



U.S. AIR FORCE

FINAL

**OPERATIONAL RANGE ASSESSMENT REPORT
BOISE (GOWEN FIELD) AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE**

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
OPERATIONAL RANGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

Prepared for:

Boise (Gowen Field) Air National Guard Base, Idaho

Air National Guard

and

Air Force Civil Engineer Center

Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland, Texas



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Operational Range Assessment Boise (Gowen Field) Air National Guard Base

Air Force Operational Range Assessment Program

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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 (MC) 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

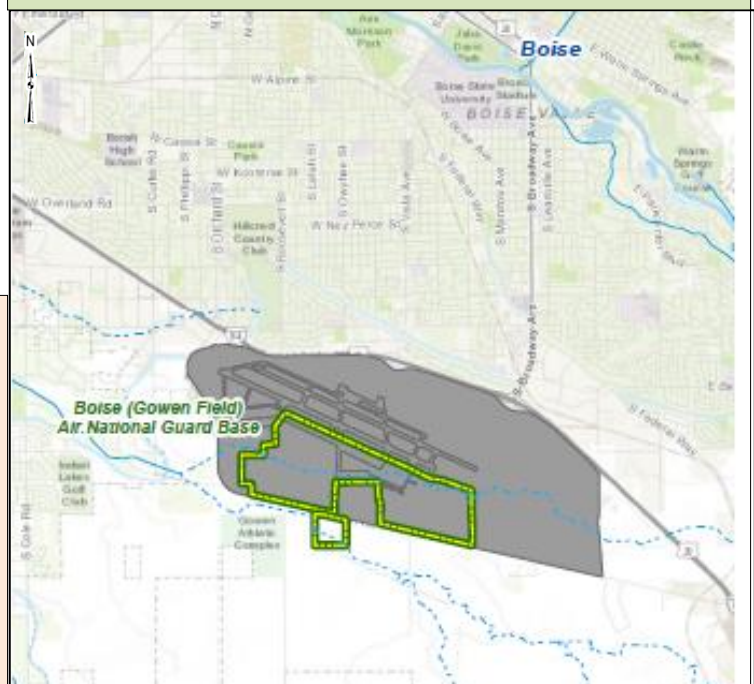
Boise (Gowen Field) Air National Guard Base (ANGB) is located approximately 3 miles southwest of downtown Boise, in southwestern Idaho. The 588-acre base is located on the southern portion of the Boise Airport (also known as Gowen Field). The land is owned by the city of Boise and secured for military use through lease agreements between the City, the State of Idaho, and the U.S. government. Idaho Air National Guard is the leaseholder for the area and is

ORAP Findings: September 2020 ORA Report

- Migration mechanisms were deemed unlikely to transport MC to off-range areas.
- No potential off-range migration of MC exists for the area assessed.
- No unacceptable risks to human health or the environment were identified.

Next Steps

Boise (Gowen Field) ANGB 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

responsible for its overall management; however, parcels of the land, buildings, and joint-use facilities are subleased to the U.S. Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Marines.

During implementation of the ORAP at Boise (Gowen Field) ANGB, one area was determined to be eligible and assessed under the USAF ORAP – a Small Arms Range (SAR).

The following summarizes USAF ORAP efforts for the SAR. This is the second assessment for the SAR.

SAR Assessment Overview

The SAR, constructed in 1943, is located in the southern parcel of Boise (Gowen Field) ANGB, separated from the main installation area to the north by Gowen Road. The 2.03-acre primary use area is defined by a fence and locked gate with signs posted to prevent unauthorized access. The associated SDZ extends south from the 25-m firing line in a cone shape approximately 2,200 ft long and extends outside the installation boundary.

SAR Assessment Overview Continued

The SDZ encompasses approximately 89.55 acres and overlaps with 0.90 acres of the 2.03-acre primary use area; therefore, the total acreage for the range is 90.68 acres. The SAR is currently used for small arms qualification training with frangible rounds. Non-frangible rounds and a limited amount of tracer rounds were historically used at the range.

In 2009, the initial Phase 1 ORA was completed. A potential source of MC was identified primarily within the impact berm. However, no complete exposure pathways to receptors were identified.

In 2019, a periodic Phase 1 ORA was completed. A potential source of MC was identified within the SAR's sand impact berm and on the range floor. However, due to the configuration of the range, topography, depth to groundwater, and soil conditions, the Phase 1 determined that there were no viable transport mechanisms or complete exposure pathways. Therefore, no suspected risk was identified for off-range human or ecological 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 <http://denix.osd.mil/orap/home/>