

**FINAL
OPERATIONAL RANGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
PHASE I QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT
BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD TRAINING AREA
AURORA, COLORADO**

APRIL 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.
3101 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 550
Arlington, Virginia 22201



ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AFB	Air Force Base
ANG	Air National Guard
ARID-GEO	Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase
COARNG	Colorado Army National Guard
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DoD	Department of Defense
MCOG	Munitions Constituents of Concern
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
RFMSS	Range Facility Management Support System
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 Buckley Air Force Base (AFB) Colorado Army National Guard (COARNG) Training Area 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 Buckley AFB COARNG Training Area encompasses approximately 9.61 acres in Arapahoe County near Aurora, Colorado. The installation is located approximately 15 miles southeast of downtown Denver on property leased from the U.S. Air Force. According to the Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase from 2005, the entire 9.61 acres are classified as a miscellaneous training area.

A review of available records and background data, as well as interviews with COARNG personnel, indicate that the range at Buckley AFB COARNG Training Area has never been used for training involving military munitions (live-fire or non-live-fire). The training area currently is used as a Special Forces Airborne Sustainment Center and contains a mockup jump tower and a parachute landing fall platform. These areas were designed to train future paratroopers in aircraft exiting techniques and in executing proper parachute landings. However, according to interviews with COARNG personnel, the training area has not been used in at least five years because U.S. Air Force engineers declared the mockup jump tower structurally unsound (COARNG Environmental Projects Specialist, pers. comm.). There is no other than operational area on the training area. Because training activities do not involve, and historically have not involved, the use of military munitions, there are no potential sources of MCOC on the training area. Therefore, potential off-range migration pathways and potential off-range human and ecological receptors were not evaluated, and the range at Buckley AFB COARNG Training Area 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 Buckley AFB COARNG Training Area

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathways(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	One operational range; 9.61 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.