



Operational Range Assessment Holloman Air Force Base

Air Force Operational Range Assessment Program

February 2019

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

Holloman Air Force Base (AFB), part of the Air Combat Command, is located in Otero County, approximately 6 miles west of the city of Alamogordo, New Mexico.

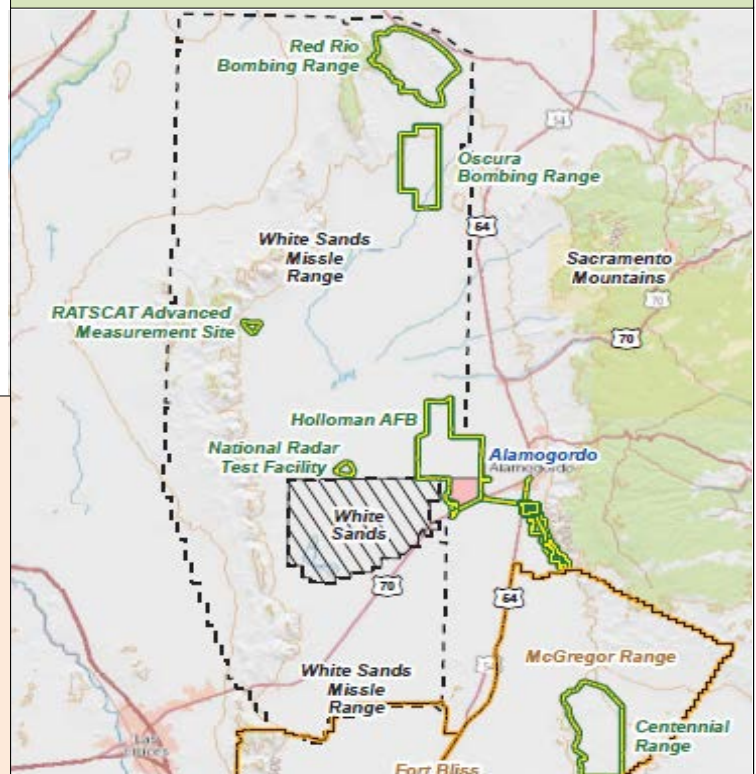
Holloman AFB manages five geographically separated units (GSUs), located on the adjoining White Sands Missile Range. These units are utilized by the USAF for various training purposes and include: Red Rio

ORAP Findings: November 2017 ORA Report

- Migration mechanisms at Holloman 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 Holloman AFB.
- No unacceptable risks to human health or the environment were identified for the areas evaluated at Holloman AFB.

Next Steps

Holloman 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

Bombing Range; Oscura Bombing Range; the National Radar Test Facility; Radar Target Scatter Site; and the Air Force Special Weapons Complex. Holloman AFB also utilizes, but does not manage, the Centennial Range located approximately 50 miles south of the Base within McGregor Range, U.S. Army installation Fort Bliss, Texas.

The GSUs utilized by the USAF for training purposes are, per Department of Defense policy subject to the U.S. Army ORAP as the U.S. Army maintains real property accountability of these areas. As such, these areas are not evaluated under the USAF ORAP.

During implementation of the ORAP at Holloman AFB, five areas were verified as eligible and assessed under the USAF ORAP – Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) Complex; Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Proficiency Range; the High Speed Test Track (HSST); Prime Base Emergency Engineering Force (BEEF) Training Area (TA); and a Shoot House TA.

Holloman AFB also contains the Apache Sports Range which was confirmed as ineligible due to use solely for recreational purposes. Additionally, the previously assessed 20,000-lb Open Detonation Unit was identified as going through the closure process and was not further evaluated under the ORAP.

The following summarizes USAF ORAP efforts for the CATM Complex; EOD Range; HSST; Prime BEEF TA; and Shoot House TA.

CATM Complex Assessment Overview

The CATM Complex is located in the eastern-central portion of Holloman AFB. The complex encompasses 1,111.6 acres, a portion of which is fenced with access controls and warning signs. The fenced area encompasses approximately 34 acres and includes the firing positions, back berm, CATM Facility, and a parking lot.

The CATM Complex contains a Small Arms Range (SAR), a Machine Gun Tube Range (MGR), and an M203 Grenade Range (GR).

CATM Complex Assessment Overview Continued

The CATM Complex has been in use since 2005. Live-fire small caliber ammunition and non-live-fire 40-millimeter training rounds are used for training. The USAF and German Air Force use the SAR for training; however, only USAF personnel are authorized to use the MGR and GR areas.

In 2016 the initial Phase 1 ORA was finalized for the CATM Complex. The effort identified a primary MC source area associated with target and impact areas. However, all migration mechanisms were deemed unlikely to transport MC beyond the complex boundary. The effort concluded no potential source-receptor interactions exist and all exposure pathways identified as incomplete.

The 2017 ORA verified a potential MC source primarily within the soils at the back berm, and to a lesser extent at the firing lines and target areas. While a potential source of MC was identified no possible migration routes to off-range areas were identified. As no MC transport routes exists, the ORA concluded there are no potentially complete exposure pathways and no risks to receptors.

EOD Range Assessment Overview

The EOD Proficiency Range, encompassing 26 acres, is located on the central portion of Holloman AFB. The EOD Proficiency Range has been in use since 2014 and has a 50-lb net explosive weight limit. The range is permitted for fragmenting and non-fragmenting open air detonations, as well as proficiency training. The range is utilized exclusively for training approximately once per month and up to 20 times per year by USAF EOD. K-9 units are also permitted to use the range for training exercises.

The initial 2017 Phase 1 identified a potential source of MC within soils near the detonation points; however, no migration routes to off-range locations were identified. The effort concluded there are no source-receptor interactions, all exposure pathways are incomplete, and as such there are no risks to receptors.

HSTT Assessment Overview

The HSTT encompasses 8,921 acres and contains two primary 10-mile-long test tracks, one inactive 4-mile-long test track, and a target impact area. The HSTT has been in use since 1949 for various research, test, development, and evaluation activities primarily pertaining to weapon system propulsion. Tests are currently conducted approximately one to two times per month and often include a sled with the test article(s) attached. Test articles may include munitions like mortars or components like motors. Additionally, non-weapons related tests such as ejection seat tests are conducted at the HSTT. It should be noted, that the 20,000-lb Open Detonation Unit identified as undergoing closure is located within the boundary of the HSTT.

The initial 2017 Phase 1 identified a potential source of MC in soils associated with the target impact area. Although a potential source of MC was identified, all migration routes were identified as unlikely to transport MC to off-range areas. As no MC transport routes exist, the ORA concluded there are no potentially complete exposure pathways and no risks to receptors.

Prime BEEF TA Assessment Overview

The area has been used for training activities since the 1940s. The area has had a variety of previous uses to include training of turret gunners and as a skeet or trap range. Prime BEEF operations began in 1987 and the area is now used for expeditionary training and field training exercises. The area is used up to three times per year by USAF personnel.

Prime BEEF TA Assessment Overview Continued

Historically, 0.50-caliber munitions, smoke grenades, and small caliber were used; however, according to installation personnel no munitions use has occurred within the last 3 years.

The 2017 Phase 1 ORA determined that no significant MC source is present as no munitions are currently used during training activities; and historical munitions use is suspected to have been widespread. Due to no significant MC source present, all migration mechanisms were deemed unlikely and no potentially complete exposure pathways exist.

Shoot House TA Assessment Overview

The Security Forces Squadron Shoot House TA, encompassing 0.86 acre, is located on the east-central portion of the installation. The area is built upon a 200-ft by 200-ft hard packed gravel square, the edges of which demark the range boundary. The area, in use since 2014, contains four mock buildings made of conex containers. Only non-lethal training rounds are used during training scenarios. On average, the Shoot House TA is used approximately once per month by USAF personnel only, but this fluctuates depending on training needs.

The 2017 Phase 1 ORA determined that no MC source is present as only non-lethal training rounds are used during training activities. Due to no MC source present, all migration mechanisms were deemed unlikely. The ORA concluded there are no potentially complete exposure pathways and no risks to receptors.

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/>