



# FINAL

## Operational Range Assessment Program Phase I Qualitative Assessment Report Camp Varnum, Rhode Island

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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## **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 Camp Varnum 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.

Camp Varnum encompasses 49.25 acres within the town of Narragansett, Rhode Island approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Narragansett Pier. Camp Varnum is a training area for the Rhode Island Army National Guard. The Army Range Inventory Database-Geodatabase (2007) reports two operational ranges encompassing 18.43 acres and one non-operational range area of 30.82 acres. A review of available records and background data, as well as interviews with facility personnel, indicated that the operational ranges at Camp Varnum have not been used for training involving military munitions. The two operational ranges at Camp Varnum include a parade/drill field and a light forces maneuver and training area used for amphibious assault, and diving training and qualification.

Camp Varnum was established as a coastal defense installation and training site during World War II. A historical range located within a currently non-operational area was used from 1942 to 1944. This former range contained fixed gunblocks for 37mm and 90mm guns, three inch rifles, and six inch rapid-fire rifles, as well as ammunition storage bunkers. Due to the location of the historical range within the non-operational area, this historical range is identified as an adjoining area of concern for operational range areas within Camp Varnum. Activities conducted in this range will be addressed under a program separate from the ORAP.

Because training activities in the operational range areas do not involve, and historically have not involved, the use of military munitions, there are no potential sources of MCOC. Therefore, potential off-range migration pathways and potential off-range human and ecological receptors were not evaluated, and the range at Camp Varnum 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 Camp Varnum**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Number of Ranges and Acreage</b>	<b>Source(s)</b>	<b>Pathways(s)</b>	<b>Human and Ecological Receptors</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>
Unlikely	2 operational ranges; 18.43 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
ORAP	Operational Range Assessment Program
RIARNG	Rhode Island Army National Guard
RTI	Regional Training Institute
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers



Operational Range Assessment Program  
Phase I Qualitative Assessment  
Camp Varnum, RI

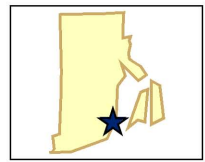


Figure 2-1  
General Camp Varnum Location and Operational Range Area



- | Installation |                       | Range Type |                            |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------------|
|              | Installation Boundary |            | Maneuver and Training Area |
|              | Non-Operational Area  |            |                            |

Data Sources:  
ARID-GEO 2007, ESRI StreetMap 2005

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