



FINAL

Operational Range Assessment Program Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report Black Rapids Training Site, Alaska

U.S. Army Operational Range Assessment Program
Qualitative Operational Range Assessments

Prepared for:

U.S. Army Environmental Command and
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District



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July 2008

Final Operational Range Assessment Program Phase I Qualitative Assessment Range Assessment Reports will be released beginning in March 2008 per the Direction of Army Headquarters. The cover page of this Report reflects the official finalization date. The date on subsequent pages/figures reflects the date upon which this document's conclusions are based.



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 Black Rapids Training Site (TS) 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.

Black Rapids TS consists of one operational range, totaling 4,212.93 acres¹, located approximately 35 miles south of Delta Junction, Alaska. According to the Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase (2006), authorized munitions use at Black Rapids TS consists of small caliber blanks, large caliber blanks, pyrotechnics/obscurants, and other munitions.

A review of available records and background data, as well as an interview with installation personnel, indicated that the range at Black Rapids TS has never been used for training involving live-fire military munitions; however, small caliber blanks have been used. Training at the site is currently conducted by The Northern Warfare Training Center and is used to train soldiers in arctic warfare, including arctic survival, navigation of land and waterways, military skiing, mountaineering, and river crossing operations. Because training activities do not involve, and historically have not involved, the use of live-fire military munitions, and small caliber blanks do not contain potential MCOC, there are no potential sources of MCOC. Therefore, potential off-range migration pathways and potential off-range human and ecological receptors were not evaluated, and the range at Black Rapids TS is categorized as Unlikely.

Installations with operational ranges where no munitions have been utilized or those where only small caliber blanks have been utilized are categorized as Unlikely. That is, based on a review of available information, there is sufficient evidence to show that due to the lack of munitions use there are no known releases or source-receptor interactions that could present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. 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.

¹ This acreage was derived from the Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase (2006) and is thought to be the most up to date acreage of the installation; however, there are several discrepancies discussed in Section 2.3 Data Uncertainty.

Table ES-1: Summary of Findings and Conclusions for Black Rapids Training Site

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathways(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	One operational range; 4,212.93 acres	No source – no current or historical use of live-fire military munitions	Not evaluated (no source identified)		Re-evaluate during the five-year review.