



# FINAL

## Operational Range Assessment Program Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report

### Rio Rancho Training Site, New Mexico

U.S. Army Operational Range Assessment Program  
Qualitative Operational Range Assessments

Prepared for:

U.S. Army Environmental Command and

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District



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October 2008



## 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 Rio Rancho Training Site (TS) 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.

Rio Rancho TS encompasses 119.33 acres of federal land located approximately seven miles northwest of the city of Bernalillo, New Mexico and approximately 27 miles north of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The training site was established in December 1986; and, until February 1991, its mission was to provide training and administrative facilities supporting Air Defense Artillery operations of the U.S. Military. During this time, the non-operational range area (22.96 acres) included the Air Defense Artillery Headquarters, armory, cold storage building, storage sheds, vehicle maintenance shop, and wash-racks (Office of Contract Archeology, University of New Mexico, 2007). From 1986 to 1991, the operational range area (96.37 acres) consisted of five ranges that were used to train troops using simulated weapons guidance systems. In 1991, the mission of the facility changed and the Air Defense Artillery was removed. The five ranges were turned into four light maneuver and training areas and a confidence and obstacle course (Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase [ARID-GEO], 2007). During the site visit, it was observed that the site was under construction. Currently, the New Mexico Army National Guard (NMARNG) is in the process of constructing a confidence and obstacle ropes course that will combine the five maneuver and training ranges in the operational use area (96.37 acres) into one range (NMARNG, Environmental Division, Natural and Cultural Personnel, pers. comm.).

According to the ARID-GEO (2007), there are no munitions currently authorized for use at Rio Rancho TS, and no munitions have been historically or are currently used at the facility (NMARNG, Environmental Division, Natural and Cultural Personnel, pers. comm.). A review of available records and background data, as well as interviews with installation personnel, indicated that the five range areas at Rio Rancho TS have never been used for training involving the use of military munitions (live-fire or non-live-fire). Currently, Rio Rancho TS is inactive and under construction to become a single confidence and obstacle course. Because the site is currently inactive and training did not historically involve the use of military munitions, there are no potential sources of MCOC at Rio Rancho TS. Therefore, potential off-range migration pathways and potential off-range human and ecological receptors were not evaluated, and the range at Rio Rancho TS is categorized as Unlikely.

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 ES-1: Summary of Findings and Conclusions for Rio Rancho Training Site**

Category	Total Number of Ranges and Acreage	Source(s)	Pathways(s)	Human and Ecological Receptors	Conclusions
Unlikely	5 operational ranges; 96.37 acres	No source—no current or historical use of live-fire military munitions	Not evaluated (no source identified)		Re-evaluate during the five-year review.

## ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ARID-GEO	Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DoD	Department of Defense
MCOG	Munitions Constituents of Concern
NMARNG	New Mexico Army National Guard
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
TS	Training Site
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
° F	Degrees Fahrenheit



Operational Range Assessment Program  
Phase I Qualitative Assessment  
Rio Rancho Training Site, New Mexico

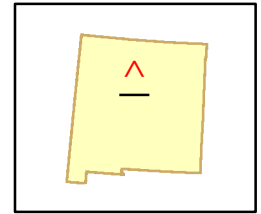
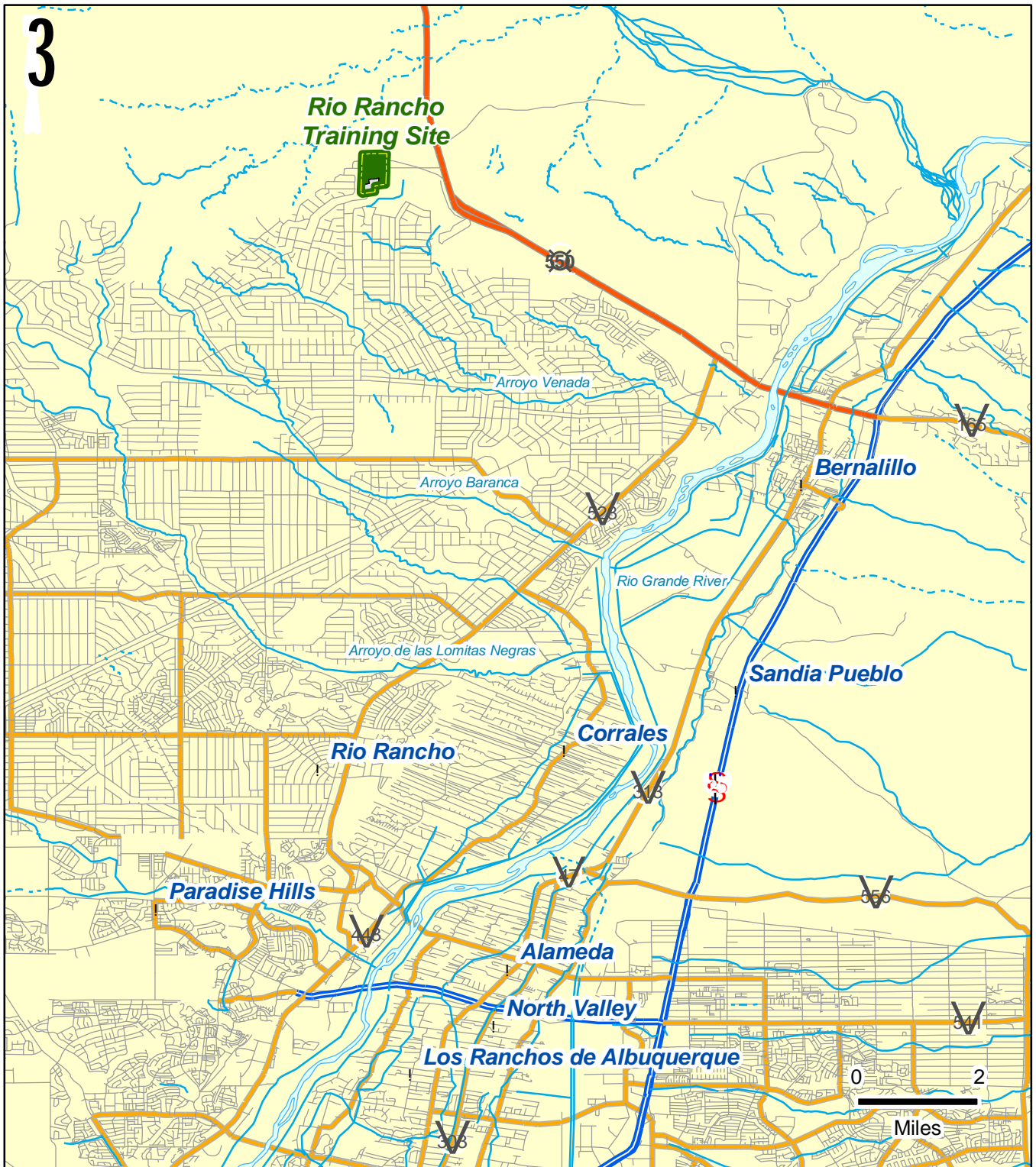


Figure 2-1  
General Rio Rancho Training Site Location



**Installation Data**

- Installation Boundary
- Non-Operational Use Area
- Operational Use Area

**Transportation**

- Interstate
- Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road

**Hydrology**

- Waterbody
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream

Data Sources:  
USAEC, ORIS, 2007  
ESRI, StreetMap, 2006

Date:.....October 2008  
Prepared By: EA Engineering, Science, and Technology  
Prepared For:.....U.S. Army  
Contract Number:.....W912DR-07-D-0042