

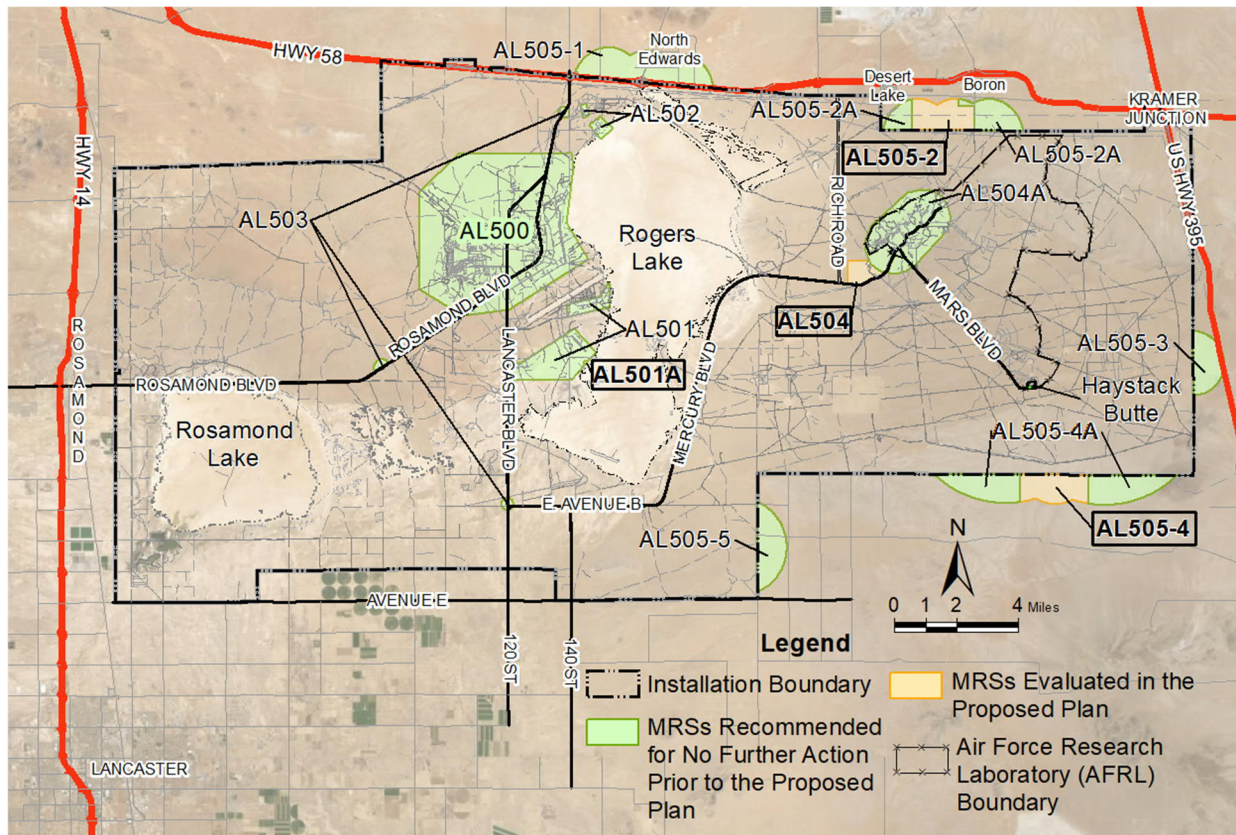


Air Force Seeks Public Comment on Munitions Response Cleanup Plan

The Air Force is asking the public to comment on proposed cleanup plans addressing four Munitions Response Sites (MRSs) located within

or adjacent to Edwards Air Force Base (AFB) (Base), California (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Edwards AFB Location Map



The Air Force report titled *Final Proposed Plan for MRSs AL501A, AL504, AL505-2, and AL505-4 – Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), Edwards Air Force Base, CA* (September 2021); Administrative Record Number [AR #] 6022) describes and compares cleanup or restoration alternatives proposed by the Air Force in agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

MRSs AL501A, AL504, AL505-2, and AL505-4 were investigated due to the presence of at least one of the following munitions-related hazards:

- Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) – military munitions that may pose explosive safety hazards.
- Munitions Constituents (MCs) – materials originating from military munitions, including explosive compounds.
- Munitions Debris (MD) – remnants of munitions such as fragments, penetrators, projectiles, shell casings, links, and fins. Although MD items do not pose an explosive risk, their presence indicates that MEC and/or MCs may also be present.

Public comments on the Proposed Plan will be accepted until November 1, 2021.

Copies of the Proposed Plan are available at the three information repositories listed on Page 4 and on the Administrative Record File (see the blue box below).


U.S. Air Force Administrative Record

Click this link <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil> or copy it to your web browser.

At the start page, click “Continue to Site.”

With the “Active Duty” button selected, scroll down the “Installation List” and select “Edwards AFB, CA.”

Enter the appropriate AR # (see text) in the “AR #” field and click the “Search” button.

Documents can be viewed by clicking on the  icon in the “View” column.

MMRP Sites Located on or off Edwards AFB

Site	Description	Preferred Alternative
On-Base		
AL501A	South Base Ordnance Range (Pistol Range)	No Further Action
AL504	7 th Army Air Force Bombing and Gunnery Range (Former Mock Battleship Target Area)	Land Use Controls and Long-Term Management with site perimeter warning signs
Off-Base		
AL505-2	Off-Base Adjacent Area 2 (Central); overshoot area for former bombing targets	Land Use Controls and Long-Term Management
AL505-4	Off-Base Adjacent Area 4 (Central); overshoot area for former bombing targets	Land Use Controls and Long-Term Management

The four sites are identified in the table above and shown on Figure 1 (Page 1). Two of the sites are located on-Base and two are off-Base. Each site is described in detail in the *Proposed Plan*.

The four sites were used in munitions training. The on-Base sites include a pistol range for small arms training and a target used in high altitude

aerial bombardment training. The two off-Base sites were overshoot areas for bombing targets.

The Air Force has divided the four sites into two categories: one *no further action* and three *further action sites*. The further action sites require additional measures to fully protect people and the environment. The no further action site (AL501A) is an area with no explosive hazards and has already been cleaned up with tests showing so little contamination that it is not hazardous to people or the environment.

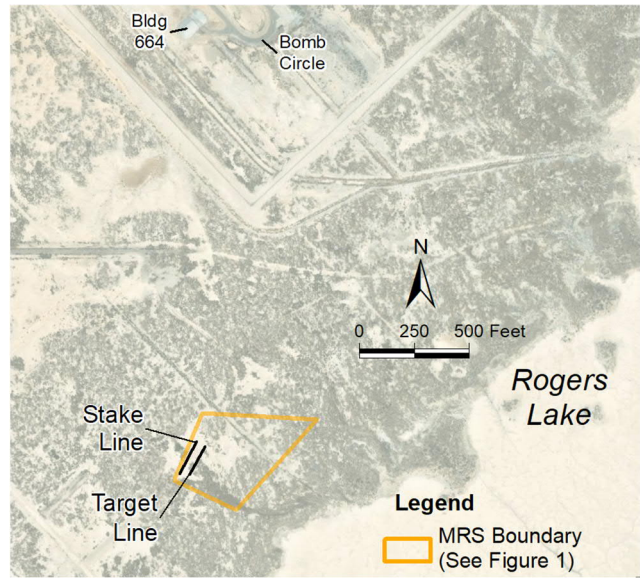
The *Proposed Plan* evaluates all the alternatives against nine criteria, or standards, set up in the federal environmental regulation called the *Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980* (CERCLA), or Superfund law. Table 4-2 of the *Proposed Plan* compares the alternatives to the nine criteria.

After considering public input on the *Proposed Plan*, the Air Force will select one cleanup alternative for each of the MRSs to be documented in a Record of Decision (ROD).

MRS AL501A (PISTOL RANGE)

The site is an 8-acre former pistol range, located near the South Base runway on the “shore” of Rogers Lake; the range was used between 1933 and 1944 (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. MRS AL501A



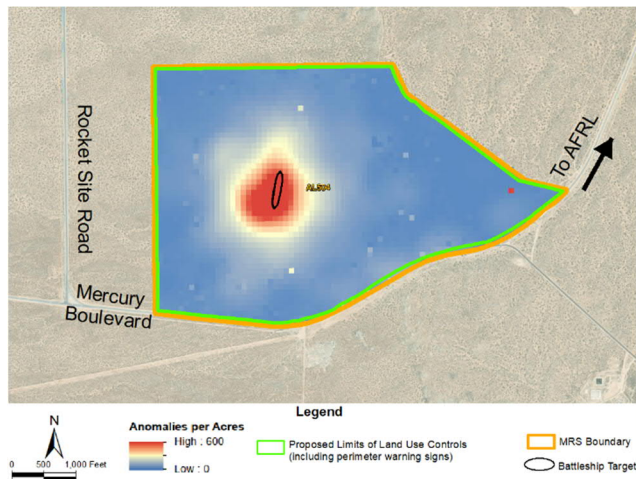
Investigations conducted between 2005 and 2010 indicated that only small arms training was conducted; no other munitions use was documented or is suspected. Lead bullets and

bullet fragments were found on site, but no MEC items were found.

MRS AL504 (FORMER MOCK BATTLESHIP TARGET AREA)

The site is a former aerial bombardment training target located southwest of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL); the target was constructed in 1935 using crushed white rock in the outline of a battleship and was used until 1944 (see Figure 3). It was concluded that there are no current unacceptable risks to human health associated with MCs at MRS AL504.

Figure 3. MRS AL504 with Preferred Alternative 2 Shown



Remedial alternatives developed for MRS AL504 included:

Alternative 1 – No Action. No Action is always included to compare against the other alternatives.

Alternative 2 – Land Use Controls (LUCs) and Long-Term Management (LTM) with site perimeter chain-link fence to protect humans, desert tortoise barrier to protect the threatened species, and warning signs posted every 200 feet to warn people of potential hazards. The Air Force will use LUCs to restrict future use of the area.

Alternative 2A (preferred alternative) – Similar to Alternative 2 but with only site perimeter warning signs to mark the LUCs boundary.

Alternative 3: Partial MEC Removal (excludes historically significant Target Area) with LUCs and LTM (including Target Area perimeter fence, tortoise barrier, and warning signs posted every 200 feet).

Alternative 3A: Similar to Alternative 3 but with only warning signs to mark the LUCs boundary.

Alternative 4: Full MEC Removal (including Target Area).

The costs of alternatives for MRS AL504 range from zero dollars (Alternative 1 – No Action) to \$44.1 million (over 5 years; Alternative 4). Alternative 2A is preferred because it’s protective of human health and environment and minimizes construction that may impact sensitive species such as the desert tortoise.

MRS AL505-2 (OFF-BASE ADJACENT AREA 2 – CENTER) AND MRS AL505-4 (OFF-BASE ADJACENT AREA 4 – CENTER)

The sites are off-Base overshoot areas for former bombing targets and include privately owned parcels and Bureau of Land Management land. The Air Force does not own or control the land for either site.

MD was found at both sites. Although the MD that was found was not hazardous, the investigation did not cover 100% of the sites (shown in Figures 4 and 5); therefore, a low potential for MEC hazard to people remains.

Figure 4. MRS AL505-2 with Preferred Alternative 2 Shown

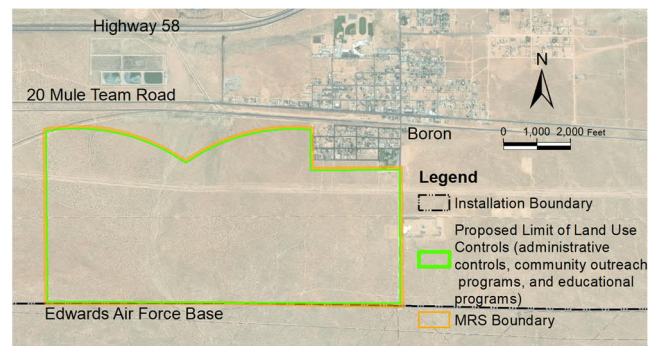
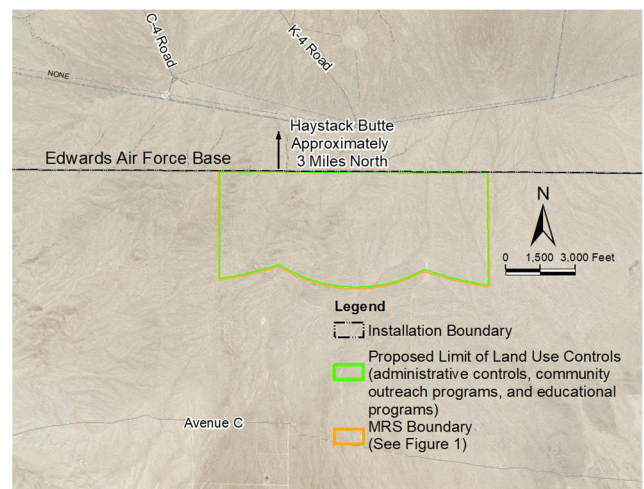


Figure 5. MRS AL505-4 with Preferred Alternative 2 Shown



Remedial alternatives developed for MRSs AL505-2 and AL505-4 included:

Alternative 1 – No Action.

Alternative 2 (preferred alternative) – LUCs (institutional controls) would be limited to administrative actions, community outreach programs, and educational programs.

The costs of alternatives for MRSs AL505-2 and AL505-4 range from zero dollars (Alternative 1 – No Action) to \$3.4 million (per site for the first 200 years; Alternative 2).

More Information Available

The Air Force encourages the public to learn more about these four MRSs and proposed cleanup or restoration activities. All documents used to make decisions about the cleanup or restoration of these sites are in the Base’s Administrative Record. To view the full Administrative Record, follow the instructions in the blue box on Page 2.

A subset of decision documents is available at the three information Repository locations listed in the green box.

To Make a Comment

Comments on the *Proposed Plan* may be made at the public meeting or by mail or e-mail. Send comments to Gary Hatch using the contact information below. A form is provided at the end of the *Proposed Plan*, but written comments are accepted in any form. Comments must be received no later than November 1, 2021.

Address: 412 TW/PA
Attn: Gary Hatch
305 E. Popson Ave.
Edwards AFB, CA 93524
Phone: (661) 277-8707
E-mail: 412tw.pae@us.af.mil
Hours: By appointment only Monday through Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm

How to Get More Information

For more Information on the MMRP at Edwards AFB, technical documents may be reviewed at the following information Repositories:

Edwards AFB Library
5 West Yeager Boulevard
Edwards AFB, California 93524.
(661) 275-2665

Los Angeles County Public Library
601 West Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 948-5029

Kern County Public Library
Wanda Kirk Branch
3611 West Rosamond Boulevard
Rosamond, CA 93560
(661) 256-3236

Please join us for a
Public Meeting/Public Availability Session
to discuss the

**Final Proposed Plan for MRSs AL501A,
AL504, AL505-2, and AL505-4
MMRP, Edwards AFB, CA**

October 5, 2021 from 5 pm to 7 pm

Senior Citizens Center
27177 Twenty Mule Team Road
Boron, California

For those who cannot attend the meeting, a slide presentation will be posted to the Edwards AFB website (<https://www.edwards.af.mil/About/Environment/>) under “PUBLICATIONS.”

For more information on the meeting, please contact Gary Hatch at (661) 277-8707 or e-mail 412tw.pae@us.af.mil



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:

- **Recognize:** when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous.
- **Retreat:** do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.
- **Report:** call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.