



FINAL

Operational Range Assessment Program Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report Whistler Creek 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



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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.



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 Whistler Creek 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.

Whistler Creek TS is located in east-central Alaska, about 38 miles south of the town of Delta Junction. The training area is comprised of one operational range encompassing 543.10 acres. There is no non-operational acreage associated with Whistler Creek TS. Munitions authorized for use at Whistler Creek TS are: small caliber blanks, other weapons systems (i.e., simulators), large caliber blanks, and pyrotechnics and obscurants (Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase, 2006).

A review of available records and background data, as well as interviews with Army personnel, indicate that the range at Whistler Creek TS has never been used for training involving military munitions (live-fire or non-live fire). The focus of training activities at Whistler Creek TS is preparation of troops for warfare at high altitudes and cold climates, with emphasis on mountaineering skills. Because training activities do not involve, and historically have not involved, the use of live-fire or non-live fire 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.

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 Whistler Creek TS

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathways(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	1 operational range; 543.10 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.