



McMullen Range Range Condition Assessment (RCA)

June 2011

Background

The U.S. Navy's **Range Sustainment Program** is designed to ensure that testing and training ranges remain operational while protecting human health and the environment for nearby communities. The **Range Sustainability Environmental Program Assessment (RSEPA)** process is a Navy initiative designed to assess potential environmental impacts of testing and training operations and to implement measures to protect the environment when needed.

The first step of the RSEPA process is the **Range Condition Assessment (RCA)**, which is an information gathering process that fundamentally answers two questions:

- 1) Is the range in full compliance with environmental laws and policies?
- 2) Is there a threat of an off-range release of hazardous munitions constituents (MCs)?

MCs are defined as materials originating from munitions, including explosive, non-explosive, emission, degradation or breakdown elements.

An RCA was completed for the Dixie and Yankee Targets at the McMullen Bombing and Gunnery Range in May 2010. This fact sheet summarizes and explains the findings and conclusions for the 2010 McMullen Range RCA.

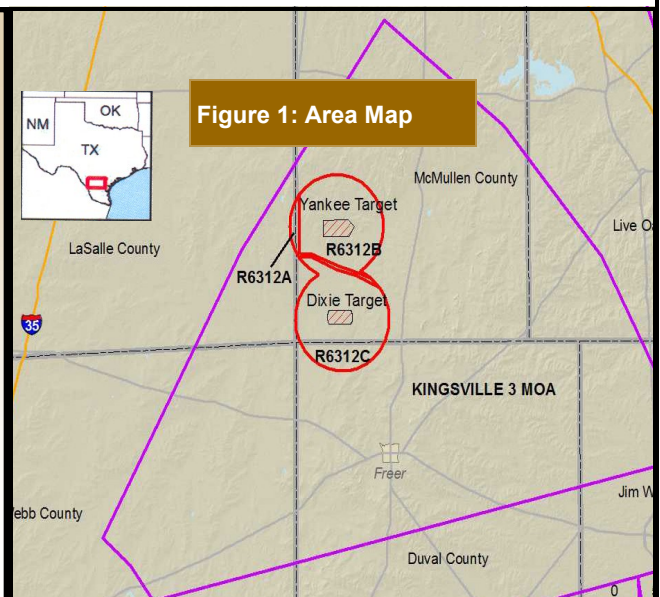
McMullen Range RCA Findings

- ✓ McMullen's operational ranges meet environmental compliance requirements.
- ✓ There are no potential off-range releases of MCs from McMullen Range that pose unsafe risks to human health or the environment.

McMullen Range

The McMullen Range is located within the south-southwestern portion of McMullen County, Texas and consists of the Dixie and Yankee Targets. Figure 1 shows the range boundary outlined in purple and the Dixie and Yankee Target areas outlined in red.

The Dixie and Yankee target impact areas are shown in red hash lines in Figure 1 (Figure 1 not to scale). They contain an assortment of air-to-ground bombing and gunnery targets. Both Dixie and Yankee targets are authorized for practice munitions only.



RCA Information

To develop the McMullen Range RCA, a team of environmental and range operational experts evaluated the history of range use, including the types and quantities of munitions used and their chemical constituents; available environmental sampling data; and environmental regulatory requirements and compliance efforts. The information summarized below came from site visits, soil sampling, personnel interviews, archive search reports, and document reviews conducted in May 2009.

Training and Munitions Use

Since 1965, the U.S. Navy and the Texas Air National Guard have used the Dixie and Yankee Targets to train student pilots in the delivery of air-to-ground munitions. Current activities at both targets include dropping 5, 10, 25, and 500-pound practice bombs that do not contain high explosives. In addition, the Yankee Target is used for gunnery strafing with 20-millimeter (mm) practice ammunition that does not contain high explosives. The Yankee Target also has the capability to simulate the launch of anti-aircraft rockets by launching surface-to-air missile simulators known as Smokey SAMs.

No high explosives have been used at either range. The use of practice munitions typically leaves little to no MCs behind after testing and training because they contain either no explosives or very small amounts, which are consumed upon firing. Based on the historical and current use of practice munitions, the RCA determined that the Dixie and Yankee targets are not a significant source of munitions constituents.

Environmental Sampling Data

Environmental sampling has not been required or conducted at either target area.

Environmental Compliance Review

Interviews with McMullen Environmental Program Managers and review of environmental program records and regulatory inspection results confirmed that McMullen operational ranges meet environmental compliance requirements.

McMullen Range RCA Results

- ✓ **McMullen’s operational ranges meet environmental compliance requirements.**
 - This was confirmed through interviews with McMullen environmental managers and review of environmental program records and regulatory inspection results.
- ✓ **There are no potential off-range releases of MCs from McMullen Range that pose unsafe risks to human health or the environment.**
 - The RCA determined that a significant source of MCs does not exist from McMullen Range as a result of the minimal amounts of MCs present in the practice munitions used during training operations.

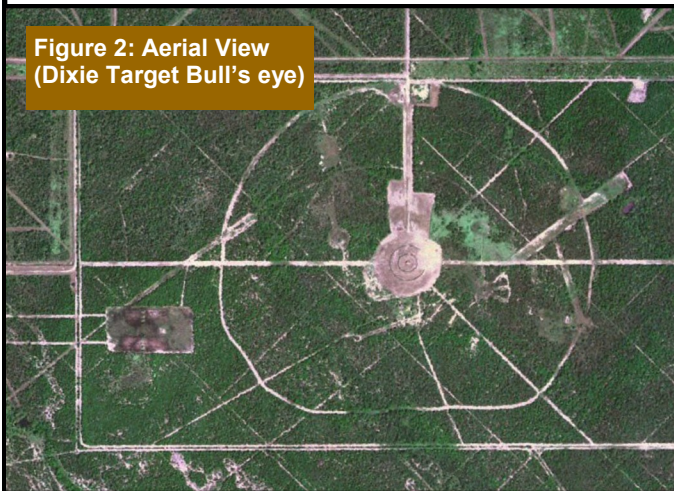


Figure 2: Aerial View (Dixie Target Bull's eye)

What's Next?

Under the Navy’s RSEPA program, RCAs are repeated every five years to ensure continued protection of public health and the environment. The McMullen RCA will be repeated, and the findings will again be made available to the public.

For More Information

**Contact: United States Fleet Forces (USFF), Public Affairs Officer at (757) 836-3600
More information online at www.denix.osd.mil/sustainableranges—click on “Reports”**