

**Workshop Summary Notes
U.S. Army Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup
Technical Review Committee (TRC)**

July 18, 2023

Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Office
Via Conference Call

The below listed material was provided to participants in the conference call meeting:

- An agenda
- Presentation Slides – Fort Ord Military Munitions Response Program Update
- Presentation Slides – Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) Update

Agenda Topics

1. Review of the July 15, 2023 Community Involvement Workshop
2. Presentation: Fort Ord Military Munitions Response Program Update
3. Presentation: ESCA Update

Participants

- R. Curtis Payton II, US Army Fort Ord BRAC
- Maeve Clancy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- Brett Leary, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- Alberto Gutierrez, DTSC
- Tammy Pickens, DTSC
- Melissa Broadston, City of Seaside Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement Program (ESCA)
- Jamie Rayman, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- Benjamin Gerhardstein, ATSDR
- John Marr, ATSDR
- Andy Dudley, ATSDR
- Beth Wittry, ATSDR
- Dan Waligora, California Fish & Wildlife
- John Guertin, City of Del Rey Oaks
- Mark Ogonowski, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Laurie Williamson, Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)
- Chieko Nozaki, Chenega
- Hudson Facchini, Chenega
- Val Valdez, Chenega
- Bart Kowalski, Chenega
- Jason No, Chenega

Opening Remarks

Mr. Payton opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the call. He then handed the meeting over to Mr. No, the Community Outreach Specialist.

Community Involvement Workshop (CIW) Recap

Mr. No described the Community Involvement Workshop, which was held on July 15, 2023 from 0900 to 1300 at Building 4522 Joe Lloyd Way. Outreach for the CIW included sending letters and emails to local community members. An advertisement was also

placed in the Monterey Herald and in the Monterey County Weekly. Mr. No also noted that Monterey County Supervisor Wendy Root Askew shared the event information on her social media page and that community members posted the event on the social network service, Nextdoor.

There was a total of 70 attendees at the July CIW, up from 36 at the February CIW.

Bus tours returned for the first time since the start of the pandemic in 2020. Two twenty-eight passenger buses provided 2 tours at 1000 and 1130. The bus tour gave community members a glimpse into areas that are normally off-limits to community members. The buses toured parts of the impact area, staying on the cleared fuel-break roads. Folders that included the Technical Review Committee Meeting presentations, the ATSDR factsheet, and the 2023 Community Survey form were distributed at the CIW.

Mr. No then reported the top 4 topics that were of most interest to community members attending the CIW: Groundwater, munitions, vegetation burning, and property transfer. Mr. No read the community comments the Army received during the CIW.

Fort Ord Military Munitions Response Program Update

Ms. Nozaki presented an update on the Army's Military Munitions Response Program. A list of acronyms frequently used in the munitions cleanup project was provided and then a timeline of key events. From 1917 – 1994 Fort Ord was used as a military training base in which many different types of munitions were used. In 1990 it was placed on the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites. In 1991 Fort Ord was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure list. Fort Ord officially closed in 1994. Munitions investigations and removal actions began in 1993.

A map showing the different munitions response site locations was then presented. Investigations and removal actions were conducted at sites where munitions were suspected or thought to be present. The results of these actions were evaluated and documented in a series of remedial investigation / feasibility study reports. These reports supported several records of decision for the Army munitions cleanup.

On the next slide, a map was shown highlighting the different Munitions Response RI/FS Tracks. Ms. Nozaki explained that similar sites were grouped into different "tracks." Track 1 sites are sites that were suspected to have MEC but after further investigation, no further action was deemed necessary. Sites where removal actions had been conducted were evaluated as Track 2. The Impact Area was designated as a Track 3 site. The cleanup process is being conducted with oversight from USEPA and DTSC. Overall, 2/3 of the former Fort Ord have been evaluated and transferred for reuse. Munitions response on about 3,300 acres was completed by the Fort Ord Reuse Authority under the ESCA which was highlighted in the map by hatches. In 2020, the City of Seaside became the successor of the ESCA program.

Using the Fort Ord National Monument Trail Map, an overview of current munitions cleanup areas was provided. The gray area known as the Impact Area Munitions

Response Area (MRA), is closed to the public with 4 strand barbed wire fence. Outlined in purple, is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Area B. BLM Area B is a 1,600-acre habitat reserve area, where approximately half still required additional munitions cleanup when the Record of Decision was signed in 2017.

The presentation continued with a warning to not enter the fenced area known as the impact area. The restricted area is closed to the public and law enforcement regularly patrol the area.

Next was a map showing portions of the munition's cleanup areas where surface removal of munitions and explosives of concern have been conducted and have yet to be conducted. Ms. Nozaki noted Unit 5, where surface removal and Digital Geophysical Mapping (DGM) was completed in 2022, had several subsurface anomalies identified that remains to be investigated. She also noted DGM survey of Pond 76, which is about .16 acres, has yet to be conducted due to it being filled with water. This cannot be completed until the pond has dried out.

Next were descriptions of the general work flow of the munitions and explosives of concern removal process. The general work flow consists of a work plan, site security (temporary signs and fencing), vegetation clearance via prescribed burn or cutting, munitions surface removal, digital geophysical mapping, subsurface removal in selected areas, removal of temporary signs and fencing, and issuing a final report.

Vegetation must be removed to facilitate munitions cleanup. Ms. Nozaki proceeded to show pictures of both mechanical and manual cutting. Manual cutting is used in areas where it is difficult for large equipment to access and in sensitive areas such as wetlands. The Army conducts habitat monitoring before vegetation removal and for several years after munitions cleanup to monitor the recovery of the habitat. Ms. Nozaki noted that a prescribed burn can sometimes be used for vegetation removal. Units 13, 17, and 20 still needs munitions cleanup to occur but vegetation will be manually cut and not burned due to its unsafe terrain.

Once vegetation is removed, the cleanup area is organized into grids and trained technicians look for munitions on the surface. The presentation included a photo of technicians in a grid looking for munitions aided by handheld metal detectors. Objects identified as an explosive hazard are then detonated in a controlled manner. A photo of a detonation was provided. Completed units are monitored until the vegetation and ground is determined to be stable.

Once the surface munitions removal is complete, the area is mapped using digital geophysical equipment ("EM-61" electromagnetic sensors). The data provides information about how much metal remains in the ground and is used to produce a map showing the density of subsurface anomalies. These maps provide information that can be used as a general guide for reuse and safety support for future ground-disturbing activities. Subsurface removal is conducted in designated areas such as roads and trails.

Photos showed that the DGM equipment can be pulled by a person or by using a machine.

Photos of an intrusive investigation of detected anomalies were shown next. Teams can be seen in the photos using handheld magnetometers to investigate subsurface anomalies.

Ms. Nozaki then shared photos of special status species specific to the former Fort Ord. She explained how a prescribed burn can mimic wildfires to help promote the health and diversity of the rare Central Maritime Chaparral habitat that thrive in the area.

A map of the former Fort Ord was presented next, showing previous and future prescribed burn locations. There are no prescribed burns scheduled for 2023. Areas that were previously burned were outlined in red. Unit 5 and several other units require a prescribed burn in the future to encourage habitat recovery. Units A and 31 are next planned for prescribed burns and munitions cleanup. Units 13, 17, and 20 are highlighted on the map as future munitions cleanup but will not be required to be burned due to the difficult terrain. Ms. Nozaki noted the Community Involvement Workshop Bus Tours visited this area.

Ms. Nozaki continued the presentation with a map indicating areas where munitions-related land use controls are required. The Impact Area MRA, BLM Area B, and most ESCA MRAs are among such areas. The City of Seaside coordinates land use controls with the owners of the ESCA properties. Land use restrictions can be found in the property deeds and are described in land use control implementation plans.

Remedies for some munitions cleanup sites include safety measures to be observed during reuse. In these areas, ground-disturbing activities must be planned and coordinated in advance so appropriate munitions safety support is provided. Munitions recognition & safety training is required for people who will conduct these activities. The Army provides free in-person munitions recognition and safety training. Munitions safety training is also available online at fortordsafety.com. If a suspected munition is found during construction or digging, the 3R's of explosives safety should be followed, and work cannot resume until the object is dealt with. Some properties have other restrictions. The Impact Area MRA's perimeter fence is a part of the selected remedy, and will continue to be used during reuse.

Ms. Nozaki shared resources that are available on the FortOrdCleanup.com website and how to access them. First was the current property transfer status map located on the "Factsheets" page in the "Community" tab. Next was locating parcel information using the "Interactive Parcel Map" and the "Parcel Database Search Tool" under the "Property" tab. An example parcel and its details were shown from the "Interactive Parcel Map" tool. Ms. Nozaki then pointed out the "National Priorities List: Partial Deletion of Superfund Site" article in the "Cleanup Background" page under the "About" tab. The "Document Search" function and how to search for documents related to the Fort Ord Cleanup was shared next. To find a list of documents that are the most frequently accessed, the "Reference Documents" page under the "Documents" tab was shown.

Lastly, the “Online Comment Form” under the “Contact Us” tab was shared. Ms. Nozaki pointed out to check the “I’ve included my email, I’d like regular cleanup updates,” checkbox to be added to the Fort Ord Cleanup email list.

The presentation concluded with Ms. Nozaki providing the Fort Ord Cleanup website and toll-free phone number for more information.

There were no questions.

ESCA Update

Ms. Broadston with the City of Seaside presented updates on the ESCA program. The presentation began with a list of the most commonly used acronyms and then went on to a brief description of “What is ESCA?” The Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) is a mechanism that allows the federal government to provide cleanup funding to approved authorities. The purposes of the program are to address residual safety issues associated with former munitions training conducted in Fort Ord and the responsibility for the long-term implementation of the land use controls for public safety. The Fort Ord Reuse Authority dissolved in June 2020 and was succeeded by the City of Seaside. After June 2028, this responsibility will return to the Army. A timeline of the status and history of the agencies related to ESCA was shown.

All 3,300 acres have completed munitions cleanup activity and have been transferred to the intended recipients. In 2007, when ESCA first started, the ESCA areas were consolidated into 4 groups and the Interim Action Ranges MRA, according to similar cleanup and closure characteristics. This was a way to organize the properties located within different jurisdictions and future property re-uses. A color-coded map was shown, displaying the groups. The County North MRA is a part of a Record of Decision that requires no munitions cleanup and does not have land use control requirements. All other areas have completed munitions cleanup as outlined in the respective Records of Decision. Each Record of Decision includes land use control remedies which are further described in the land use control implementation plan. The presentation then continued into the cleanup status and proposed reuses for each group.

- Group 1: Seaside and Parker Flats MRAs: removals complete, land use control requirements are described in Group 1 Land Use Control Implementation Plan/Operation and Maintenance Plan (LUCIP/OMP) (ESCA-0361E), land transferred. Proposed future reuses: residential, non-residential, habitat reserve, and Veteran’s cemetery. Maps were presented showing the re-use designations.
- Group 2: CSUMB Off-Campus MRA: removals complete, land use control requirements are described in Group 2 LUCIP/OMP (ESCA-0305B), land transferred. Proposed future reuses: Residential and non-residential development. A map was presented showing the re-use designations.
- Group 3: Del Rey Oaks/Monterey, Laguna Seca Parking, and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Site MRAs: removals complete, land use control requirements are described in Group 3 LUCIP/OMP (ESCA-0301B), land transferred. Proposed future reuses: Habitat management, non-residential

development, continued use as overflow parking for Laguna Seca, and continued use as a law enforcement training area by Monterey Peninsula College (MPC). Maps were presented showing the re-use designations.

- Group 4 Future East Garrison MRA: removals complete, land use control requirements are described in Group 4 LUCIP/OMP (ESCA-0364B), land transferred. Proposed future uses: residential, non-residential development, and habitat reserve. A map was presented showing the re-use designations.
- Interim Action Ranges MRA: removals complete, land use control requirements are described in the Interim Action Ranges MRA LUCIP/OMP (ESCA 0337B), land transferred to MPC. Proposed future reuses: non-residential development, and habitat reserve. A map was presented showing the re-use designations.

The presentation continued with a review of the land use controls which include (1) munitions recognition and safety training, (2) construction support, (3) residential use restrictions in applicable areas and (4) habitat reserve restrictions in applicable areas. The presentation continued with a discussion of instruments that are used to enforce the land use controls, which include: local digging and excavation ordinances, memorandum of agreement with DTSC regarding monitoring and reporting of land use controls, covenants to restrict the use of property, and deed restriction.

Ms. Broadston then noted that munitions recognition and safety training is available at FortOrdSafety.com. The training is free, takes approximately 15 minutes, and can be taken in English and Spanish. A quick review of the 3R's were then given: Recognize, Retreat, Report.

Lastly, Ms. Broadston gave a brief overview of their recent activities that included meeting with land owners to discuss and review land use restrictions that apply to their lands, removing old signage, and participating in local community outreach events.

The presentation concluded with Ms. Broadston providing ESCA's website, email, phone, and address.

There were no questions.

Closing Remarks

Planning for 2024 Community Outreach activities are currently underway. The next outreach event will take place at the Monterey County Fair on August 31, 2023. This will be followed by another information booth at the Fort Ord National Monument's Public Lands Day in October. The 2023 Community Involvement Survey will be available online soon with a mailing and email notification to follow. The survey responses are requested by October 1, 2023.