

Appendix 1
PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

COMMENTS REGARDING COMMUNICATIONS	ARMY RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some people felt they had not been properly informed about what they should expect from a prescribed burn. One urged the Army to take significant steps to restore public trust before carrying out any future burns. 	<p>The amount of information provided to the public was extensive. It included two community bulletins, each sent by direct mail to 50,000 households, full and half-page advertisements in local newspapers, a number of front-page newspaper stories, and radio and television stories. People may have been taken by surprise at the amount of smoke, which exceeded the Army's expectations as well.</p> <p>The Army did conduct a public meeting and poster session during which citizens could talk directly to senior decision makers from the Army and regulatory agencies.</p>
<p>Some people said that enough information was available prior to the burn and felt well informed</p>	<p>No response required.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One individual said there was no real public involvement 	<p>The Army provided a number of forums -- including public hearings -- during 2002, before the decision was made to conduct prescribed burns, to provide opportunities for the comment on this decision. During 2003, the primary focus was on providing public information, as discussed in this report.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several comments reported difficulty getting up-to-date information from organizations such as the American Red Cross, local fire and police agencies and nearby businesses, and suggested that more needed to be done to inform these organizations 	<p>American Red Cross staff was briefed prior to the prescribed burn, and information was provided by phone to a Red Cross staff member. The Fort Ord hotline number was advertised extensively as the preferred method for providing up-to-date information. The hotline was called by 3496 individuals during the week of the prescribed burn.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some people requested adequate advance notice to the public and better follow-up information as the burn is happening 	<p>As noted above, advance notice included two community bulletins, each sent by direct mail to 50,000 households, full and half-page advertisements in local newspapers, a number of front-page newspaper stories, and radio and television stories. A media room was established, and briefings were given to the media as new information became available. The hotline was available for people requesting additional information.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One comment suggested a “prescribed burn registry” program, under which people who would be directly impacted by a burn would get calls from the Army’s staff 	<p>Such a prescribed burn registry already exists. People who wish to receive direct notice of prescribed burns may complete a relocation application and will receive direct recorded phone messages from the Army.</p>
<p>One person commented that the web site (www.FortOrdCleanup.com) was useful</p>	<p>No response required</p>
<p>One individual stated that the Army should post warning signs about the potential danger of unexploded ordnance, although this should not be necessary in housing projects</p>	<p>Numerous explosives warnings signs are posted on all the fences surrounding areas where unexploded ordnance or explosives could be located.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comment was made that the amount of smoke and ashes caught many people by surprise, and the Army should promote awareness of the consequences of the burn so people could avoid being exposed to hazardous chemicals 	<p>Due to the fire escaping the primary containment lines, the amount of smoke generated by the fire exceeded the Army’s expectations as well. Community Bulletin 5 & 6, which were each sent by direct mail to 50,000 households, described the constituents in smoke and the assessment potential health impacts.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One commenter urged the Army to educate the public on the environmental benefits of a controlled burn 	<p>The community bulletins, paid advertisements, and media releases, have all discuss the environmental benefits of prescribed burns, specifically the rejuvenation of maritime chaparral following a prescribed burn.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several people asked for more information about how and why the community was so impacted by smoke, and requested an opportunity to discuss the fire with the people who made the decision to proceed with the burn 	<p>The Army will soon be mailing Community Bulletin #7, which addresses directly the issue of how and why the community was so impacted by smoke. The Army did conduct a public meeting during which the public could present comments directly to key decision makers from the Army and environmental regulatory agencies.</p>
<p>COMMENTS REGARDING THE RELOCATION PROGRAM</p>	
<p>Several people expressed their appreciation of and support for the relocation program and said they would be relocating during any subsequent burns</p>	<p>No response needed</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two people said they had difficulty finding the relocation office 	<p>Comment noted. Directions to the Relocation Office were recorded on the hotline. Additional street signs were posted during the prescribed burn period pointing out the location of the relocation office.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One person said she was told that only 300 people would be relocated because there was not sufficient funding to relocate more people 	<p>This information is incorrect. Everyone who requested relocation was relocated. There was a constraint on the number of pre-paid rooms based on the number of people who requested them 48 hours prior to relocation. People who requested pre-paid rooms during the prescribed burn itself were accommodated if unused rooms were available.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One person said there should be consideration for people who are unable to leave the area for work-related or other reasons 	<p>The Army provided information in Community Bulletins about steps that people who remained in the community could take to reduce exposure to smoke.</p>