



# Operational Range Assessment

## Barksdale Air Force Base

### Air Force Operational Range Assessment Program

February 2024

#### 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

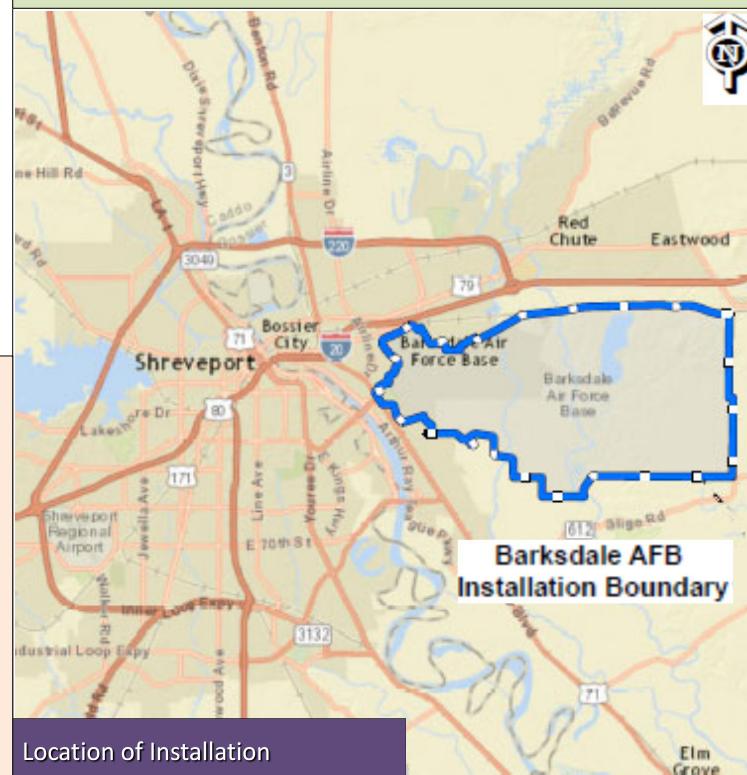
Barksdale Air Force Base (AFB) occupies approximately 21,945 acres in northwest Louisiana (LA). The base is adjacent to and east of Bossier City, LA. Barksdale AFB is divided into two main areas: the Main Base and East Reservation. The Main Base Area is the northwestern section while the East Reservation comprises the eastern half of the base. Barksdale AFB has one geographically separate unit (GSU): the Claiborne Bombing and Gunnery Range (called Claiborne Range).

#### ORAP Findings: February 2024 ORA Report

- No viable munitions constituents (MC) migration pathways were identified for the seven areas assessed under this effort.
- No actual or substantial threat of an off-range MC release exists for areas assessed at Barksdale AFB, including Claiborne Range.
- No unacceptable risks to human health or the environment were identified for areas assessed.

#### Next Steps

Barksdale 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

During implementation of the ORAP at Barksdale AFB, seven operational areas were verified to be eligible for an assessment based on munitions and/or energetics use. ORAP eligible areas include: Small Arms Firing Range (SAFR) Complex, M203 Grenade Training Range, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Training Range, EOD Proficiency Training Range, Survival Training, Warrior Training Center (WTC), and Claiborne Range (CR). One ORAP ineligible area exists at Barksdale AFB, the weapons storage area.

### SAFR Complex Assessment Overview

The SAFR Complex encompasses 2.3 acres in the north central portion of the base. The Complex is currently comprised of two sites: Range A and Range C. Range A is fully contained, and Range C is currently inactive.

This is the second Phase 1 assessment of the SAFR Complex; an initial assessment was completed in 2017.

The SAFR Complex is used for small arms training. MC (metals and nitroglycerin) may be available for transport via runoff and infiltration; however, it is unlikely that MC are migrating due to the built and natural infrastructure of the SAFR Complex. No viable migration mechanisms were identified; therefore, there is no threat of an off-range MC release nor risks to human or environmental receptors.

### M203 Grenade Training Range Assessment Overview

The M203 Grenade Training Range, located on the East Reservation portion of the base, is an open area approximately 10.5 acres in size and surrounded by heavy woodlands. The range is used for annual certification with practice grenades.

This is the third Phase 1 ORA at the M203 Grenade Training Range. An initial assessment was completed in 2011, and a periodic assessment was conducted in 2017.

Given minimal use with practice munitions, there is limited MC (metals) suspected in soils at target areas and firing points. Although transport via stormwater runoff is a possible migration mechanism, due to a limited MC source, no viable migration mechanisms were identified. There is no threat of release nor risks to receptors.

### EOD Training Range ("Moon Lake EOD Range")

The EOD Training Range, unofficially known as the "Moon Lake EOD Range," is located on the East Reservation. The EOD Training Range, encompassing roughly 115 acres, consists of a primary use area surrounded by wooded land. The area is used for training approximately two times per month.

This is the second Phase 1 assessment at the EOD Training Range; an initial ORA was completed in 2017.

Limited MC (explosives and metals) are suspected to be in soils at the detonation area. Although transport via leaching is possible, due to a limited MC source, no viable migration mechanisms were identified. As such, there is no threat of release and no risks to receptors.

### EOD Proficiency Training Range ("Flag Lake EOD Range")

The EOD Proficiency Training Range is located southeast of Flag Lake on the East Reservation and is unofficially known as "Flag Lake EOD Range." The range is roughly 20 acres in size and surrounded by forested land. Use of the range is limited due to nearby oil and gas activities.

This is the third Phase 1 ORA at the EOD Proficiency Training Range. An initial assessment was completed in 2011, and a periodic assessment was conducted in 2017.

Based on findings from prior (non-ORAP) investigations of the area, limited MC (explosives and metals) are in soils at the multiple detonation pits within the primary use area. Although transport via runoff and leaching are possible, due to a limited MC source, no viable migration mechanisms were identified. As such, there is no threat of release nor risks to receptors (human or ecological).

### Survival Training

The Survival Training area is located on the East Reservation near the northeast boundary of Barksdale AFB. The training area encompasses approximately 3,400 acres of primarily forested land. The area is used once a month for flare, obscurant smoke, and simulator training events.

This is the second Phase 1 assessment at the Survival Training area. An initial ORA was completed in 2017.

## Survival Training Continued

Due to infrequent training and dispersed use of approved munitions at the Survival Training area, a limited MC (explosives, metals, perchlorate) source is suspected. All migration mechanisms were identified as not viable. There is no threat of an off-range MC release and no risks to receptors at the Survival Training area.

## Warrior Training Center (WTC)

The WTC area is located on the East Reservation near the northeast boundary of Barksdale AFB and covers approximately 40 acres. Note: The WTC is located within the boundary of the Survival Training area.

This is the second Phase 1 assessment at the WTC. An initial ORA was completed in 2017.

The WTC is used monthly for urban warfare training with smoke grenades and Simmunition® rounds. Limited MC (explosives, metals, perchlorate) are suspected in soils. Although transport via leaching is possible, due to a limited MC source, no viable migration mechanisms were identified. As such, there is no threat of release nor risks to receptors.



## Claiborne Range

The Claiborne Range, encompassing approximately 7,800 acres, is located about 40 miles south of Barksdale AFB within the Kisatchie National Forest. This air-to-ground range has been in operation since 1972 for training with practice rounds.

Claiborne Range was quantitatively evaluated in 2004 under a precursor study to the ORAP. The range was subsequently assessed under the ORAP in 2007, 2011, 2017. Further study of suspected MC migration was completed in 2022, and no evidence of off-range MC migration was found.

This ORA effort verified MC (explosives, metals, perchlorate) present in soils within target areas, impact areas, or detonation points may runoff to surrounding surface water or infiltrate to underlying groundwater. However, through continued monitoring (sampling), all media exposure pathways were confirmed to be incomplete.

Based on the conclusions for this periodic ORA for Claiborne Range, there is no off-range release of MC and no potential 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/>