

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

Status Report July 13, 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 April 2020-June 2020

The munitions response contractor completed demobilization in March 2020. BRAC maintained field visit frequency of three visits per week or more (including some follow-up visits to previous findings).

Numbers of visits*

	Impact Area MRA	BLM Area B
April 2020	10	7
May 2020	10	7
June 2020	12	8

*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
April 2020	8
May 2020	7
June 2020	2

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

Incidents reported by BLM Law Enforcement are included in the table.

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

- In March 2020, recreational use patterns began to change due to County- and State-wide shelter-in-place orders. A significant increase in daily use continued into the reporting period. The Army kiosks and BLM Area B website were updated in May to emphasize the trail use rules and prohibition on metal detecting. It appears that after the Memorial Day, as the shelter-in-place restrictions began to be relaxed, the uses may be slightly declining. By the end of June, the Badger Hills and Creekside Terrace parking areas in the eastern portions of the Fort Ord National Monument were reopened. BRAC visits have not detected any trespassing or evidence of trespassing in BLM Area B during the reporting period.

- It should be noted that some field visits encompass portions of both BLM Area B and the Impact Area MRA. Routine field visits by BRAC biologist are now recorded in the digital system.
- Segments of Blue Line Road near Nowhere gate and Bitter gate have had repeated detections of fence breach or tampering, and have been subjected to increased surveillance and closer inspection by the Army and BLM. Detections of evidence of trespassing (by BRAC and BLM) declined in frequency in June.
- BLM Law enforcement continues to detect evidence of trespassing in the MOUT site area.
- In May, Presidio of Monterey Police Department began patrolling segments of the Impact Area perimeters. BLM resumed fuel break and road maintenance work at various locations. Burlerson continued its habitat monitoring activities at various locations.

Field check routes in April 2020-June 2020



Outlook for the next period

- The level of recreational access may be slightly declining in the northern portion of the Fort Ord National Monument. Evidence of trespassing is rarely seen. 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.
- While no additional illegal encampment has been found inside the Impact Area MRA, the potential for unauthorized entry into the southwestern portion the Impact Area remains. 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 MOUT site area continues to be an area of interest to trespassers. The MOUT gate area will continue to be visited regularly by the BRAC team. As of July 7, the property is in the process of being transferred from Fort Ord Reuse Authority to Monterey Peninsula College (MPC). BRAC will communicate with MPC the procedures for access to the site (through the Impact Area MRA gate) as well as the effort to detect and report trespassing.

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.