

**FINAL
OPERATIONAL RANGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
PHASE I QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT
BLACKERT FARM TRAINING AREA
NEPONSET, ILLINOIS**

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Prepared for:

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ARID-GEO	Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DoD	Department of Defense
GIS	Geographic Information System
ILARNG	Illinois Army National Guard
JFHQ-IL	Joint Force Headquarters-Illinois
MCOC	Munitions Constituents of Concern
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
TA	Training Area
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

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 Blackert Farm Training Area (TA) 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.

According to the Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase (2006), Blackert Farm TA consists of one operational range (light training and maneuver area) that encompasses approximately 1,282.41 acres in Bureau County, Illinois. Privately owned, the installation is located in Neponset, Illinois, approximately eight miles from the Kewanee Armory.

Light maneuver training activities are conducted at Blackert Farm TA. A review of available records and background data, as well as interviews with Illinois Army National Guard personnel, indicates that training activities at Blackert Farm TA do not involve, and historically have not involved, the use of military munitions except for small caliber blanks. Small caliber blanks contain no projectile and are not considered to be a source of MCOC. Potential sources of MCOC were not identified at Blackert Farm TA; therefore, potential off-range migration pathways and potential off-range human and ecological receptors were not evaluated. The training and maneuver area at Blackert Farm TA is categorized as Unlikely.

Installations with operational ranges where no munitions or 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.

Table ES-1: Summary of Findings and Conclusions for Blackert Farm TA

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathway(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	One operational range; 1,282.41	No source—no current or historical use of live-fire military munitions	Not evaluated (no source identified)		Re-evaluate during the five-year review.