



FINAL

Operational Range Assessment Program Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report Drop Zone Babich, Maryland

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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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.



ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ARID-GEO	Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DoD	Department of Defense
DODI	Department of Defense Instruction
DZ	Drop Zone
E	Ecological receptors identified. (This refers to range grouping; pathway designation always precedes E designation.)
GW	Groundwater pathway identified. (This refers to range grouping; M designation always precedes GW designation.)
H	Human receptors identified. (This refers to range grouping; pathway designation always precedes H designation.)
LS	Limited Source.
M	Munitions used. (This refers to range grouping; M designation always precedes applicable pathway.)
MCOG	Munitions Constituents of Concern
MDDNR	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
PU	Pathway unlikely or incomplete. (This refers to range grouping; M designation always precedes PU designation.)
RFMSS	Range Facility Management Support System
SW	Surface water pathway identified. (This refers to range grouping; M designation always precedes SW designation.)
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USACHPPM	United States Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine
USAEC	United States Army Environmental Command
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WVARNG	West Virginia Army National Guard

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 (ORAP). This Phase I Assessment evaluates the operational range area at Drop Zone (DZ) Babich 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.

DZ Babich is located in Garrett County, Maryland. The site is located on private property approximately one mile east of the West Virginia / Maryland state line in the rural town of Redhouse, Maryland. Bayard, West Virginia is five miles to the southeast and Oakland, Maryland is eight miles to the northeast.

As part of the Operational Range Inventory Sustainment, an update to the Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase (ARID-GEO) was submitted to the U.S. Army Environmental Command in November 2006 (ARID-GEO [2006]). The ARID-GEO (2006) identified one operational range area encompassing 113.52 acres. The sole operational range at DZ Babich is primarily used by West Virginia Army National Guard (WVARNG) at Camp Dawson for personnel and equipment drops from fixed or rotary winged aircraft. Interviews with WVARNG personnel (Range Operations Officer) indicated that munitions use is limited to pyrotechnic/obscurant rounds approximately six times per year for parachuting operations since 1997. Information regarding military munitions usage or training frequency prior to 1997 was not available; however, it is likely that the previous munitions usage and training frequency was similar to usage and training from 1997 to 2007. Based on the minimal use of military munitions and wide dissemination over the entire DZ Babich training area, the potential for a concentrated source of MCOC is limited.

Based on the data collected during the Phase I Assessment regarding current and historical MCOC sources, potential migration pathways from ranges, and potential off-range human and/or ecological receptors, the operational range at DZ Babich has been placed into the following range grouping.

The one operational range at DZ Babich is categorized as Unlikely.

Unlikely – Five-Year Review

The one operational range at DZ Babich is categorized as Unlikely, totaling 113.52 acres. This range consists of a personnel and equipment DZ. 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 on ranges 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 DZ Babich

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathway(s)	Human Receptors	Ecological Receptors	Conclusions and Rationale
Unlikely	1 operational range; 113.52 acres	Limited source – limited military munitions use	Not evaluated (limited source was identified)			Re-evaluate during the five-year review. Limited military munitions use was identified.