



FINAL

Operational Range Assessment Program Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report Eklutna Glacier 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



Printed on
recycled
paper



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 Eklutna Glacier 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.

Eklutna Glacier TS is a sub-installation of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Richardson which encompasses 32.98 acres northeast of Anchorage, Alaska. Located within the Chugach State Park System, this single range is approximately 20 miles east of Fort Richardson. According to the 2006 Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase, the facility is designated as a light maneuver and training area, the primary mission of which is to provide a glacier and mountaineering training site for company-size elements. As part of the State Park System, the area is open to recreational users including hikers, hunters, and others.

A review of available records and background data, as well as an interview with installation personnel at Fort Richardson, indicated that the range at Eklutna Glacier TS has never been used for training involving military munitions (live-fire or non-live-fire). Training currently authorized at Eklutna Glacier TS consists of glacial travel, ice climbing, rescue techniques, and glacial warfare. Because training activities have not involved the use of munitions, 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 Eklutna Glacier 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.

Table ES-1: Summary of Findings and Conclusions for Eklutna Glacier Training Site

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathways(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	1 operational range; 32.98 acres	No source— no current or historical use of live-fire or non-live-fire military munitions	Not evaluated (no source identified)		Re-evaluate during the five-year review.