Operational Range Assessment
Hurlburt Field

Air Force Operational Range Assessment Program May 2024

Background

DoD uses and manages operational ranges to support national security objectives and maintain the high state of operational readiness essential to its mission requirements. The Department conducts non-regulatory, proactive, and comprehensive operational range assessments (ORAs) to support the long-term sustainability of these ranges while protecting human health and the environment. The purpose of an ORA is to determine if there is a release or substantial threat of a release of munitions constituents from an operational range to an off-range area that exceeds an applicable regulatory standard or creates a potential unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

The DAF Operational Range Assessment Program (ORAP), established to comply with DoD policy, sets forth procedures for consistently conducting ORAs throughout the Air Force. The DAF ORAP assessment methodology uses an installation-wide approach to verify the ORAP inventory and accomplish range-specific assessments. An Air Force ORA is comprised of two primary phases: Qualitative Assessment, Phase I and Quantitative Assessment, Phase II (if required).

- A Qualitative Assessment, Phase I, encompasses records review, interviews, and a visual survey.
- A Quantitative Assessment, Phase II, encompasses records review, interviews, visual survey, and environmental media sampling.

Installation Overview

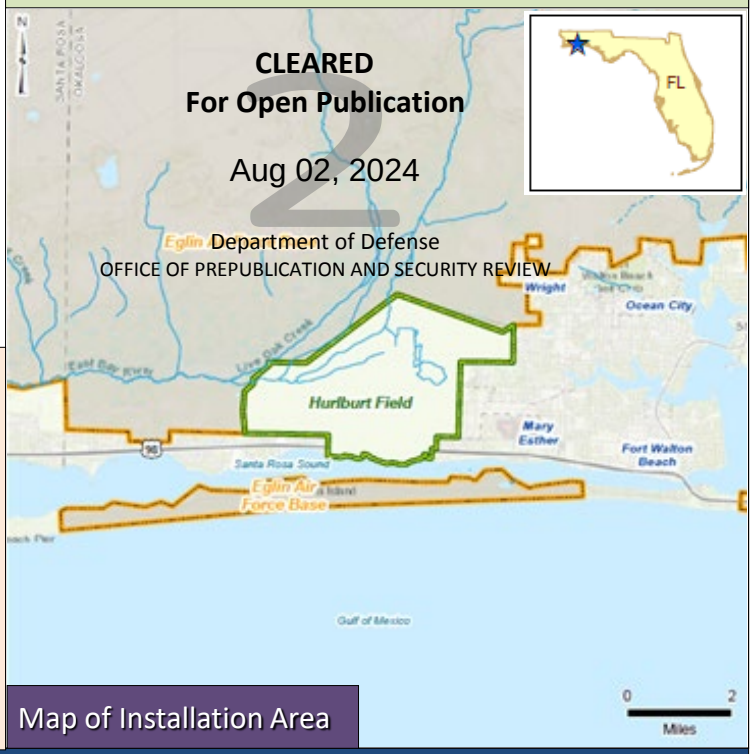
Hurlburt Field is located in Okaloosa County, Florida, approximately 35 miles east of Pensacola. The installation encompasses 6,375 acres of federally owned land. The installation is adjacent to Eglin Air Force Base to the north and west, and adjacent to the Santa Rosa Sound to the south and Eglin Air Force Base further to the south.

ORAP Findings: February 2023 ORA Report

- The Munitions Constituents (MC) transport mechanisms deemed viable is surface water/sediment (via groundwater discharge) and groundwater for areas assessed at Hurlburt Field
- No actual or substantial threat of an off-range MC release exists for areas assessed at Hurlburt Field.
- No unacceptable risks to human health or the environment were identified for areas assessed.

Next Steps

Hurlburt Field is scheduled to be assessed in accordance with DAF and DoD policy specifying periodic assessment at least every five years or sooner if significant changes occur that may impact assessment decisions.



Map of Installation Area

Installation Overview Continued

During implementation of the ORAP at Hurlburt Field, six areas were scoped and verified as eligible for assessment including the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Facility, Small Arms Range (SAR) [comprised of Range 1 and Range 2], Dynamics of International Terrorism (DIT) Range, and the Rifle and Pistol Club (RPC) [comprised of the Rifle Club Range and Pistol Club Range]. Due to the adjacent layout of the SAR, DIT Range, and RPC, these operational areas are being evaluated as a virtual complex, identified as the SAR/DIT/RPC Complex, for the purpose of this ORA.

A Canine Training Area, EOD Tool Training Area, and Permanent Exercise Area were identified as eligible during this ORA. These areas will be evaluated during the next scheduled installation-wide assessment.

The following summarizes DAF ORAP efforts for the EOD Facility and the SAR/DIT/RPC Complex.

EOD Facility Assessment Overview

The EOD Facility is located in the western portion of the installation. The range boundary is defined by the 2,500-ft safety zone, centered on the detonation area, that encompasses 450.76 acres. The range is used once a month for proficiency training and occasional emergency dispositions. The range has a maximum 100-pound net explosive weight limit.

The EOD Facility was previously assessed in 2011 and 2017. The 2022, periodic Phase II, ORA included the evaluation of the groundwater migration pathway (including daylighting to surface water) through collection of surface water and sediment samples. Samples were analyzed for MC metals, explosives, perchlorate, and white phosphorus.

No explosives or white phosphorus were detected. All metals, other than chromium, were below background and reference sample concentrations. Chromium was slightly elevated in a sediment sample; however, the detected level is deemed within the range of natural variation and was below the ecological project action limit (PAL). Perchlorate was detected in one surface water sample above the reference concentration; however, no PAL was identified for perchlorate.

EOD Facility Assessment Overview (Continued)

Based on the 2022 ORA, there is the potential for MC to migrate via shallow groundwater, but no potential risks to receptors were identified.

SAR/DIT/RPC Complex Assessment Overview

The SAR/DIT/RPC Complex consists of five sub-areas including, from west to east, the DIT Range, Range 1, Range 2, Rifle Club Range, and Pistol Club Range and encompasses 4,490.75 acres of non-overlapping acres in the central portion of the installation. The SAR encompassing, Range 1 and Range 2, was constructed in the 1950s for small caliber weapons training. The DIT Range was established in 1967 for training in irregular warfare involving weapons used by other countries. The RPC, encompassing the Rifle Club Range and Pistol Club Range, become operational in the 1980s for both recreational and military training.

The DIT Range was assessed in 2011; the SAR and RPC areas were assessed in 2014. The SAR, DIT, and RPC were reassessed in 2017. This 2022, periodic Phase II, for the Complex included collection of soil, surface water, sediment, and groundwater samples to evaluate MC migration via leaching to shallow groundwater and subsequent discharging to surface water/sediment. MC of potential concern for soils and groundwater were identified as metals. MC of potential concern for surface water and sediment included metals, explosives, and perchlorate.

No explosives or perchlorate were detected. An MC source (metals) was confirmed via on-range surface soil sampling. Metals (dissolved lead and total copper, lead, and zinc) were detected above background from an on-range monitoring well as such MC leaching to shallow groundwater and subsequent discharge to surface water was confirmed as a viable transport route. Metals were also detected in surface water (lead and zinc) and sediment (copper, iron, lead, and zinc) above background but below their respective ecological PALs. Based on the 2022 ORA, there is the potential for MC to migrate to shallow groundwater and subsequently daylight to surface water. However, no potential risks to receptors were identified.

For more information on this assessment or the Air Force Operational Range Assessment Program contact the Ranges Subject Matter Expert, Technical Branch, Environmental Quality Directorate, Air Force Civil Engineer Center
For more information on the DoD Operational Range Assessment Program visit https://denix.osd.mil/orap/home/