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Prepared for:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States (U.S.) Army is conducting qualitative assessments at operational ranges to meet the requirements of Department of Defense policy and to support the U.S. Army Sustainable Range Program. The operational range qualitative assessment (hereinafter referred to as Phase I Assessment) is the first phase of the U.S. Army Operational Range Assessment Program. This Phase I Assessment evaluates the operational range area at Wildcat Hills State Recreation Local Training Area (LTA), referred to as Wildcat Hills LTA, to assess whether further investigation is needed to determine if potential munitions constituents of concern (MCOC) are or could be migrating off-range at levels that may pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. In conducting the Phase I Assessment, MCOC sources, potential off-range migration pathways, and potential off-range human and ecological receptors are evaluated as appropriate.

Wildcat Hills LTA lies in western Nebraska. According to the Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase from 2007, Wildcat Hills LTA encompasses approximately 853 acres; however, based on information obtained during the site visit, the boundary was updated on 21 November 2007 to encompass 666.57 acres. The training area lies predominantly in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska, with a small, southern portion lying in Banner County, Nebraska. The closest city is Gering, eight miles north of the installation. The installation is not considered to lie in a city or township; however it uses Gering as its mailing address (Personal Communication 2008, NGPC Personnel). There are two ranges encompassing a total operational range area of 673.5 acres. One range is a light maneuver/training area encompassing 666.57 acres; the other is a miscellaneous training range encompassing 6.93 acres. The ranges overlap; hence, the sum of range areas is greater than the total installation acreage. Neither range is currently being used due to termination of the land use agreement (LUA).

Wildcat Hills LTA is used for training via LUA between the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) and the State of Nebraska Military Department. The operational ranges have not been used since 29 February 2006 due to termination of the LUA. As stated in the LUA, the only military munitions authorized for use at Wildcat Hills LTA were small caliber blanks; the units were to remove all brass casings when training was completed (Personal Communication 2008, NGPC Personnel). Because historic training activities involved blank munitions only, there is no potential source of MCOC. Therefore, potential off-range migration pathways and potential off-range human and ecological receptors were not evaluated, and the ranges at Wildcat Hills LTA are categorized as Unlikely. The Nebraska Army National Guard (NEARNG) has expressed interest in using Wildcat Hills LTA for training purposes in the future.

Installations with operational ranges where no munitions or only small caliber blanks have been utilized are categorized as Unlikely. That is, based on a review of available information, there is sufficient evidence to show that due to the lack of munitions use there are no known releases or source-receptor interactions that could present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Ranges categorized as Unlikely are required to be re-evaluated at least every five years. Re-evaluation may occur sooner if significant changes (e.g., change in range operations or site conditions, regulatory changes) occur that affect determinations made during this Phase I Assessment.

Table ES-1 summarizes the Phase I Assessment findings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Number of Ranges and Acreage</th>
<th>Source(s)</th>
<th>Pathways(s)</th>
<th>Conclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unlikely</td>
<td>Two operational ranges; 673.5 acres</td>
<td>No source—no current or historical use of live-fire military munitions</td>
<td>Not evaluated (no source identified)</td>
<td>Re-evaluate during the five-year review.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARID-GEO</td>
<td>Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFMO</td>
<td>Construction and Facilities Management Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSM</td>
<td>Conceptual Site Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DoD</td>
<td>Department of Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTA</td>
<td>Local Training Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUA</td>
<td>Land Use Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCOC</td>
<td>Munitions Constituents of Concern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEARNG</td>
<td>Nebraska Army National Guard</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGPC</td>
<td>Nebraska Game and Parks Commission</td>
</tr>
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<td>ORAP</td>
<td>Operational Range Assessment Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USACE</td>
<td>United States Army Corps of Engineers</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Figure 2-1
General Wildcat Hills LTA Location and Operational Range Area

Data Sources:
ARID-GEO, 2007
ESRI, StreetMap USA, 2005

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Installation
Installation Boundary
Operational Area

Roads
Highway
Major Road
Local Road

Administrative
Urbanized Area
County Boundary

Hydrology
River/Stream
Waterbody