

# Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Field Check Program and Fort Ord Inspection and Incident Digital Reporting Application (FODIIRA)

## Status Report April 27, 2020

### What it is

BRAC team conducts regular field visits to the Impact Area Munitions Response Area (MRA) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Area B. The remedial action in the Impact Area is in progress. The remedial action in BLM Area B is substantially complete; cleanup of Unit A remains to be conducted. As part of the selected remedy and to supplement the Munitions Response Site (MRS) Security Program efforts, field visits are conducted to

- 1-Show presence of project personnel to deter potential trespassing and illegal activities.
- 2-Detect and report act or evidence of trespassing and illegal activities.
- 3-As part of a follow-up action to previous findings.

All field visits address #1 and provide opportunities for #2.

### Activities and findings January 2020-March 2020

Munitions response field activities continued to occur in both areas through February 2020. BRAC field visit frequency increased from 1-2 visits per week in January 2020 to 2-4 visits per week in March 2020 (including some follow-up visits to previous findings).

Numbers of visits\*

	Impact Area MRA	BLM Area B
January 2020	4	4
February 2020	5	4
March 2020	11	5

\*Primary inspection areas. Some visits address both areas.

Numbers of Impact Area MRA trespassing and evidence of trespass incidents recorded in FODIIRA\*\*

	Impact Area MRA
January 2020	2
February 2020	2
March 2020	8

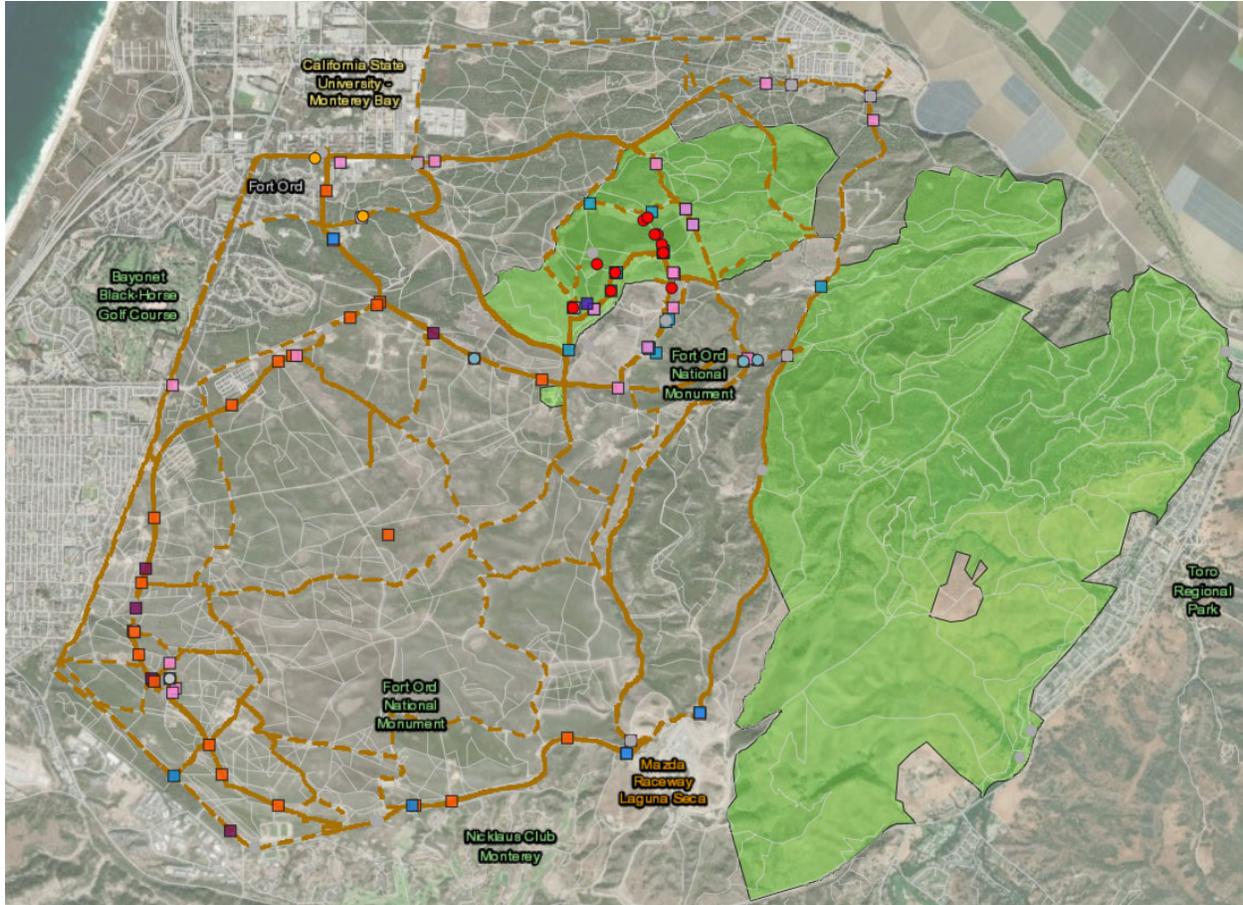
\*\*Data collection process continues to evolve to improve consistency and efficiency.

Incidents recorded in FODIIRA may not be the same as those reported under the MRS Security Program.

- Trails within BLM Area B Unit B were reopened in early-February, followed by those in Unit A in mid-February. Recorded incidences of evidence of trespassing decreased after the administrative trail closures ended. In March 2020, recreational use patterns began to change due to County- and State-wide shelter-in-place orders. BLM closed the Badger Hills and Creekside Terrace parking areas in the eastern portions of the Fort Ord National Monument. Gates on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Extension at Gigling Road, and on Parker Flats Cut-off south of Normandy/Parker Flats Road, were closed. The BRAC team will continue to visit BLM Area B.

- It should be noted that some field visits encompass portions of both BLM Area B and the Impact Area MRA. Some unplanned visits and other activities (such as biologists visiting sites) were not captured in the digital system.
- In January, an illegal encampment was detected near Blue Line Road and several follow-up visits resulted. Several fence breaches were detected in a stretch of the Blue Line Road consistent with findings in the past year. This area has been subjected to increased surveillance and closer inspection by the Army and BLM.

Field check routes in March 2020



**Outlook for the next period**

- The increased level of recreational access is anticipated to continue for the next several months. On April 12, an individual was found by law enforcement with evidence of metal detecting (non-federal property off Parker Flats Road), and was referred for follow-up enforcement action. The BRAC field visit will continue with 1-2 visits per week to BLM Area B to maintain visibility of routine presence of project personnel.
- The Army kiosks and BLM Area B website will be updated to emphasize the trail use rules and prohibition on metal detecting.
- The potential for illegal encampment and unauthorized entry into the southwestern portion the Impact Area remains elevated. The BRAC field visit will continue with 1-2

visits per week to the Impact Area, including routine fence check. BRAC will communicate regularly with BLM and law enforcement personnel about activities, findings, and any follow-up actions.

- The week of April 13, Burleson began habitat monitoring activities in the Impact Area MRA and BLM Area B. Monitoring areas differ daily. They provide indication to the public of continuing Army activities and staff presence.

## **Background**

The remedial action for the Impact Area MRA began in 2008. The Impact Area MRA is designated as the restricted MRS, and is surrounded by a perimeter fence system as described in the MRS Security Program. Law enforcement on Army property is provided by Presidio of Monterey Police Department (POMPD).

The remedial action for BLM Area B and MRS-16 began in 2017. As of March 2020, all required remedial actions are complete with the exception of Unit A. Unit A is within transferred BLM property and is designated as a controlled MRS. The site is within the Fort Ord National Monument managed by BLM, and designated roads and trails are open for public recreational use. The selected remedy includes public education to inform the public of the 3Rs of explosives safety, as well as to encourage people to adhere to access management guidelines (BLM public use rules). Unauthorized off-trail use is disallowed. Law enforcement on BLM property is provided by BLM. The BLM Area B and MRS-16 site encompasses both Army and BLM properties.

The constrained funding scenario for FY20-FY21 resulted in a gap in munitions response contract at Fort Ord. Anticipating the reduction in the number of project personnel regularly operating in the in-progress munitions response sites at the end of the munitions response contract in March 2020, BRAC began planning for the field check program to supplement the site security measures by conducting routine fence check and field check to maintain regular presence of project personnel to deter potential trespassing and illegal activities; and detect evidence of unauthorized activities. The process I frequently reviewed to improve on documenting fence check findings. A new munitions response contract is expected in FY22.

## **Procedures**

Since December 2019, BRAC staff has been conducting field visits to BLM Area B and the Impact Area MRA approximately three times per week. The theme of each visit differs based on the site security status of the sites. Generally, Impact Area fence check is conducted weekly, BLM Area B is visited weekly, and additional visits are made to the Impact Area MRA and/or BLM Area B each week.

The field visits and findings are recorded electronically via FODIIRA. The FODIIRA system was initially developed in December 2019 and has been improved, adding functionalities over time. Additional modifications are expected to make data collection process more efficient.

Using FODIIRA, the following data are recorded:

- Field visit route
- Evidence of trespassing
- Evidence of potential illegal activities
- Other site security-related findings

Recommended follow-up actions are referred to appropriate parties. Follow-up visits are recorded with FODIIRA. An example is a finding of fence breach during a regular inspection; one or more follow-up visits may be made by an investigation team, fence repair personnel, law enforcement agency, or an illegal camp contractor.

This program works within the framework of the MRS Security Program and supplements the MRS Security Program.