

**Munitions Response (MR) Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT)  
Meeting Minutes  
14 April 2021**

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the meeting was held via conference call.

Members/Invited Attendees

Maeve Clancy, EPA  
Brett Leary, DTSC  
Bill Collins, Fort Ord BRAC  
Duane Balch, USACE  
Curtis Payton, USACE  
Eric Morgan, BLM  
Derek Lieberman, Ahtna  
Abraam Guirguis, City of Seaside

Chris Callaghan, City of Seaside  
Melissa Broadston, Chenega  
Betsy Hibbits, Chenega  
Aaron Kochman, Chenega  
Bart Kowalski, Chenega  
Chieko Nozaki, Chenega  
Val Valdez, Chenega

Acronyms

BLM           Bureau of Land Management  
DTSC         California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
EPA           U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
USACE        U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Agenda

<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Community Relations	Update	by Melissa Broadston
Property Transfer	Update	by Derek Lieberman
Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA)	Update	by Chris Callaghan and Abraam Guirguis
Site Security Program	Update	by Betsy Hibbits
Fieldwork/Impact Area Munitions Response Area	Update	by Curtis Payton
Report Status	Update	by Chieko Nozaki
Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) Schedule	Update	by Chieko Nozaki
Action Items	Review	by Chieko Nozaki
Next meetings	Schedule	by Chieko Nozaki

**Community Relations** - The Army provided an update on community outreach.

1. **Recent Activities:** On 28 February Army BRAC provided a Fort Ord cleanup Zoom presentation to Pacific Grove High School's Environmental Studies class. Trespassing citations were publicized on the website. Army BRAC updated the 8 BLM Area B kiosks in March and conducted outreach in the field. On 30 March an information request from a potential homebuyer in Marina's Sea Haven neighborhood was received; follow-up is complete. On 25 March a new fact sheet was added to the website in response to recent trespass incidents. On 30 March a media request was received from an Associated Press reporter for general information about the Fort Ord cleanup project. A tour and interview were scheduled for 28 April. On 30 March a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) official made an inquiry via a comment feature on fortordcleanup.com. Nautical charts and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (33 CFR 334.1150) refer to a danger zone for a firing range. Army BRAC will respond that there is no longer a need for a range fan.
2. **Upcoming Activities:** Tentative publication of Public Comment Period for Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) Number 11, Amendment Number 1. 28 April tour and interview for Associated Press. Nature Walk(s) may be scheduled with timing dependent on pandemic public gathering requirements. Army BRAC will issue the 2021 community outreach survey in April and accept completed surveys through 30 June 2021. 20 July Technical Review Committee (topic: munitions). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has drafted a responsiveness summary addressing comments received on the proposed partial deletion of Fort Ord from the National Priorities List. The responsiveness summary is with EPA HQ for review. The final rule is anticipated in May 2021.

**Property Transfer** - The Army provided an update on recent property transfer actions.

1. **Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) 11: Parcels L2.3 and L2.4.1**
  - a. The FOST had been signed (in 2017) prior to the change that ended Army's participation in the State Covenant to Restrict the Use of Property (CRUP) process. There is a need to amend the FOST to document the changes. The amendment will remove the reference to Army participation in the State CRUP process and update the processes for response to incidental munitions discoveries and annual reporting of land use controls.
  - b. The Army will hold a 7-day public comment period for the FOST amendment. The Army provided a draft FOST amendment and public notice on 13 January to USEPA, DTSC, Seaside, and Monterey County for review. USEPA requested update to USEPA contact information. DTSC provided a comment letter. Fort Ord BRAC has responded to the DTSC's comment letter and provided a draft memorandum to file for coordination. The 7-day public comment period will be held after the execution of the memorandum.
  - c. The Army will provide the draft deed to US EPA and DTSC for review after USACE HQ review. The Army will execute the deed after DTSC has a CRUP in place with the City of Seaside.
2. **Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) 12: Parcels E20.c.1 and S2.12**
  - a. Draft deeds are in progress.
3. **Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) 13: Parcel L36**
  - a. Draft deed is in progress.
4. **Letter of Transfer: Parcel L20.4**
  - a. The letter of transfer had been staffed for signature in 2013. The transfer package is currently under review for possible updates and resubmission.
5. CERCLA warranty documents for non-ESCA early transfer parcels are in progress.

**ESCA Update** - City of Seaside provided an update.

1. ESCA continues to coordinate with the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery to dissuade any reconstruction or expansion of the unauthorized bike tracks. The illegal bike track on the east side of the cemetery property has been dismantled by Cal-Vet. The Cemetery is conducting regular inspections, and signage is planned. No additional track construction has been found during recent inspections.
2. ESCA visited the location of another illegal bike ramp in the County North Munitions Response Area (MRA) and coordinated with the County of Monterey on plans to dissuade unauthorized bike tracks.
3. ESCA discovered two homeless individuals camping in Seaside's ESCA land between General Jim Moore Boulevard and the Army's Impact Area MRA on 23 March. City of Seaside Police Department posted 72-hour notice to vacate. Seaside Public Works contractors cleaned up the site three days later. Seaside ESCA asked other jurisdictions for cooperation on illegal camping. The City of Monterey discovered an illegal camp on their former Fort Ord property on 4 March; it was cleaned up on 5 March.
4. The ESCA Signage Committee met on 7 April to coordinate signage updates between jurisdictions to ensure consistency.
5. Army BRAC and regulatory agencies had commented on draft construction support plan including anomaly avoidance for a fence installation and other pre-development investigations at the MOUT site. A revised draft has been distributed for backcheck. The regulatory agencies will respond in 30 days.
6. The ESCA Long Term Obligations (LTO) meeting is scheduled for 5 May.

**Site Security Program**—The Army provided a description of recent munitions, trespass, and security incidents, community education events, and related training. A status report detailing BRAC field check activities and findings was provided.

1. Status of follow-up actions from annual Security Committee Meeting and past BCT meetings
  - a. Presidio of Monterey Police Department (POMPD) and BLM Law Enforcement patrol daily
  - b. BRAC staff site visits three or more times weekly
  - c. BLM (Morgan) noted the Army funds one full time equivalent (1FTE) law enforcement position at Fort Ord, as well as non-commissioned BLM rangers who make contacts with the public.
  - d. Planned Purchases
    - i. Danger signs to install around the perimeter of Unit A
    - ii. Five multi-lock gate systems and installation
    - iii. Six motion-activated cameras
    - iv. Concertina wire
    - v. Radio batteries
  - e. Planned Safety Signage
    - i. Gate name signs for high use perimeter gates
    - ii. No Parking Fire Lane signs for gates at 8<sup>th</sup> & Gigling
    - iii. Explosives Storage Location (ESL) replacement signs
    - iv. Repair and update or remove two large Impact Area danger signs
2. The MRS Security Committee Annual Meeting was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Draft meeting minutes were distributed to the attendees for review.
3. Security Program annual report is in development.
4. Anticipated issues in the near future

- a. Deterring and/or citing trespass into restricted areas with explosive hazards
- 5. Trespass Incidents Overview
  - a. Trespass incidents reported since the last BCT meeting (2/10/2021 – 4/8/2021): 12
    - i. 6 of the 12 incidents were documented by BLM’s surveillance camera near the MOUT site
    - ii. All incidents were in Impact Area MRA; none in BLM Area B
    - iii. Trespass citations issued to two individuals on 3/2/2021.
  - b. Year to date (1/1/2021 through 4/8/2021): 35 trespass incidents.
- 6. Trespass Incidents Details
  - a. 2/12/2021: Impact Area MRA Fence breach along Barloy Canyon Road.
  - b. 2/17/2021: Impact Area MRA Fence breach near Range 43 Gate.
  - c. 2/19/2021: Impact Area MRA fence breach near Nowhere Gate.
  - d. 2/25/2021: Impact Area MRA fence breach near Nowhere Gate.
  - e. 2/28/2021 at 4:11 p.m.: Surveillance camera near MOUT site documented four trespassers on foot.
  - f. 3/2/2021 at 12:06 p.m.: Chenega staff discovered two trespassers on the MOUT site. The trespassers exited through the Army's Impact Area. POMPD cited the trespassers. Surveillance camera documented the incident.
  - g. 3/6/2021 at 12:09 p.m.: Surveillance camera near MOUT site documented two trespassers on foot.
  - h. 3/6/2021 at 1:58 p.m.: Surveillance camera near MOUT site documented two trespassers on foot.
  - i. 3/13/2021 at 1:30 p.m.: Surveillance camera near MOUT documented two trespassers on foot.
  - j. 3/14/2021: Impact Area MRA fence breach at Riso Ridge Gate.
  - k. 3/15/2021 at 1:41 p.m.: Surveillance camera near MOUT site documented two trespassers on foot.
  - l. 3/24/2021: Eleven missing PVC fuel break markers inside Impact Area MRA near Bitter Gate.
- 7. Munitions incidents reported since the last BCT meeting (2/10/2021 – 4/8/2021): 5
  - a. Year to date (1/1/2021 through 4/8/2021): 5
  - b. Four of the incidents were munitions debris (no explosive hazard) found at a construction site in Marina. Army BRAC provided a follow-up to the MR BCT on 11 March summarizing the historical information which indicated that it was likely that the discovered munitions debris items had been discarded.
- 8. Munitions incidents details
  - a. 2/16/2021: Munitions debris from a signal, illumination, ground (model unknown) found on Trail 50 in the Fort Ord National Monument.
  - b. 2/22/2021: Munitions debris from rocket, 3.5-inch, practice, M29 found at a Shea Homes construction site in Marina (4th Ave. and 9th St.).
  - c. 3/5/2021: Munitions debris from rocket, 3.5-inch, practice, M29 found at a Shea Homes construction site in Marina (4th Ave. and 9th St.).
  - d. 3/9/2021: Munitions debris from rocket, 3.5-inch, practice, M29 found at a Shea Homes construction site in Marina (4th Ave. and 9th St.).
  - e. 3/10/2021: Munitions debris from projectile, 105mm, smoke, M84 series found at a Shea Homes construction site in Marina (4th Ave. and 9th St.).
- 9. Community Education Participants
  - a. Year to date (1/1/2021 through 4/8/2021): 0

10. Munitions Recognition and Safety Training Participants
  - a. (1/1/2021 through 4/8/2021): 38

**Fieldwork / Impact Area Munitions Response Area** – USACE provided an update on the status of fieldwork.

1. The 2020 Annual Surface Monitoring field activities were completed in December and the report was submitted to the agencies. The same units will be monitored in 2021. Contracting action for the 2021 monitoring is underway.
2. Contracting action for the remedial action in Unit 5 is also underway. The scope for Unit 5 includes vegetation cutting, surface removal of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and digital geophysical mapping (DGM). To support future biological monitoring access into a wetland in Unit 5, the scope will include a limited subsurface removal within the wetland area. The work will utilize DGM data collected by USACE in the wetland area.
3. BRAC provided a follow-up presentation on the evaluation of areas with high density anomalies associated with impact areas where military munitions with sensitive fuzes were fired. The previous presentation given at the February 2021 BCT meeting detailed the analysis of digital geophysical mapping (DGM) data density in portions of the Impact Area MRA. Areas with high density of anomalies and sensitive fuze-type unexploded ordnance (UXO) would be a candidate for subsurface removal using excavation and sifting to address the risk to BLM workers from potentially encountering sensitive fuze-type UXO that could have become exposed from erosion or changes in site conditions. Sifting causes significant habitat impacts. Preliminary results of the DGM data density analysis indicate that the advanced geophysical classification (AGC) is a viable alternative to sifting. The April 2021 BCT meeting presentation focused on refining the areas identified for further study. The list of areas warranting further evaluation was prioritized and mapped. Alternative approaches to address the risks for each of the identified areas will be developed and evaluated.

**Report Status** – The Army provided a review and update including the changes to the previous status reports.

1. The FFA schedules are current.
2. Draft Impact Area MRA Non-Burn Fuelbreaks TIP Volume 2 was issued on 26 June. Army provided responses to comments by DTSC and EPA. The draft-final version is planned for publication in April.
3. Draft Impact Area MRA Non-Burn Fuelbreaks TIP Volume 1 was issued on 29 June. Army provided responses to comments by DTSC and EPA. Additional data review was necessary due to discrepancies detected. The draft-final version is planned for publication in April.
4. Impact Area MRA Surface Remediation Area Annual Monitoring Report (2020) was issued in March.
5. A working draft Track 3 RD/RA Work Plan – Interim LUCIP for the Impact Area MRA was issued on 6 October and discussed during the 22 Oct 2020 BCT.
6. Track 2 BLM Area B & MRS-16 Annual LUC Monitoring Report (2020) is scheduled to be issued by 30 April 2021.
7. Track 2 Parker Flats MRA (three parcels) Annual Monitoring Report (2020) was issued in February 2021.
8. MRS Security Program Annual Report (2020) is scheduled to be issued by 31 May 2021.
9. Deed releases and CERCLA warranty document status will be tracked.

**Action Items** – Due action items were described as complete and pending items were reviewed.

The next meeting of the MR BCT was scheduled for 14 July 2021.

BH 5/7/2021