



# FACT SHEET

## FORMER NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH DETACHMENT CONCORD

### Removal Action at UXO Site 0014 Runway Debris Area

May 2024



The Department of the Navy is performing a removal action at the Runway Debris Area (also called UXO Site 0014) within the Inland Area of the former Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Concord (NWS Concord).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board provide oversight of the Navy's cleanup program.

### Background

NWS Concord was established in 1942 with the mission of receiving, sorting, storing, and issuing ammunition to ships and Navy facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area. The installation was divided into two areas—Tidal Area and Inland Area. The Tidal Area was transferred to the Army in 2008. Throughout its history and into the 1990s, the Inland Area of NWS Concord was used primarily for ammunition storage, but included facilities for maintenance, administration, and housing. The Runway Debris Area, in the Inland Area, became an environmental site in 2007. It includes the area of the former airfield that was constructed in the early 1940s and was used primarily

to store and sort aircraft and related materials until 1946.

In response to observations of metal debris in several areas along the former runways and taxiways, the Navy performed a series of investigations between 1993 and 2020. During the investigations, more than 1,400 metallic items were removed from locations next to the former runway and concrete runway apron. Ten percent of the locations were found to contain munitions-related items and only eight of the recovered items potentially posed an explosive hazard. The suspected origin of the munitions at the Runway Debris Area is from storage at the site. Based on the past investigations, any additional munitions are likely to be in the soil at a depth near the current surface.

### Objective and Planned Activities

The goal of the work is to remove munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) items that may be buried at the site and excavate contaminated soil. The planned fieldwork is described in the Work Plan/Sampling and Analysis Plan, which was approved by the regulatory agencies.

The following removal activities will be conducted at the site:

- Vegetation removal using powered hand tools and mowers
- Location and flagging of subsurface metallic items using a metal detector
- Excavation, inspection, and removal of metallic items
- Soil sampling beneath removed MEC items



Figure 1: Runway Debris Area, UXO Site 0014

### Acronyms and Abbreviations

BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
MEC	munitions and explosives of concern
NWS	Naval Weapons Station
OFB	open face barricade
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
UXO	unexploded ordnance
UXOSO	unexploded ordnance safety officer

- Post-removal geophysical survey to verify all metallic items have been removed
- Excavation of contaminated soil and off-haul with trucks on Willow Pass Road to a landfill. Trucks also will bring in soil to backfill the excavated locations

## Public and Worker Protection During MEC Removal

The UXO Safety Officer (UXOSO) is responsible for implementing the safety documents for all field activities. All activities will be directly overseen by both the UXOSO and senior UXO technicians to ensure safety procedures are followed at all times for the public and workers.

Unintentional detonation of munitions are never expected. However, to protect the public from any potential unintended detonation, open-front barricades (OFBs) will be used when digging at locations within 90 feet of the boundary of NWS Concord. The OFBs are constructed of rigid metal framework with acrylic armor plates.

## Soil Removal and Backfill

Additionally, soil will be excavated from seven locations because of cadmium and lead at the surface. The soil will be transported off site in approximately 15 trucks (7 trucks per day) to a State-licensed disposal facility. Trucks also will bring soil to the site to backfill the excavations. Trucks off-hauling soil will leave the site and head to the Bailey Road Gate and enter Bailey Road heading eastbound toward Antioch. Also, trucks transporting import material to the site will use Bailey Road Gate.

## Destruction of Munitions

The approved plans for this work include safe handling and disposition requirements for any explosive items found during the removal action. If a munition item is found at the site and requires on-site destruction, the Navy will use engineering controls to keep potential impacts within the base boundaries.

## Schedule

Fieldwork activities will start in summer 2024 when workers arrive at the site. Around 30 people will be at the site 5 days a week between 7 am and 5 pm for approximately 3 to 4 months. A report documenting the removal action and results will be available in spring 2025.

## How to Stay Informed/Become Involved

Project information, including previous documents, are posted on the Former Concord Naval Weapons Station Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) website: <https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/BRAC-Bases/California/Former-Naval-Weapons-Station-Seal-Beach-Detachment-Concord/>. They also are available at the Concord Library, located at 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, California.

Additionally, the Navy holds regular Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings to discuss the environmental cleanup program at NWS Concord. Attendees at the RAB meetings include community members, Navy representatives, regulatory agency representatives, City of Concord representatives, and other stakeholders who reflect the diverse interests of those living and working near the former base.

To be learn about the next RAB meeting, become involved in the environmental cleanup process, and/or be added to the website mailing list, please contact Mr. Chris Yantos.

## Navy/Agency Points of Contact

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