



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

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15 NOV 1998

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: INTERIM ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FOR RANGE AND ORDNANCE
OPERATIONS

Ref: (a) DoD Directive 4715.11 dtd 17 Aug 99
(b) DoD Directive 4715.12 dtd 17 Aug 99

1. Regulatory agencies and the public are becoming increasingly concerned about environmental issues associated with the management and use of munitions, particularly at ranges. The encroachment by commercial and private development around some of our ranges is a factor in this rising public concern.

2. Test and training ranges are essential for sustaining the capability and combat readiness of our Naval Forces. Adverse environmental impacts at our ranges can undermine realism and effectiveness of our training, limit operational flexibility, and ultimately result in loss of access to these facilities.

3. Responsible environmental stewardship will help ensure the long-term sustainability of Navy ranges. To assist in this goal, DoD recently promulgated two directives, references (a) and (b), that establish policy and assign responsibilities for range use and management. In addition, Navy and other DoD components are engaged in dialogue with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state regulators and other stakeholders regarding environmental issues related to active and inactive ranges. This same dialogue is occurring with respect to closed, transferred and transferring (CTT) ranges, including the development of the proposed Range Rule and promulgation of interim guidance. This office is in the process of conducting surveys to verify the status of Navy ranges and to develop a baseline assessment of their environmental condition in an effort to prepare for this increased regulatory oversight. Over the next six months, this office will develop policy/guidance addressing these issues and concerns.

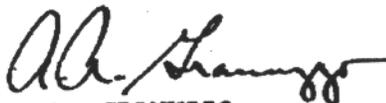
4. As a result of these ongoing initiatives and dialogues, it is essential that Navy does not agree to actions that could place our personnel at risk from unexploded ordnance (UXO), that

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may affect operational readiness, or may set unfavorable precedents. Before committing to any environmental actions that may impact ordnance operations or management of ranges, it is imperative to check with this office for policy implications and approval. Actions that may create an adverse impact on Navy operations include, but are not limited to:

- (1) performing sampling or other site-specific actions without specific regulatory requirements,
- (2) entering into agreements with regulators for the study or cleanup of UXO, including pilot projects,
- (3) negotiating permits or other binding contracts with regulators, and
- (4) conducting any ordnance removal, testing, treatment or cleanup operations (regardless of whether or not it is associated with range operations) without the proper Ordnance Environmental and Explosive Safety reviews and approvals.

5. My point of contact for active ranges and ordnance operations is Ms. Karen Foskey at (703)602-2859. Similarly, Ms. Cindy Turlington at (703)602-5330, should be contacted regarding closed, transferred and transferring ranges and the cleanup of past ordnance operations.



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