

**FINAL  
OPERATIONAL RANGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM  
PHASE I QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT  
NORTHWESTERN STEEL AND WIRE LOCAL TRAINING AREA  
GALT, ILLINOIS**

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FEBRUARY 2009

Prepared for:

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## ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ARID-GEO	Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DoD	Department of Defense
ERT	Earth Resources Technology, Inc.
GIS	Geographic Information System
ILARNG	Illinois Army National Guard
LTA	Local Training Area
MCOC	Munitions Constituents of Concern
NW	Northwestern
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
POTO	Plans, Operations, and Training Officer
RFMSS	Range Facility Management Support System
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

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## 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 Northwestern (NW) Steel and Wire Local Training Area (LTA) 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 NW Steel and Wire LTA is comprised of 10.61 acres in Whiteside County in northwest Illinois. The LTA is located within a commercial property approximately three and a half miles west of the cities of Sterling and Rock Falls. According to the Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase (ARID-GEO) from 2006, one light maneuver and training area is present at the LTA which encompasses the entire 10.61 acre site.

A review of available records and background data, as well as interviews with Illinois Army National Guard (ILARNG) personnel from Joint Force Headquarters – Springfield indicate that the range at NW Steel and Wire LTA has not been used for training involving military munitions (live-fire or non-live-fire). NW Steel and Wire LTA was established as a light maneuver and training area (date unknown) and has been inactive since 2000 (Personal Communication, Plans, Operations, and Training Officer [POTO], 2008). During the Phase I Assessment, ILARNG personnel were unable to provide any information or documentation pertaining to the ownership of NW Steel and Wire LTA. Interviews with ILARNG personnel determined that the LTA was strictly used as a parking lot for 40 foot trailers used to transport equipment; however there is no official documentation stating such (Personal Communication, POTO / Chief, Environmental Section, 2008). ARID-GEO 2006 also indicates that munitions usage was not identified at the range within NW Steel and Wire LTA. Because training activities involved no munitions, there are no potential sources of MCOC present at the LTA. Therefore, potential off-range migration pathways and potential off-range human and ecological receptors were not evaluated, and the one operational range at NW Steel and Wire LTA has been 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 NW Steel and Wire Local Training Area**

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathways(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	One operational range; 10.61 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.