



Operational Range Assessment Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph

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

Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), part of Air Education Training Command, is comprised of three primary locations: JBSA – Randolph, JBSA – Lackland, and JBSA – Fort Sam Houston. This summary sheet pertains only to JBSA – Randolph.

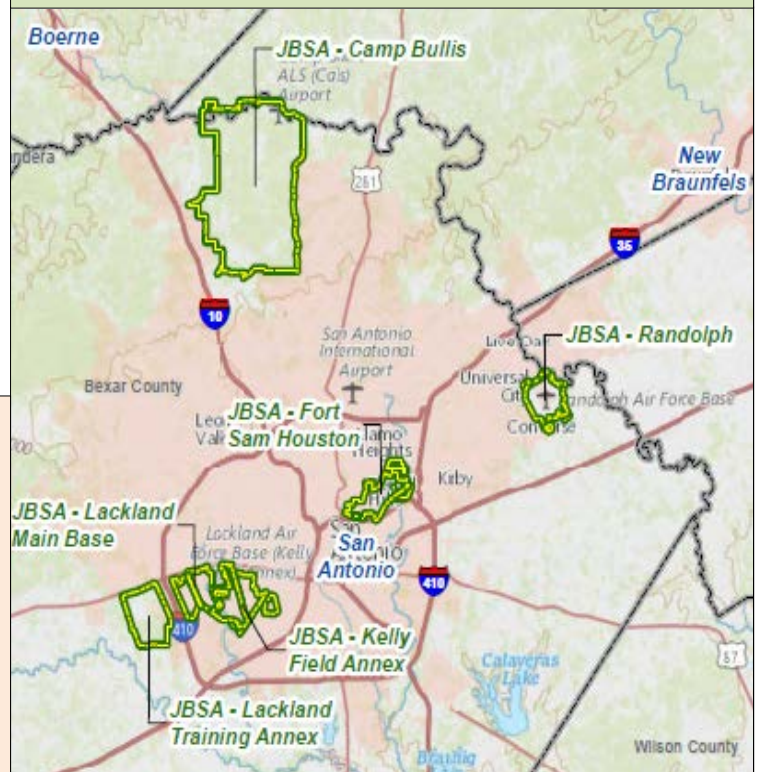
JBSA – Randolph (formerly Randolph Air Force Base) is located within Bexar County approximately 15 miles

ORAP Findings: June 2018 ORA Report

- Migration mechanisms 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 area assessed for JBSA – Randolph.
- No unacceptable risks to human health or the environment were identified for the area evaluated at JBSA – Randolph.

Next Steps

JBSA – Randolph 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

northeast of San Antonio, Texas city center. JBSA-Randolph also maintains two geographically separate units: Canyon Lake Recreational Site and Seguin Auxiliary Field. Canyon Lake Recreational Site, located approximately 34 miles northeast of city center in Comal County, provides recreational facilities for authorized DoD personnel. The Seguin Auxiliary Field, located approximately 36 miles east of city center in Guadalupe County, is used to train future pilot instructors.

During implementation of the ORAP at JBSA – Randolph one area was verified as eligible and assessed under the USAF ORAP – a Small Arms Range (SAR). No other operational training or range areas exist at the installation or managed geographically separate units. The following summarizes USAF ORAP efforts for the SAR. This is the second ORA conducted at the SAR.

SAR Assessment Overview

The SAR is a fully contained range occupying approximately 0.16 acres in the southern portion of JBSA-Randolph. The SAR is utilized approximately 3 to 5 days per week for up to 8 hours per day. Air Force units are the only current users of the range, but other units have used the range in the past, including multiple Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps units from colleges and universities in the region. The only weapons used for training are M9 and M4 with frangible ammunition. Ball ammunition has not been reportedly used on the SAR since 2000.

The SAR was initially built in 1997 as a partially contained range for small arms training. Between 2008 and 2012 the range was renovated into a fully contained range which included the installation of a new dust collection unit / ventilation system and a new bullet trap system. Prior to the renovations, the SAR consisted of a covered firing line, concrete floor, cinderblock side walls, a covered bullet trap and ventilation system, and several baffles. A roof was

SAR Assessment Overview Continued

installed in 2009, which eliminated precipitation / stormwater runoff to a gravel drainfield. During renovations, all of the gravel from the drainfield was transferred to a fenced area on the southeastern corner of the SAR. The gravel area is fenced and contains the exterior equipment for the bullet trap collection system. The most recent modification was made between 2015 and 2016 to upgrade the target retrieval system. No drains or discharge points were observed within the SAR and personnel confirmed that no precipitation enters the facility.

In 2010 an initial Phase 1 ORA was completed. The effort determined that existing built infrastructure prevents MC generated during weapons training from interacting with environmental media and as such limits any possible MC migration from the SAR. Prior to renovations, the SAR did not have a roof over the center portion (i.e., range floor) as such rainwater that entered the SAR would drain from the concrete floor to gravel areas. However, due to environmental characteristics (e.g., negative amount of precipitation/evaporation), the gravel areas and associated subsurface soils were not considered a significant source of MC which could impact environmental media. Based on the qualitative analysis of the SAR, no complete pathways were identified between possible sources of MC and potential receptors.

The 2018 Phase 1 ORA concluded MC may have been deposited at or near the firing line, range floor, and bullet trap. However, current use, maintenance practices, and built infrastructure limits deposition in the environment. Additionally, the gravel from the former drain field was deemed not to be a contributing source of MC. The effort determined MC, if present, is highly unlikely to migrate off-range via air, soil, surface water/sediment, or groundwater pathways. Based on available data, incomplete exposure pathways to human and ecological receptors were identified; thus, there are no human health or ecological risks.

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/>