



FINAL

Operational Range Assessment Program Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report Gila Bend Training Site, Arizona

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



May 2008



ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ARID-GEO	Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase
AZARNG	Arizona Army National Guard
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DoD	Department of Defense
MCOC	Munitions Constituents of Concern
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
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 Gila Bend Training Site 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.

Gila Bend Training Site is comprised of 6.82 acres of land located in Maricopa County, Arizona approximately three miles south of the town of Gila Bend. Based on available Army Range Inventory Geodatabase (ARID-GEO, 2005), Gila Bend Training Site includes one operational range area, encompassing the entire training site, that provides airfield training for the Arizona Army National Guard (AZARNG) as well as limited training opportunities for troop units.

The single operational range at the Gila Bend Training Site includes a helipad and two munitions igloos that are used to rearm helicopters for training exercises at the neighboring Barry M. Goldwater Range. The mission at the Gila Bend Training Site has remained consistent since the initial license for the land was acquired in 1996. No military munitions are fired at the Gila Bend Training Site.

A review of available records and background data, as well as an interview with Papago Park Military Reservation personnel, indicate that the range at Gila Bend Training Site has never been used for training involving military munitions (live-fire or non-live-fire). Because training activities do not involve, and historically have not involved, the use of military munitions, there are no potential sources of MCOC. Therefore, potential off-range migration pathways and potential off-range human and/or ecological receptors were not evaluated, and the range at Gila Bend Training Site 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 Gila Bend Training Site

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathways(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	One operational range; 6.82 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.