



Operational Range Assessment Robins Air Force Base

Air Force Operational Range Assessment Program

December 2018

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 USAF Operational Range Assessment Program (ORAP), established to comply with DoD policy, sets forth procedures for consistently conducting ORAs throughout the Air Force. The USAF 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 1 and Quantitative Assessment, Phase 2 (if required).

- A Qualitative Assessment, Phase 1, encompasses records review, interviews, and a visual survey.
- A Quantitative Assessment, Phase 2, encompasses records review, interviews, visual survey, and environmental media sampling.

Installation Overview

Robins Air Force Base (AFB), part of the Air Force Materiel Command, is located in central Georgia. The base is approximately 18 miles south of Macon and 90 miles south-southeast of Atlanta, Georgia.

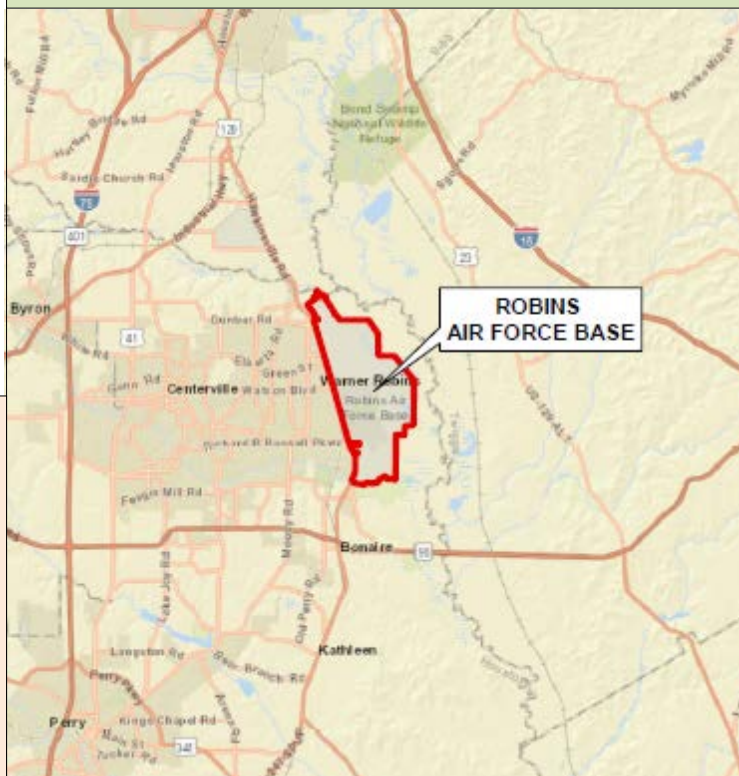
During implementation of the ORAP at Robins AFB, four ranges were verified as eligible for an assessment under the USAF ORAP – Practice Grenade Range (GR),

ORAP Findings: October 2017 ORA Report

- Migration mechanisms at Robins AFB were identified as unlikely to transport munitions constituents (MC) to off-range locations.
- No actual or potential off-range migration of MC exists for the areas assessed at Robins AFB.
- No unacceptable risks to human health or the environment were identified for the areas evaluated at Robins AFB.

Next Steps

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



Installation Overview Continued

Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) Complex, Proficiency Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Range, and Gator Air Base Training Area (TA).

Additionally, two areas were identified as ineligible for an assessment under the ORAP. The Trap and Skeet Range is used solely for recreational purposes and as such is excluded from the Program. The Warrior Air Base TA is used for training related to runway repairs and does not include munitions use. It should be noted a previously identified operational area, a Gas Chamber, has a new use and is no longer deemed a training facility.

The following summarizes USAF ORAP efforts for the GR and CATM Complex only. The newly identified EOD and TA will be assessed during the next scheduled ORA at Robins AFB. This is the initial ORA at the GR and second ORA at the CATM Complex.

Practice GR Assessment Overview

The Practice GR is located on the southcentral portion of the base. The GR primary use area covers approximately 5.5 acres, with the associated danger zone the range encompasses approximately 13.0 acres. Based on aerial photographs the GR has been present since the early 1990s; however, the range has been inactive since 2012. While active, practice grenades as well as ground-burst simulators and small explosive charges may have been used. The range consists of one firing point and is an open, relatively flat field covered with grass and weeds and surrounded by interspersed trees.

The initial 2017 ORA Phase 1 concluded that based on the current inactivity and limited former use, no significant MC is likely to be present in site soils and as such the migration of MC off-range is highly unlikely. No complete exposure routes were identified for human or ecological receptors.

CATM Complex Assessment Overview

The CATM Complex, located on the east side of the base, is comprised of two sites a North Range and South Range. The CATM Complex, encompassing roughly 2.48 acres, is currently used daily for small arms practice and training activities.

Records indicate the area has been utilized for small arms training since the 1940s. The complex has been reconfigured and modified over the years, the last major modification occurring in 2008. The North Range was modernized to include a new bullet trap and ventilation/dust collection system. Since upgrades to the North Range were completed, use of the South Range has been discontinued.

The North Range is partially enclosed and covered with concrete sidewalls, covered firing line, a non-porous concrete floor, overhead baffles, ventilation/dust collection system, metal plated backstop and bullet trap system, and the surrounding berms. The South Range is a partially contained open range with covered firing line, side berms, overhead baffles, earthen floor, a bullet trap, and backstop soil berm.

The 2012 initial ORA Phase 1 identified the earthen berms as a likely source of MC. Although a MC source area exists, no complete source/receptor interactions were identified.

The 2018 ORA Phase 1 verified a source of MC present due to historical berms, and deemed vertical migration of MC from soils to groundwater through infiltration is likely. Due to an aquitard infiltration does not pose a risk to deeper groundwater used for drinking water. Therefore the 2018 ORA found the CATM Complex does not pose a risk to human receptors, but a potential risk exists to ecological receptors due to seeps and adjacent wetlands. A Quantitative (Phase 2) ORA is recommended for the CATM Complex to further evaluate transport mechanism and potential risk.

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/>