

# U.S. Army Community Outreach Update

## Long Term Actions Underway:

1. Initiated the process to tally and record the results of the 2019 Community Surveys in preparation for the Analysis of the 2019 Survey results and 2019-2020 Community Involvement Activities.

## Recent Activities:

1. Updated web site to includes messages on social distances in the Fort Ord National Monument,'
2. Updated web site to announce the postponement of the May 2 Guided Nature Walk. Sent messages to all those (30) with reservations.
3. Discussed outreach program with new USEPA Community Involvement Coordinator, Gavin Pauley. He had specific interest in detonation outreach protocols and building demolition/redevelopment.
4. Updated web site and fact sheets to show new USEPA Community Involvement Coordinator.
5. 16APR20 Monterey County Weekly Article: *SquidFry, Darwin Award* regarding trespassing incident that included use of metal detector.
6. 23APR20 Monterey County Weekly Article: *Forever Chemicals*, Army report analyzes the risk if PFAS chemical contamination on Fort Ord.
7. 23APR20 and 24APR20 Received email inquiries from Christine Bettencourt on issues related to detonations.
8. In progress: updates to Frequently Asked Questions regarding access in the norther portion of the Fort Ord National Monument.

## Upcoming Activities:

1. **CANCELLED** 2APR Fort Ord Cleanup Presentation to Pacific Grove High School Environmental Studies Class
2. **CANCELLED** 7APR Earth Day Fair at the Presidio of Monterey
3. **CANCELLED** 20APR CSUMB Earth Fest.
4. **POSTPONED** 2MAY20 Guided Nature Walk in the Impact Area.
5. **CANCELLED** 8MAY20 Presidio of Monterey Language Day Information Booth.
6. **18JUL20 Community Involvement Mobile Workshop.**
7. 21JUL20 Technical Review Committee.

## In Progress Response to Community Comments (RTC)

OE-0969.2	Mike Weaver, Fort Ord Community Advisory Group, comments on Bureau of Land Management Area B Munitions and Explosives of Concern Remedial Action Technical Memorandum
Pending	M. A. Wright, comments on Draft Final Technical Summary Report - Perfluorooctonic Acid and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate Basewide Review of Historical Activities and Groundwater Monitoring at Operable Unit 2, Former Fort Ord, California
OE-0978A.2	Mike Weaver, Fort Ord Community Advisory Group, comments on MRS-BLM Unit 31 Remedial Action Technical Information Paper for Public Access on Trails
OU2-722A.2	Mike Weaver, Fort Ord Community Advisory Group, comments on Draft Final Technical Summary Report - Perfluorooctonic Acid and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate Basewide Review of Historical Activities and Groundwater Monitoring at Operable Unit 2, Former Fort Ord, California



## Practice Social Distancing Outdoors

Outdoor activities can provide many health benefits when practiced safely. We recommend visiting areas close to home while avoiding very popular or crowded locations where social distancing may be difficult and limiting group activities to members of your household. Do your part when visiting public lands. Learn more about COVID-19 at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)



### Contact Information for new USEPA Community Involvement Coordinator:

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Middle Name</i>	<i>Site Code</i>	<i>Site Description</i>
Pauley	Gavin		9	REGION 9

#### ADDRESS

USEPA REGION 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
*Mail Code:* OPA-2  
San Francisco, CA 94105

#### CONTACT

*Office Phone - Extension*  
415-947-4183

*Email*  
Pauley.gavin@Epa.gov

**RICK AND ROLL...** Squid hasn't been sheltering alone. In addition to **Rosco P. Coltrane**, Squid's beloved bulldog, Squid's sister, an undersea health care worker, needs help with the wee cephalopods during long shifts. In addition to science projects (a volcano using **Mentos** and **Coke**) and art projects (chalk art with positive messages) Squid and the littles have been watching webinars designed to help people through tough times.

That was the intent of a "Town Hall" meeting sponsored by Salinas City Councilmember **Steve McShane**, who promoted it via paid ads on Facebook, providing a **Zoom** link through which anyone could join. The April 8 meeting was underway when suddenly, the music started.

LOLs! Someone was **Rickrolling** the meeting! You know, Rickrolling, in which someone inserts a video of singer **Rick Astley's** 1987 hit "Never Gonna Give You Up" into a situation where it's not called for. Hilarious, no?

Only this video wasn't just Rick Astley. It was a "happycore" video, an upbeat techno version that sped up the music to an incomprehensible speed and interspersed with images of Rick Astley singing and dancing were images of... well... lets just say Squid didn't know animated characters could do those sorts of things, really.

And neither did the Squidlets. "Squiddy, what's **hentai**?" they asked. Squid was too embarrassed to answer.

McShane tells Squid's colleague he plans on holding another town hall, this time with an invite-only link.

**DARWIN AWARD...** As much as Squid loves Squid's human readers, there are moments that make Squid grateful for having a cephalopod's evolutionary trajectory. Those moments have a name. They are called the **Darwin Awards**, recognizing individuals who improve the human gene pool by selecting out of it. As Seaside City Manager **Craig Malin** pointed out on **Twitter**, someone here was gunning for the award on April 10.

Instead of sheltering in place, this unnamed individual was busy nurturing their metal detecting hobby, hunting for loot off-trail on the former Fort Ord, where, famously, the military used to practice with bombs, leaving behind a legacy of hazard zones. He (yes, he) was arrested just north of the **California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery** by law enforcement from the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**. According to an incident report, the man was using a metal detector in an area with munitions and potentially unexploded bombs. "He was in possession of a metal detector, a large sieve, a handheld 'pinpoint' metal detector, trowel, and gloves," the report reads.

Squid implores you. Don't be that guy, especially not when you're supposed to be sheltering in place – and when health care workers are needed to deal with an outbreak of the most dangerous virus in 100 years.

## Recent

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SQUIDFRY 04.09.20: Netflix and Shill

Apr 9, 2020

SQUIDFRY 04.02.20: Lions and Tigers and Antles, Oh My

Squid Apr 2, 2020

SQUIDFRY: Helter Shelter

Squid Mar 26, 2020

SQUIDFRY: My My My My Corona...

Mar 19, 2020

More Squid Fry »

**From:** [sky walker](#)  
**To:** [Broadston, Melissa M CTR \(USA\)](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: Detonation Notice – US Army Fort Ord BRAC – 18 March 2020 (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 22, 2020 6:40:12 PM

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All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Dear Melissa,  
Have you had or are you having anymore detonations? hope your healthy, happy, wealthy, etc.

On Tue, Mar 17, 2020 at 2:44 PM Broadston, Melissa M CTR (USA) <[melissa.m.broadston.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:melissa.m.broadston.ctr@mail.mil)> <Caution-<mailto:melissa.m.broadston.ctr@mail.mil>>> wrote:

Subject: Detonation Notice – US Army Fort Ord BRAC – 18 March 2020 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Detonation of suspected Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) items is scheduled for Wednesday, 18 March 2020, between 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM within the Fort Ord restricted Munitions Response Site (MRS) - Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (Impact Area). The detonation will occur on Nowhere Road near Unit 12.

Using two explosions (shots), eight (8) suspected UXO items and miscellaneous items will be detonated. The items include suspected 4.2 inch projectiles (2), a M49 surface trip flare, 81mm projectiles (3), a 60mm projectile, a 40mm projectile, perforators, detonation cord, blasting caps, and shock tube. The items to be detonated were located during recent MRS and BLM Area B Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) removal actions. The net explosive weight of the combined detonation, which is the explosive content of all the items and the associated detonation charges, will be 40.979 lbs.

Local residents, municipal activities, public roadways and commuter traffic will not be significantly impacted by this operation. The detonation safety exclusion zone (radius) of 1,579 feet for the items is fully contained within the fenced and posted impact area of the former Fort Ord. The area of the detonation safety exclusion zone will be closed to all nonessential personnel during detonation operations.

The detonation site is approximately:

- 1.35 miles (7,111 ft.) from the nearest residential area (Laguna Seca area);
- 2.48 miles (13,087 ft.) from the City of Seaside; and
- 3.28 miles (17,329 ft.) from the southern extent of the CSUMB campus.

Some noise may be discernible and smoke visible from these and other locations.

Additional information concerning the Fort Ord Military Munitions Response Program and MEC detonation is available on the Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup website: [fortordcleanup.com](http://fortordcleanup.com) < Caution-<http://fortordcleanup.com> > .

For questions, please contact the Fort Ord BRAC Community Relations Office at 831-393-1284.

[http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local\\_news/army-report-analyzes-chemical-contamination-on-fort-ord/article\\_e12585a2-84f1-11ea-a0df-27f397](http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/local_news/army-report-analyzes-chemical-contamination-on-fort-ord/article_e12585a2-84f1-11ea-a0df-27f397)

## Army report analyzes the risk of PFAS chemical contamination on Fort Ord.

Asaf Shalev  
Apr 23, 2020

FYI: Photo related to / taken for munitions program.



William Collins oversees the Army's cleanup efforts at Fort Ord, where investigators are looking for PFOA and PFOS, but not yet other chemicals in the PFAS family.

Matt Koller

The U.S. military's use of firefighting foam containing "forever chemicals" known as PFAS has left a legacy of toxic contamination at hundreds of bases nationwide. These chemicals were introduced to Monterey County soil and groundwater when Fort Ord was still an active installation, but the military says that the risk to public health here is low.

"Fortunately, compared to other [Department of Defense] sites, the presence of PFAS is not that extensive," says William Collins, environmental coordinator of the military's local Base Realignment and Closure office. "The chemicals were not frequently used here and not in large quantities."

Collins' conclusion is the result of an ongoing technical investigation initiated in 2017, as concerns about the environmental and health impacts of the chemicals began to swell around the country.

The family of chemicals known as per – and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are made in laboratories and do not occur in nature. They are characterized by strong bonds that never break down, earning them the name "forever chemicals." For the military, PFAS proved invaluable in suppressing fires caused by aircraft accidents and training exercises.

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"Where we found PFAS, it is being removed."

These chemicals are not only persistent in the environment but also hazardous to human health. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Environmental Protection Agency and others have found links between PFAS and autoimmune diseases, thyroid disease, kidney and testicular cancer and endocrine disruption.

The military and certain private interests have pushed back against attempts to regulate PFAS as but two of the members of the chemical group, PFOA and PFOS, may soon become restricted under the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act.



The investigation into the danger of these chemicals at Fort Ord is being carried out by Ahtna Environmental, Inc., under a multi-million-dollar contract with the U.S. Army. In February, Ahtna published a [1,345-page draft report](#), which is being reviewed by the EPA and the California State Water Resources Control Board. It's a historical review of activities that took place at Fort Ord, plus the results of some groundwater monitoring.

The work started with a list of locations in Fort Ord where the release of PFAS would have been likely, including fire training areas, aircraft crash sites, aviation hangars, landfills and wastewater treatment plants. More than 40 potential sites were identified. Those sites were then analyzed using archival records, and many were ruled out as safe. Finally, more sites were eliminated after interviews with current and former base officials.

What was left were five sites where the military says more investigation is needed: a training area, a burn pit, aviation hangars, a sewage treatment plant, and helicopter defueling area, and a landfill. These are places that the military is cleaning or might have to clean up.

But, Collins says, the report shows no indication that the toxic PFAS chemicals from Fort Ord entered the region's supply of drinking water. A water treatment facility built in the 1990s to clean up trichloroethane in the aquifer also happened to catch PFAS, he says: "The good news is that where we found PFAS, it is being removed."

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## Asaf Shalev

Asaf Shalev is a staff writer at the Monterey County Weekly. He covers higher education, the military, the environment, public lands and the geographic areas of Seaside, Monterey, Sand City, Big Sur and Carmel Valley.