



Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Hernan G. Pesquera U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC), Puerto Rico

September 2020

Background

The Department of Defense (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 Army ORA effort was developed to address DoD requirements detailed in DoD Directive 4715.11 (10 May 2004) and DoD Instruction 4715.14 (15 November 2018). The overall objective of the ORA is to assess operational ranges/range complexes to determine if an off-range MC release or substantial threat of an off-range MC release exists; if an off-range MC release exists, does it exceed an applicable regulatory reporting standard; and if an MC release or substantial threat of a release exists, determine whether it creates a potentially unacceptable risk to off-range human health or the environment. Army ORAs assess potential off-range migration of MC along surface water system and groundwater migration pathways.

Installation Overview

Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Hernan G. Pesquera U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) is a 39-acre installation that abuts Fort Allen, a Puerto Rico Army National Guard Facility, in south-central Puerto Rico. The installation consists of one operational range, a classroom training area, totaling 3.94 acres.

Operational Range Assessment Findings (09/2020)

Based on updated data, no off-range MC release or substantial threat of an off-range MC release currently exists. The operational range remains categorized as Unlikely.

Next Steps

LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC's operational range should be included in the FY23-27 cycle of ORAs to satisfy re-assessment requirements.

Map of Range/Range Area



LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC is located approximately three miles south of the city of Juana Diaz and is surrounded by a heavily populated residential area.

The operational range on LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC consists of two paved parking lots and the USARC Building (Building 00001). The range has never been currently or historically used for live-fire or non-live-fire munitions.

Previous ORA Investigations

The Phase I for LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC was completed in 2008. The initial qualitative assessment consisted of collecting, evaluating and presenting available data to establish if there is an interaction between the on-range sources of MCOC and off-range receptors (source/receptor interaction).

During the Phase I assessment, the 1st Mission Support Command confirmed one operational range on LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC, which included:

- Classroom Training Area: 3.94-acre range located in the central portion of LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC. The range consisted of two paved parking lots and the USARC Building (Building 00001). The range was used for classroom training and equipment maintenance.

According to the Phase I, training with live-fire and non-live-fire munitions never occurred on any of the ranges, and the ranges were found to have no known sources of MCOC from current or historical activities; therefore, the ranges were categorized as Unlikely and placed into a periodic review cycle.

The Periodic Review for LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC was completed in 2015. The purpose of the Periodic Review was to re-evaluate the 2008 Phase I and determine whether the sources, pathways and receptor evaluation completed during the initial assessment remained valid.

During the Periodic Review, it was determined that LTC Hernan G. Pesquera had been transferred to the 81st Regional Support Command in October 2012. Additionally, it was confirmed there had been no ranges added or removed from the operational inventory, no changes to the operational range, and no use of live-fire or non-live-fire munitions since the previous assessment. Therefore, there was still no source of MC and the Unlikely categorization of the operational range remained valid.

ORA Basic Assessment (2020)

During the Basic Assessment, it was confirmed that there was still no munitions used on the operational range at LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC. As no munitions are currently used or have historically been used on LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC, there is no source of MCOC and no potential risk to off-range human or ecological receptors. No changes to the Conceptual Site Model occurred as a result of data collection and evaluation during this assessment cycle. The operational range at LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC remains categorized as Unlikely.

For more information on LTC Hernan G. Pesquera USARC contact:
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For more information on the DoD Operational Range Assessment Program visit <https://www.denix.osd.mil/orap/home/>