

SUMMARY: Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum County North Munitions Response Area Former Fort Ord

Introduction

This Fact Sheet summarizes the Draft Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum for the County North MRA. This document was prepared by Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) for the Army as part of the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA).

Track 1 Sites

Track 1 sites at the former Fort Ord are areas where military training with Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) is suspected, but No Further Action (NFA) is warranted for one of the following reasons:

- Suspected training did not occur, or
- Training did not involve explosive items, or
- Sampling investigations identified evidence of past training involving military munitions. Training at these sites involved only the use of practice and/or pyrotechnic items that are not designed to cause injury. In the unlikely event a live item of the type previously observed at the site is found, it is not expected that the item would function by casual contact (i.e., inadvertent and unintentional contact).

The Army issued a Final Track 1 Record of Decision (ROD) in April 2005 for a group of 21 Track 1 sites for which No Further Action related to MEC is required. This ROD also established and documented a Plug-In process for adding eligible sites to the Track 1 ROD in the future.

(http://www.fortordcleanup.com/docreview/ar_pdfs/AR-OE-0526/OE-0526_Track-1_ROD.pdf)

Track 1 Plug-In Process

The Army established the Track 1 Plug-In process to document No Further Action decisions for candidate sites rather than using a ROD for every site that meets the Track 1 criteria. The Plug-In process requires No Further Action decisions for candidate Track 1 sites to be documented in site-specific Approval Memoranda. The Approval Memorandum documents the reasons for a Track 1 designation and includes:

- A description of the site and its historical use
- Rationale for Track 1 designation
- A map of the site's location and any MEC-related information

The Approval Memorandum is circulated to the regulatory agencies (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and California Department of Toxic substances Control [DTSC]) and the public for review. Following a 30-day public review period, the final version of the Approval Memorandum, including public comments, and response to those comments are forwarded to the regulatory agencies for final review and approval. Figure 1 provides a graphic depiction of the review and approval process.

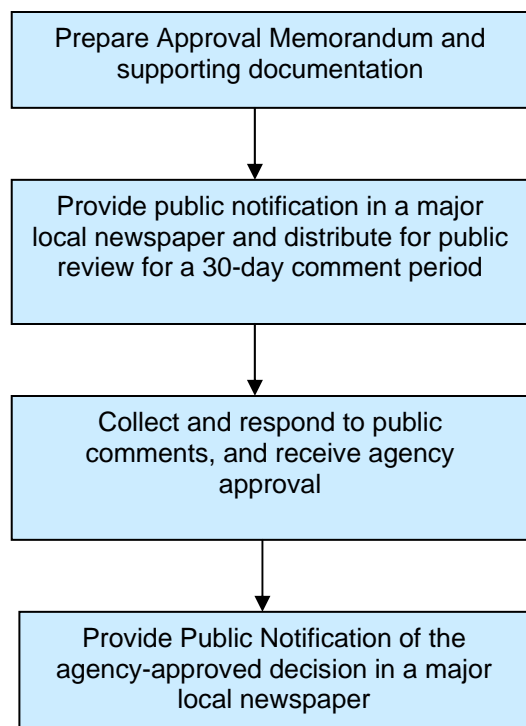


Figure 1. Review and approval process for Track 1 Plug-In sites.

Site Description

The County North MRA is located in the north-central portion of the former Fort Ord, bordered by Inter-Garrison Road to the north, the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Off-Campus MRA to the west, Gigling Road and the Parker Flats MRA to the southwest, and a portion of Watkins Gate Road and additional former Fort Ord property to the south and east. The County North MRA is within in the boundaries of County of Monterey.

The following Munitions Response Sites (MRS), as well as the adjacent non-MRS area (see Figure 2), are wholly or partially contained within the County MRA and shown in Figure 2:

- MRS-59: Combat Range and Troop Training Area
- MRS-57: Combat Range and Troop Training Area
- MRS-45: Troop Training Area
- MRS-27E: Combat Range, Bivouac Area, and Troop Training Area
- MRS-27F: Combat Range, Bivouac Area, Troop Training Area

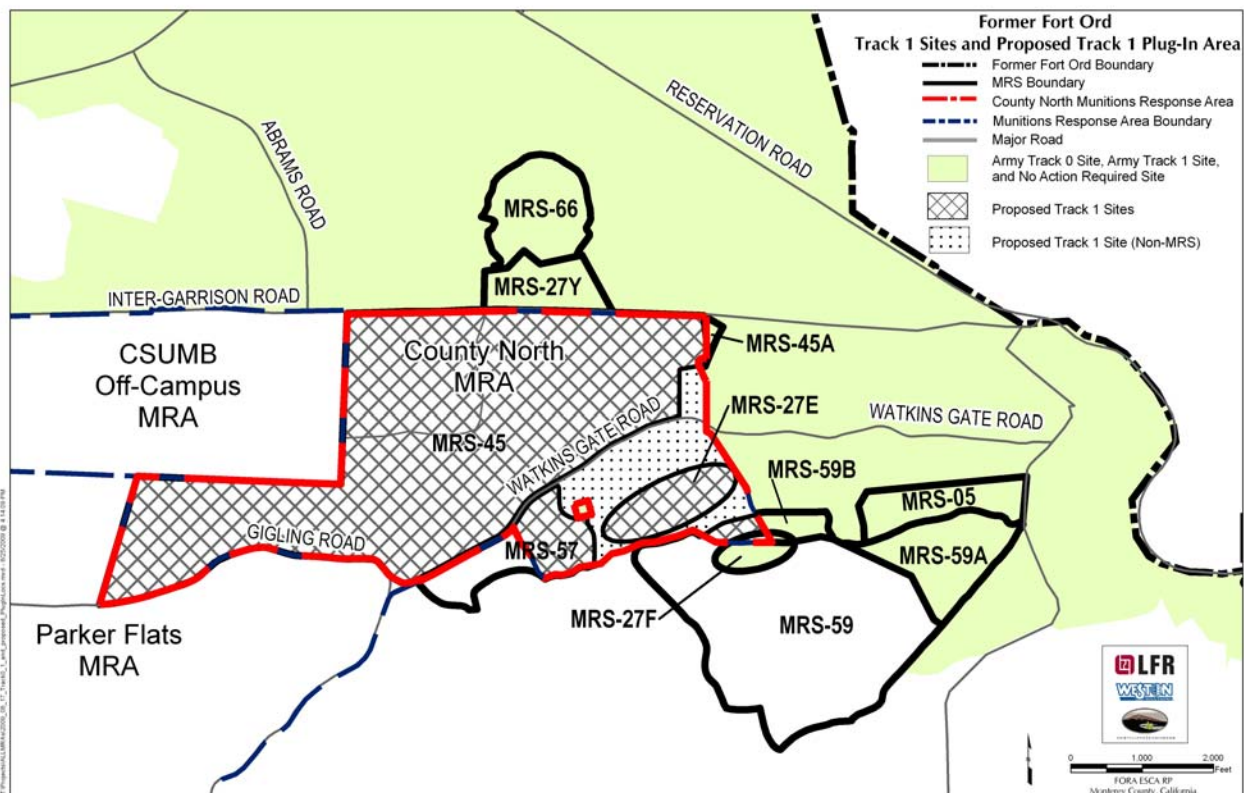


Figure 2. Track 1 MRS boundaries in County North

Track 1 Recommendations

The Army recommends Track 1 No Further Action related to MEC for the County North MRA, including approximately six acres of MRS-59 that overlaps the southeastern corner of County North MRA; approximately 22 acres of MRS-57 which overlaps the south central border of County North MRA; MRS-45, approximately 401 acres, which covers the majority of County North MRA; MRS-27E encompassing approximately 29 acres of County North MRA east of the CSUMB Off-Campus MRA between Gigling and Inter-Garrison Roads.

This No Further Action recommendation follows the Track 1 Plug-In process for the four MRSs for the following reasons:

- Past training involving military munitions involved only the use of practice and pyrotechnic items that are not designed to cause injury.
- The reconnaissance and sampling investigations were sufficient to assess the potential presence of MEC or munitions debris (MD). The level of investigation is consistent with that of other Track 1 sites.
- Based upon past use, the following MEC may be present: practice anti-tank mines, practice grenades, fuzes, smoke producing items, booby trap firing devices and simulators. If encountered, it is unlikely they could be caused to function through casual contact and therefore are considered to pose an acceptable risk.
- Numerous site investigations, sampling investigations, and surface MEC removal actions were performed in the County North MRA. Military munitions encountered during these actions are consistent with the historical use of the area for troop training. No evidence of an artillery range or rocket range was found within the County North MRA.

Site Specific Descriptions

The following summarizes the Track 1 Plug-In site specific reasons for recommendation of a No Further Action determination.

MRS-59—Training Site

A small portion of MRS-59 is contained within the southwest corner of the County North MRA. MRS-59 was subdivided into three areas: MRS-59, MRS-59A, and MRS-59B for the purpose of property transfer. Adjacent MRS-59A and MRS-59B have already been included in the “Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum, East Garrison Areas 2 and 4NE, Former Fort Ord, California” and the “Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum, Multiples Sites, Groups 1 – 5, Former Fort Ord, California” respectively. Archives search identified the following uses for the entirety of MRS-59: maneuver area and tank driving (1950s) and NCOA (1950-1960s), DSS (1960s-1990s), and driving (1970s).

A summary of investigations conducted in the area of what is now MRS-59 includes the following:

- 1996 Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI): The site walk occurred in an area immediately south of the portion of MRS-59 located within the County North MRA. MD (expended pyrotechnics) and two fragments from the incomplete detonation of a 60 millimeter (mm) mortar were found; the location appears to be southwest of the portion of MRS-59 that is located within the County North MRA. No evidence of 2.36-inch rockets reportedly used in MRA-59 was observed.
- 2001 Basewide Range Assessment (BRA): No evidence of MEC-related items, small arms ammunition, or targets were observed during this reconnaissance activity. Additionally, no target locations or concentrations of military munitions were found.

Portion of MRS-57—Training Site

MRS-57 is partially contained within the boundaries of County North MRA and is located around the intersection of Henneckens Ranch Road and Watkins Gate Road and nearby areas. Archives search identified the site as a troop training area (1940s-1990s).

A summary of investigations conducted at MRS-57 includes the following:

- 1996 PA/SI: Expended flare and signals were found. No evidence of other types of training or use as an impact area was observed.

- A surface only Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) was conducted between December 2001 and February 2002, no MEC items were found. Vegetation removal was not conducted.
- 2001 BRA: Blank casings, one signal flare, and 2 ammunitions boxes were found during a site visit. No evidence of range or concentrated areas of military munitions were found.

MRS-45—Tactical Training Area

MRS-45 encompasses approximately 400 acres (not including MRS-45A) and is located east of the CSUMB MRA. Archives search identified the former site uses as: Tactical Training area (1950s-90s), a maneuver area (1950s), and driving (1970s).

A summary of investigations conducted at MRS-45 includes the following:

- A 1996 site walk was conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) unexploded ordnance (UXO) Safety Specialist as part of a PA/SI. A grenade fuze was found in the eastern portion of MRS-45, but it was not noted if the grenade fuze was MEC or MD. A follow-up site walk identified a “dud Mark II practice grenade and an inert Mark I practice grenade”.
- Sampling conducted in 1997 revealed 12 MEC items that were pyrotechnic or training in nature, along with MD and live rounds of small arms ammunition.
- A TCRA was conducted between December 2001 and February 2002 consisting of visual searches of the ground surface. Two illumination signals were found in the western portion of the County North MRA.
- A site reconnaissance was conducted in 2001 as part of a BRA reconnaissance. No evidence of MEC-related items, small arms ammunition, or targets were observed nor was evidence of a range or concentrated areas of military munitions.

MRS-27E—Training Site

MRS-27E is one of 25 training sites identified on a training facilities map, and is wholly within the boundaries of County North MRA. Archives search identified the former site uses as combat range (1940s), maneuver area (1950s), and Non-Commissioned Officers Academy (NCOA) (1950s-60s), Division Support Services (DSS) (1960s-90s), driving (1970s), and overnight bivouac area (1980s).

A summary of investigations conducted at MRS-27E includes the following:

- 1996 PA/SI: MD (expended flares and illumination signals) was found. No evidence of other types of training or use as an impact area was observed.
- 2001 BRA: No evidence of MEC-related items, small arms ammunition, or targets were observed nor was evidence of a range or concentrated areas of military munitions.

Site MRS-27F—Training Site

MRS-27F has already been included in the Army’s 2005 “Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum, Multiple Sites, Groups 1 – 5, Former Fort Ord, California” and therefore is not included in this recommendation.

Getting Involved

A 30 day public review period for the Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum County North Munitions Response Area Former Fort Ord runs from August 28th – September 28th, 2009. The public is invited to submit comments on the Track 1 No Further Action Decision to the Army. The Approval Memorandum will be posted to the Army’s cleanup website: www.fortordcleanup.com and available for download. It will also be available for review at the locations listed below.

Following the 30-day public review period the Approval Memorandum, public comments, and response to comments will be forwarded to the regulatory agencies for final review and approval.

Fort Ord Administrative Record

Building 4463, Gigling Road, Ord Military Community, Seaside, CA. Phone (831) 393-9186
<http://www.fortordcleanup.com>

California State University Monterey Bay Library Learning Complex

Building 12, Third St., Seaside, CA, Fort Ord Cleanup Information Repository
Phone (831) 582-3733

Seaside Branch Library

550 Harcourt Avenue, Seaside, CA. Phone (831) 899-2537

SEND COMMENTS BY MAIL NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 28TH TO:

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If you have questions, contact Melissa Broadston by phone at (831) 393-1284 or by email at:
Melissa.Broadston@us.army.mil. Para obtener una copia en Espanol contacte 831-393-1284.