

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
<p>What are you looking for?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) • Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) • Discarded Military Munitions • Explosive Munitions Constituents (MC)
<p>What was Fort Columbia used for?</p>	<p>Fort Columbia, consisting of 770 acres, was purchased by the War Department in 1864 for costal fortification as part of the Harbor Defenses of the Columbia River. After purchase the land was left undisturbed until 1898 when construction began on the first of three artillery batteries and support buildings. All three batteries were completed in 1903. Between 1903 and 1947 Fort Columbia, in conjunction with Fort Stevens and Fort Canby, was a U.S. Army costal defense artillery installation protecting the Columbia River through the end on World War II.</p> <p>In late 1947 the War Department declared Fort Columbia surplus. In 1950 the State of Washington acquired the property and dedication of Fort Columbia Historic State Park was dedicated on June 17, 1951.</p>
<p>Why is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers involved?</p>	<p>The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for Department of Defense environmental programs on former lands. In the late 1980s the “Formerly Used Defense Site” program was the initiated. The Corps has conducted several actions leading to the current project.</p>
<p>What prompted the current Site Investigation?</p>	<p>In 2002 (National Defense Authorization Act), Congress required the Department of Defense to create an inventory of defense sites known or suspected of containing munitions or munitions constituents.</p> <p>DoD will prioritize the nationwide sites needing action and provide Congress with a response plan. All the Site Inspections need to be completed by the year 2010.</p>

<p>How many sites are you inspecting?</p>	<p>Currently there are six sites in Oregon: former Cold Springs Precision Bombing Range near Hermiston, former Boardman Practice Bombing Range near Boardman, Former Central Oregon Gunnery Range near Lakeview, former Northwest Maneuver Area and Camp Abbot near Bend, and former Camp Adair near Corvallis. Also there are four sites in Washington: former Fort Flagler and Fort Townsend near Port Townsend, former Port Angeles Combat Range, near Port Angeles; and Former Fort Columbia, near Ilwaco. <i>Others</i> sites may be identified in the future. Nationwide, DoD has identified over 3,300 sites with the following breakdown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active installations (1,333) • Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) (318) • Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) (1,658)
<p>What is the goal of the Site Inspections?</p>	<p>To determine if munitions or munitions constituents are present.</p>
<p>What are the possible outcomes after completion of the SI?</p>	<p>Possible Outcomes of an SI are the elimination of a site from further action or identify the need for further investigation.</p>
<p>What if there is a need for further investigation?</p>	<p>If there is a need to investigate further work may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remedial Investigation (RI) • Feasibility Study (FS) • Determine need for a time-critical removal action
<p>How will the SI information be used if further work is needed?</p>	<p>SI provides information needed for EPA’s Hazard Ranking System for National Priorities List (Superfund) sites. DoD will use the information for a new Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol.</p>
<p>What all is involved in the Site Inspection</p>	<p>The process begins with a review of available data, what we already know. Next a Technical Project Planning (TPP) is developed followed by a work</p>

process?	plan, actual field work and finally a final report summarizing all activities.
What is the Technical Project Plan?	The TPP is developed by meeting with stakeholders (regulators, property owners, local businesses, etc) and identifying their issues concerns. Identifying Areas of Concern (AOCs) at the former fort, reviewing site information, verifying current and future land use. The TPP will develop a Conceptual Site Model, Identify Data Gaps and Data Objectives. Finally all parties will concur on a field work approach.
What types of munitions may have been used at Fort Columbia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small arms • 37 mm Practice Round • 3, 6 and 8 inch Artillery projectiles
What other activities were there at Fort Columbia?	
What other work has been done on the former Fort Columbia?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1995 Inventory Project Report • 2003 ASR Supplement • 2005 Preliminary Assessment
Have munitions been found in the area?	Anecdotal information from WWII veterans discusses the type of munitions used. Documentation showing the presence of munitions and physical evidence has been found.
What will the Corps be inspecting?	The Corps' contractor will be taking samples of soil, surface water and sediment, and groundwater.
Will the Site Inspection involve heavy equipment?	The SI will be non-intrusive type of reconnaissance. The process will be visual and with the use of Magnetometers. The SI will be done by trained Unexploded Ordinance Experts. Their goal will be to avoid UXO, select samples and evaluate munitions.
Where will they get their samples from?	They will be getting samples from shallow soils, surface water/sediment and groundwater (existing wells).