



# FACT SHEET

## Time-Critical Removal Action

### Installation Restoration Program Site 1

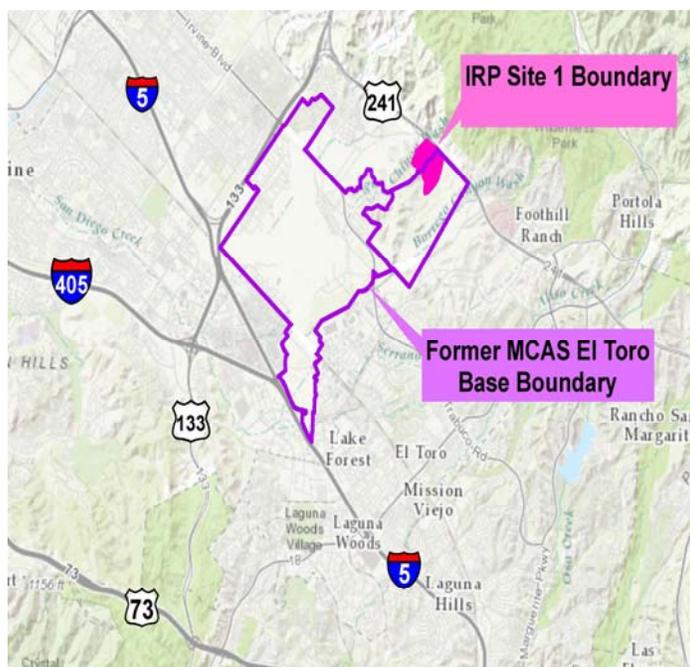
### Former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro

### Irvine, California



July 2018

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to update the community on the United States Department of the Navy's (DON's) continuing cleanup activities on Former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro, Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site 1. Specifically, the DON is implementing a time-critical removal action (TCRA) at IRP Site 1 to address the potential presence of munitions in soil.



Former MCAS El Toro is located in south-central Orange County, about 8 miles southeast of Santa Ana. IRP Site 1 comprises two distinct areas:

- an on-Station area referred to as the *Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Training Range* (DON-owned), which is about 74 acres; and
- an off-Station area referred to as the *Adjacent Property* (private and public property, never DON-owned), which is about 56 acres.

Ownership of the off-Station area is divided between The Irvine Company (TIC) and the Orange County Flood Control District

(OCFCD). TIC has plans to create a residential community on parcels of their property, with the rest of the area remaining as undeveloped open space. The Agua Chinon Retarding Basin and Retarding Dam were constructed by OCFCD to provide flood and sedimentation control for the valley below.

This TCRA will address a 20-acre portion of the *Adjacent Property*. This acreage includes the Agua Chinon Retarding Basin (14.4 acres) and 5.6 acres adjacent to the Agua Chinon Retarding Basin.

The TCRA objective is to reduce the risk and hazard to future landowners and the environment by removing potential munitions from the soil.

### WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED SO FAR?

Former MCAS El Toro was placed on the National Priorities List in 1990 and was operationally closed in July 1999 pursuant to the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act. EOD training exercises were conducted at IRP Site 1 from 1952 until closure of Former MCAS El Toro. Military ordnance used on the *EOD Training Range* included 20-millimeter (mm) projectiles, hand grenades, smoke bombs, and rocket-propelled munitions. The *Adjacent Property* was impacted by kick-outs from range activities performed on the *EOD Training Range*. Previous investigations and cleanups on IRP Site 1 included a munitions range evaluation and hazard analysis in 2002, a munitions characterization in 2008, and a TCRA for the *Adjacent Property* in 2010. During the 2010 TCRA, nearly all munitions and debris items were identified and recovered from less than 12 inches below ground surface. The most prevalent munitions recovered and disposed of were 20-mm projectiles, which are about 1/2-inch by 3-inches (see photo, above).



**Additional information and documents may be found at these locations:**

**Administrative Record** (*complete Site 1 record; all documents*)  
 Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest  
 1220 Pacific Highway Code EV33, Naval Base San Diego BLDG. 3519  
 San Diego, CA 92132  
 Contact: Ms. Diane Silva, Administrative Records Coordinator  
 Phone: (619) 556-1280

**Information Repository** (*selected documents*)  
 Heritage Park Regional Library  
 14361 Yale Avenue, Irvine, CA 92604  
 Hours: Mon – Thurs: 10am – 8pm;  
 Fri – Sun: 9am – 5pm  
 Phone: (949) 936-4040

Or on the Web at: [https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac\\_bases/california/former\\_mcas\\_el\\_toro.html](https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac_bases/california/former_mcas_el_toro.html)



**Example of 20-mm Projectiles Recovered at IRP Site 1**



**Soil Screening Plant**



**Digital Geophysical Mapping Survey**

## WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS?

On the *Adjacent Property*, previous investigations and surveys in this area recovered small munitions and munitions debris items (e.g., fragments, casings). The photo, above left, shows examples of recovered munitions from the *Adjacent Property*. Previous investigations documented that the density of recovered munitions decreased with depth and with distance from the EOD Training Range. In the 5.6-acre area, less than one article (munitions and munitions debris combined) per acre was identified and removed. The DON is taking action to address the risk and hazard from potential munitions in the soil.

## WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE CLEANUP?

The objective for the *TCRA* is to identify and perform a clearance of potential remaining munitions to remove the hazard to future receptors. Removal activities in the 5.6 acres adjacent to the Agua Chinon Retarding Basin include: removing vegetation, sampling (explosive residues and select metals), scraping the upper 12 inches of soil, mechanically sifting the excavated soil (see photo, above center), digital geophysical mapping (see photo, above right), removing identified potential munitions, and restoring the site. Unexploded Ordnance-qualified personnel will determine the final disposition of munitions. The proposed action is consistent with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Residential Reuse Protocol and will supplement previous site activities. The overall goal is to investigate and document 100% of the site using digital geophysical mapping.

Within the Agua Chinon Wash Retarding Basin, digital geophysical mapping will be conducted and identified anomalies will be investigated to depth of detection. Intrusive work will not

be performed under any existing active roadways, stormwater control features (e.g., rip rap), or active existing structures (e.g., the dam, associated structures, service roads). Because the *Adjacent Property* contains habitat used by federally protected species (e.g., least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher), biological monitors will complete pre-construction surveys and provide full-time oversight during field work. Potential cultural resources will be identified and managed according to applicable regulations. Procedures will be implemented to minimize dust, noise, and wastes generated during removal activities.

The DON has been working closely with the Agencies listed below to prepare an Action Memorandum and Work Plan. This *TCRA* is anticipated to be the final action for the 20-acre investigation area.

## WHEN WILL THE CLEANUP OCCUR?

The *TCRA* is currently scheduled to be conducted from July through October 2018. This schedule may proceed more or less quickly depending on planning document approvals, weather, and the investigation findings.

## WHICH AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED?

The DON is the Lead Agency for this *TCRA*. In coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DTSC, and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Santa Ana Region, the DON is exercising its authority under the Comprehensive Environmental, Response, Compensation, and Liability Act to execute this *TCRA*.

**UPCOMING MEETING ON TCRA**  
MCAS El Toro Restoration Advisory Board Meeting  
August 1, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m. at Irvine City Hall

## PROJECT CONTACTS

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