

**FINAL
OPERATIONAL RANGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
PHASE I QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT
VAIL TREE FARM LOCAL TRAINING AREA
CENTRALIA, WASHINGTON**

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Prepared for:

UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

and

UNITED STATES ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMAND
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010

Prepared by:

MALCOLM PIRNIE, INC.
300 E Lombard Street
Suite 610
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



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 Vail Tree Farm 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.

Vail Tree Farm LTA consists of approximately 166,332 acres in Lewis, Pierce, and Thurston counties, Washington, in a rural area along the western edge of the Cascade Mountain Range, approximately 20 miles south of Seattle, Washington. Vail Tree Farm LTA is between Mount Rainier to the east and the towns of Centralia and Chehalis to the west (Marchman and Smith, 2007). According to the Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase from 2002, the installation consists of two noncontiguous ranges. The larger range to the west, Vail West, is approximately 149,070 acres, and the smaller range to the northeast, Vail East, is approximately 17,262 acres. Vail Tree Farm LTA is an operational area used for rotary wing (helicopter) landing pads (ARID-GEO, 2002).

A review of available records and background data, as well as interviews with installation personnel, indicated that the ranges at Vail Tree Farm LTA have never been used for training involving military munitions (live-fire or non-live-fire). Training conducted at Vail Tree Farm LTA is limited to aviation units for takeoff, landing, and sling load operations. Because training activities do not currently 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 ecological receptors were not evaluated, and the ranges at Vail Tree Farm LTA are categorized as Unlikely.

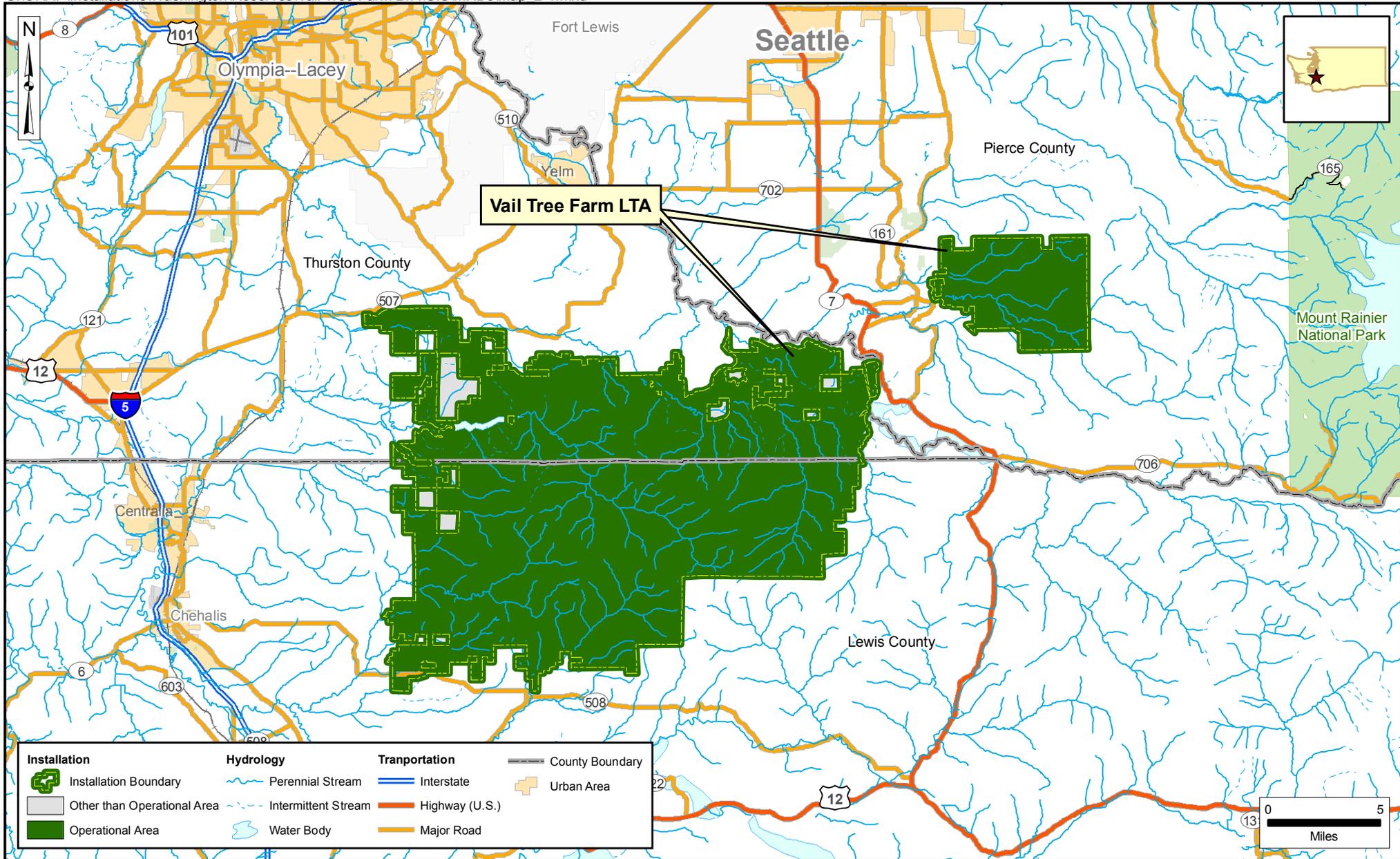
Installations with operational ranges where no munitions or only small caliber blanks have been utilized are categorized as Unlikely. That is, based on a review of available information, there is sufficient evidence to show that due to the lack of munitions use there are no known releases or source-receptor 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 Vail Tree Farm LTA

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathways(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	Two ranges; 166,332 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.

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ARID-GEO	Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DoD	Department of Defense
LTA	Local Training Area
MCOC	Munitions Constituents of Concern
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
RRC	Regional Readiness Command
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers



**Operational Range Assessment Program
Phase I Qualitative Assessment
Vail Tree Farm LTA, WA**

**Figure 2-1
General Vail Tree Farm LTA Location and Operational Range Area**

Data Sources:
AEC, ARID-GEO, December 2002
ESRI, StreetMap USA, 2005

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