

**FINAL
OPERATIONAL RANGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
PHASE I QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT
89th REGIONAL READINESS COMMAND SUNFLOWER LOCAL
TRAINING AREA
DE SOTO, KANSAS**

JUNE 2008

Prepared for:

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

and

UNITED STATES ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMAND
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010

Prepared by:

MALCOLM PIRNIE, INC.
701 Town Center Drive
Suite 600
Newport News, Virginia 23606



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States (U.S.) Army is conducting qualitative assessments at operational ranges to meet the requirements of Department of Defense policy and to support the U.S. Army Sustainable Range Program. The operational range qualitative assessment (hereinafter referred to as Phase I Assessment) is the first phase of the U.S. Army Operational Range Assessment Program. This Phase I Assessment evaluates the operational range area at the 89th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Sunflower Local Training Area (LTA) to assess whether further investigation is needed to determine if potential munitions constituents of concern (MCOC) are or could be migrating off-range at levels that may pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. In conducting the Phase I Assessment, MCOC sources, potential off-range migration pathways, and potential off-range human and ecological receptors are evaluated as appropriate.

The 75.23-acre 89th RRC Sunflower LTA is located in rural northwestern Johnson County, Kansas, about 25 miles west of Kansas City, Missouri, five miles southwest of De Soto, Kansas, and 13 miles southeast of Lawrence, Kansas. All 75.23 acres of the 89th RRC Sunflower LTA are considered operational range area. Military activities on the 89th RRC Sunflower LTA are limited to small unit operations and field training exercises. Most training consists of driver training, bivouac, night operations, equipment familiarization, and other small unit exercises using blank ammunition and limited pyrotechnics, simulators, and smoke munitions. The site is used approximately 50 days per year (Burns & McDonnell, 2005). Live-fire ammunition use is prohibited on the LTA (U.S. Army Reserve, 2003).

The area occupied by the 89th RRC Sunflower LTA was privately owned from 1885 until 1942, when the United States was granted ownership and the area became part of the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant (SFAAP) (Versar, 2003). From 1942 to 1961, the area occupied by the 89th RRC Sunflower LTA was located on the periphery of the SFAAP, remained undeveloped, and had no documented munitions manufacturing, testing, or waste disposal actions (89th RRC, 2006; GSA, 1999; SFAAP, 2004; Versar, 2003). The Army Reserve obtained the current 89th RRC Sunflower LTA area from the SFAAP in 1961 and has used the property for small unit operations and field training exercises since then (89th RRC, 2006; ARID-GEO, 2006).

The operational range at the 89th RRC Sunflower LTA is categorized as Unlikely.

Unlikely – Five-Year Review

One range at the 89th RRC Sunflower LTA is categorized as Unlikely, totaling 75.23 acres. This range is a training and maneuver area. Ranges where, based upon a review of readily available information, there is sufficient evidence to show that there are no known releases or source-receptor interactions off-range that could present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment are categorized as Unlikely. Ranges categorized as Unlikely are required to be re-evaluated at least every five years. Re-evaluation may occur sooner if significant changes (e.g., change in range operations or site conditions, regulatory changes) occur that affect determinations made during this Phase I Assessment.

Table ES-1 summarizes the Phase I Assessment findings.

Table ES-1: Summary of Findings and Conclusions for the 89th RRC Sunflower LTA

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathway(s)	Human Receptors	Ecological Receptors	Conclusions and Rationale
Unlikely	One operational range; 75.23 acres	No source—limited or no military munitions use	Not evaluated (no source identified)			Re-evaluate during the five-year review. No source was identified.