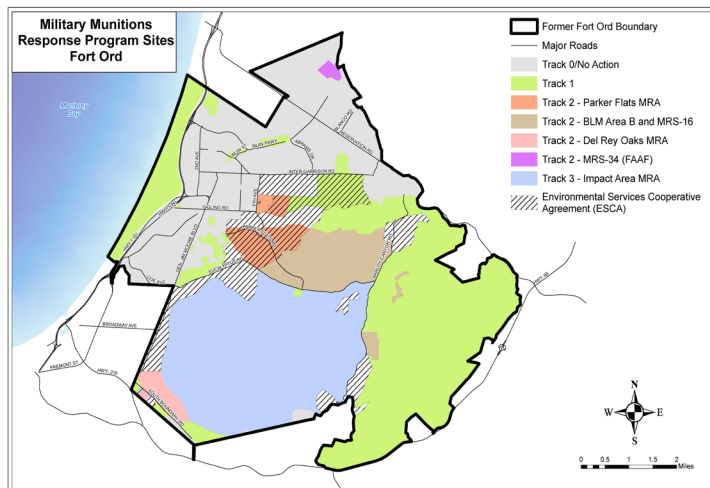
groundwater extraction and treatment using the existing OU2 treatment system for the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer; and “no action with monitored natural attenuation” for the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer. The remedies have been implemented and are ongoing.

Since the 2017 Five-Year Review, an additional EISB system was installed and completed its treatment as part of the A-Aquifer remedy. Optimization and long-term monitoring will continue until the remediation of the plume is complete.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment identified no issues for OUCTP. The OUCTP remedy is protective of human health and the environment. Ongoing remedial activities and groundwater use prohibitions continue to adequately address all exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks. The remedy is ongoing and recommendations to improve performance, reduce costs, and increase likelihood of achieving cleanup goals, including installation of new extraction and monitoring wells, are described in the 5th Five-Year Review Report.

Military Munitions Response Program Sites

The MMRP at Fort Ord categorizes areas with similar MEC-related characteristics to expedite cleanup, reuse, and/or transfer of former Fort Ord property. According to this process, an area under investigation is assigned to one of four tracks, Tracks 0 through 3.



Track 0 Areas

Track 0 areas contain no evidence of MEC and have never been suspected of having been used for military munitions-related activities of any kind. The Track 0 ROD was signed in 2002 and requires no action regarding munitions response for the Track 0 areas. The 129 areas listed in the Track 0 ROD consist largely of land that has been developed for military support or residential use throughout Fort Ord’s history. The Track 0 ROD also contains a “Plug-In” process that is used for documenting no action determinations for other areas that meet the

Track 0 criteria. Track 0 is not required to be included in five-year reviews.

Track 1 Sites

Track 1 sites are areas where military munitions were suspected to have been used, but no further action is required because investigation has shown the suspected training did not occur; the training did not involve explosive items; or training at these sites involved only the use of practice and/or pyrotechnic items which are not designed to cause injury. The Track 1 ROD was signed in 2005 and included 21 MRSs. The Track 1 ROD also contains a “Plug-In” process that is used for documenting no further action determinations for other areas meeting the Track 1 criteria.

At the conclusion of the 4th Five-Year Review, several areas had been approved as Track 1 plug-in sites. In 2019, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Area C was approved as a Track 1 plug-in site. The “no further action” remedy allows unrestricted use; therefore, Track 1 is not required to be evaluated in five-year reviews.

Track 2 Sites

Track 2 sites are areas where MEC items were present and where MEC removal actions have been conducted. Four RODs have been signed for Track 2 sites, including the Parker Flats MRA ROD and the Del Rey Oaks MRA ROD, which implemented land use controls to include MEC safety education programs for site users, construction support, and restrictions on residential use for specified areas. A Track 2 ROD was signed in 2015 recommending no further action and no use restrictions at MRS-34, the Fritzsche Army Airfield. Five-Year Reviews are not required for MRS-34.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment identified no issues affecting the protectiveness of the Track 2 Parker Flats or Del Rey Oaks MRAs. The remedies are protective of human health and the environment. Remedial actions have been completed at these MRAs. Furthermore, protectiveness is assured by long-term management measures including implementing, monitoring, and enforcing the selected Land Use Controls.

An additional Track 2 ROD was signed in 2017 for BLM Area B and MRS-16 located within Fort Ord National Monument, with portions in transferred BLM properties. The selected remedy for MRS-16 and BLM Area B sub-areas B-1, B-2, B-3A, B-4, B-5, and B-6 include the following land use controls: MEC safety education programs for site users and encouraging site users to stay on designated roads and trails, construction support, and prohibition against uses that are inconsistent with habitat reserve (such as residential use). The selected remedy for BLM Area B sub-areas B-2A and B-3 includes: (1) vegetation clearance via prescribed burning and/or cutting, (2) technology-aided surface removal of MEC

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items, (3) subsurface MEC removal in selected areas, and (4) land use controls. The selected remedial action in BLM Area B sub-areas B-2A and B-3 is largely complete except for one area (Unit A). Completion of the remaining remedial actions within Unit A is pending a prescribed burn during a future burn season. The Army has been implementing the land use controls since 2017.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment identified no issues affecting the protectiveness of the selected remedy for BLM Area B and MRS-16. The remedy is protective in the short-term of human health and the environment. For the remedy to be protective in the long-term, the remedy at Unit A will need to be fully implemented.

Track 3 Sites

Track 3 sites include areas where MEC items are known or suspected to be present. The Track 3 Impact Area MRA ROD was signed in 2008. The selected remedy includes: (1) vegetation clearance via prescribed burning, (2) technology-aided surface MEC removal, (3) subsurface MEC removal in selected areas, and (4) land use controls. Remediation is ongoing and is expected to take multiple years.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment identified no issues affecting the protectiveness of the Impact Area MRA remedy. The remedy for the Track 3 Impact Area MRA is protective in the short-term of human health and the environment, with long term protectiveness pending full implementation. In the interim, ongoing remedial activities, along with access controls, adequately address all exposure pathways. Specific controls include: security patrols; munitions recognition and safety training for authorized personnel; fencing, gate, and signage upkeep; and annual monitoring.

Interim Action Munitions Response Sites

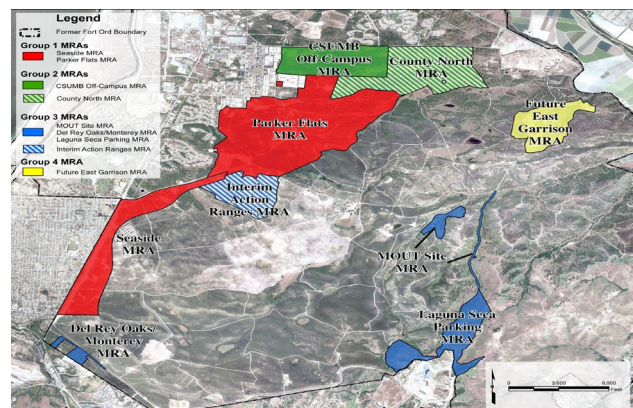
The Interim Action Munitions Response ROD was signed in 2002 and addressed three sites that contained surface MEC items with sensitive fuses, in close proximity to residential neighborhoods and schools, and with a history of trespassing incidents. The three sites are Ranges 43-48, Range 30A, and MRS-16.

The selected remedy for the Interim Action MR sites included vegetation clearance via prescribed burning and surface and subsurface MEC removal. Remedial actions have been completed for Ranges 43-48 and MRS-16. The southern portion of Ranges 43-48 and Range 30A were included in the Track 3 Impact Area MRA ROD signed in 2008. The northern portion of Ranges 43-48 was included in the ESCA Interim Action Ranges MRA ROD signed in 2017. MRS-16 was included in the BLM Area B and MRS-16 ROD signed in 2017.

The selection of final remedies for the three Interim Action sites has completed the interim action program under the 2002 Interim Action Sites MR ROD. The 4th Five-Year Review stated the Interim Action MR Sites will not be reviewed again in future Five-Year Reviews.

Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) Sites

In connection with the early transfer of a portion of the former Fort Ord, in 2007 the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) assumed some of the Army's cleanup obligations under an ESCA grant. Pursuant to the ESCA, FORA agreed to conduct the evaluation of MEC hazards on approximately 3,300 acres of the former Fort Ord and conduct remedial actions deemed necessary to protect human health and the environment under future uses.



FORA completed its ESCA remediation program in five groups defined as Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, Group 4, and the Interim Action Ranges MRA. The Group 1 MRAs include the Seaside MRA and Parker Flats MRA Phase II. A ROD was signed in 2018 for the Group 1 MRAs. The Group 2 County North MRA was documented as a Track 1 “Plug-In” site. A ROD was signed in 2015 for the Group 2 CSUMB Off-Campus MRA. A ROD was signed in 2014 for the Group 3 MRAs which include the Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRA, the Laguna Seca Parking MRA, and the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Site MRA. A ROD was signed in 2018 for the Group 4 Future East Garrison MRA. A ROD for the Interim Action Ranges MRA was signed in 2017. The selected remedies for the Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, Group 4, and Interim Action Ranges MRAs consist of land use controls that include munitions recognition and safety training for people engaged in ground-disturbing or intrusive activities, construction support, restriction on residential use in specified areas, and access management and restriction against inconsistent uses (applicable to some habitat reserve areas).

Initial implementation of the selected remedies (land use controls) was completed by FORA, and in April 2020 the EPA provided a site-wide remedial action completion

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letter for the ESCA project. The underlying properties have been transferred from FORA to the designated recipients. In June 2020 FORA ceased to exist, and the City of Seaside became the ESCA successor. As the successor, the City of Seaside coordinates and manages the long-term implementation of the land use controls on the ESCA properties.

The 5th Five-Year Review technical assessment identified no issues for the ESCA areas, and the remedies for the Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, Group 4, and Interim Action Ranges MRAs were deemed protective of human health and the environment.

How did the Community Participate in the Process?

A public announcement including an invitation to participate in the Five-Year Review process was made August 3, 2021 on the Fort Ord Cleanup web site (www.FortOrdCleanup.com). The announcement was also included in the Fort Ord Annual Report (issued October 2021) which was mailed to over 67,000 addresses in and around the former Fort Ord. A Fact Sheet explaining the Five-Year Review process was distributed in August 2021 via U.S Mail and email to a list of several thousand local community members who have expressed interest in Fort Ord activities. The Fact Sheet was made available on the Fort Ord public website: www.FortOrdCleanup.com and was accompanied by an on-line community survey. The Fact Sheet and web site posting stated that the Army was initiating a five-year review and invited the public to submit any comments to the Army community relations representative (contact information was provided in the flyer and fact sheet). The community survey was collected from August 2021 to September 30, 2021.

In August 2021, survey questionnaires regarding the site cleanup activities were mailed (to approximately 960 addresses) and emailed (to approximately 2,200 addresses) to local officials, community leaders, and other community members, and an invitation to the public to participate in the interview process was posted on the Fort Ord website. Participants could respond to the survey either via mail, phone, or on the Fort Ord Cleanup website.

The results of the review and the report are available in the Administrative Record and via the Fort Ord website. Fort Ord environmental cleanup information is also available through the Administrative Record.

As a result of this outreach effort, 18 survey questionnaires were returned by mail (one via email), two telephone interviews were conducted, and 16 surveys were returned using the on-line feature of the Fort Ord web site. The breakdown of interviews is as follows: 6

jurisdiction officials (Bureau of Land Management, City of Marina, City of Monterey, King City, Monterey County and California State University Monterey Bay), and 30 community group representatives/individuals. Surveys were structured using EPA guidance, allowing participants to discuss their interests and concerns fully and openly. Survey participants were encouraged to express their perspective and knowledge of community interests and concerns, environmental issues, and the needs of the community in relation to the cleanup.

Information gathered from the survey indicated that the majority of community members are comfortable with their level of participation in the cleanup decision process and that they were confident that the cleanup was being conducted thoroughly. Of the 36 surveys, 25 expressed they felt well-informed, and 6 did not feel well-informed about the site's activities and progress. Six comments complimented the existing outreach programs; and 16 comments specifically mentioned that the tours of and routine communications from Fort Ord were particularly informative and helpful for them. Trespassing, abandoned buildings, building graffiti, homeless encampments and dumping were mentioned in 12 surveys. Three comments associated with cleanup activities were related to the prescribed burn events and their impact on the surrounding communities. Four comments concerned groundwater cleanup and continued access to drinking water. Two expressed a desire to see the Army accelerate the cleanup process to expedite reuse and/or redevelopment of the area. Ongoing outreach efforts have noted similar community concerns and have addressed and continue to address these concerns.

Where to review the reports

The Final 5th Five-Year Review Report and other documents related to cleanup activities at the Fort Ord Superfund Site (including all Records of Decision and previous Five-Year Review Reports) are available to the public via the web site and the Administrative Record listed below. The Administrative Record document number for the 5th Five-Year Review Report is BW-2925.

Website:

www.FortOrdCleanup.com

Fort Ord Administrative Record

Building 4463 Gigling Road Room 101
Ord Military Community, CA 93944-5004
Telephone: (831) 393-9693
Appointment Required

Para obtener una copia de esta hoja informativa en Español, contacte: 831-393-1284

The Review Team

The Army is the lead agency and is responsible for conducting the review at this site. Regulatory agencies overseeing the Fort Ord cleanup under the Federal Facility Agreement are U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Central Coast Region. These agencies reviewed the report, provided comments, and have concurred on its findings.

The key review team members included:

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Special Note: For questions related to the long-term implementation of land use controls in Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement sites, please contact:

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