CLOSED CASTNER RANGE UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2015

Fort Bliss is providing this update on the work being conducted under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) at the Closed Castner Range to keep stakeholders and the general public informed of the progress of remedial actions conducted for this site. Closed Castner Range is presently in the Remedial Investigation phase (RI). An Explosives Site Plan (ESP) is still under review as part of this phase.

Fig1. Collecting distribution and density of munitions data at Closed Castner Range.

FIELD INVESTIGATION

As part of the RI, a field investigation will be conducted to determine the nature and extent of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) and Munitions Constituents (MC), and gather data to assess potential threats to humans and the environment. Specifically the field inspection will assess the physical characteristics of the site (air, soil, surface/ground water), and characteristics, density, and potential hazards of the UXO, MEC and MC. These tasks are achieved through geophysical analysis, intrusive investigations, and/or sampling.

Geophysical analysis provides data of potential UXO and MEC in the subsurface. A portable detection system (EM61) shown in Figure 1 provides information of metal "anomalies" which could be UXO or MEC. During geophysical analysis using a portable system, a geophysical sensor is walked over evenly spaced lines (transects) throughout the site in areas where MEC may be present. Figure 2 shows surveyed transects (red lines) at the Closed Castner Range.

When anomalies are found, an intrusive investigation is conducted to identify their source. Recovered MEC is normally detonated in place, however, in some cases it may be transported offsite for destruction. MC may also be found in concentrations high enough to pose an explosive risk or other hazards. Soil sampling is necessary to determine if this risk exists (Fig 3).

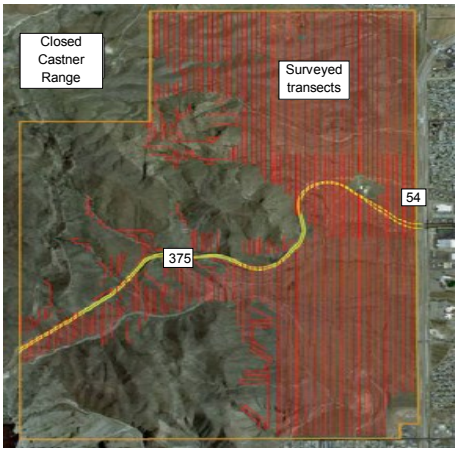

Fig 2. Survey transects on Castner Range.

Fig 3. Excavating anomalies/sampling.

After surveying the site and, pinpointing and excavating anomalies, found items are classified (i.e. MEC, munition debris, range related debris) and data is recorded for each anomaly (Fig 4).

The RI field investigation is expected to cover approximately a 7082-acre area comprising Castner Range. Prior analyses and investigations will also support the completion of the RI. All compiled analytical records will be uploaded to Army database systems and documented in a final RI report . The RI results will be made available to the public.

Fig 4. Classifying items and recording data.

Contact Information: Please send any comments and/or questions to Ms. Sylvia Waggoner at sylvia.a.waggoner.civ@mail.mil.

CLOSED CASTNER RANGE UPDATE

Directorate of Public Works-Environmental Division
ATTN: IMBL-PWE
Building 622, Corner of Pleasonton & Taylor
Fort Bliss, Texas 79916

CLOSED CASTNER RANGE UPDATE