DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

MCO 3550.12
C465
AUG 21 2008

MARINE CORPS ORDER 3550.12

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: OPERATIONAL RANGE CLEARANCE PROGRAM

Ref: (a) MCO P5090.2A
(b) DODI 3200.16, "Operational Range Clearance," June 13, 2005
(c) MCO P3550.10
(d) MCO 3570.1B
(e) DOD 4145.26-M, "DOD Contractors' Safety Manual for Ammunition and Explosives," March 13, 2008
(f) MCO 3500.27B
(g) DODD 4715.11, "Environmental and Explosives Safety Management on Operational Ranges Within the United States," May 10, 2004
(h) DODD 4715.12, "Environmental and Explosives Safety Management on Operational Ranges Outside the United States," July 12, 2004
(i) NAVSEA OP 5
(j) DOD 4160.21-M, "Defense Materiel Disposition Manual," August 18, 1997
(k) DOD 6055.9-STD, "DOD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards," February 29, 2008
(l) DODI 4140.62, "Management and Disposition of Material Potentially Presenting an Explosive Hazard (MPPEH)," December 3, 2004

Encl: (1) Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board Process
(2) Format for Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board Submissions
(3) Sample Operational Range Clearance Program Project Submission

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

1. Situation

a. Ranges and training areas (RTAs) must be managed and operated to ensure their long-term viability and utility to meet the National defense mission. Range clearance is the destruction or removal and proper disposition of military munitions (i.e., unexploded ordnance (UXO) and munitions debris) and other range-related debris (e.g., target debris and military munitions packaging and crating material) to maintain or enhance operational range safety or prevent the accumulation of such material from impairing or preventing continued operational range use.

b. Military munitions are all ammunition products and components produced for or used by the armed forces for national defense and security, including ammunition products or components under the control of the Department of Defense (DOD), the Coast Guard, the Department of Energy, and the National Guard, and foreign military services operating on Marine Corps ranges. The term includes:

(1) Confined gaseous, liquid, and solid propellants.

(2) Explosives (including bulk explosives).

(3) Pyrotechnics.

(4) Chemical and riot control agents.

(5) Smokes and incendiaries.

(6) Rockets.

(7) Guided and ballistic missiles.

(8) Bombs.

(9) Warheads, cluster munitions and dispensers.

(10) Mortar rounds, small arms ammunition, and grenades.

(11) Artillery ammunition.

(12) Mines, torpedoes, and depth charges.

(13) Demolition charges.

(14) Any devices and components of any item listed above.

c. Range clearance does not include treatment or remediation of chemical residues or munitions constituents from environmental media, actions to address buried or discarded military munitions (e.g., burial pits), nor management programs to prevent the migration of munitions constituents off operational ranges. These actions constitute environmental mitigation; they have a separate funding source, and are addressed in reference (a).

d. The establishment and administration of operational range clearance programs promote the safe, sustainable use of operational ranges for their intended purpose. This Order implements the Operational Range Clearance Program for the Marine Corps.

2. Mission. Commanders of bases and stations with operational ranges will establish and execute operational range clearance programs per this Order and references (a) through (l) in order to ensure the safe, sustainable use of ranges for their intended purpose. Regional commanders will establish operational range clearance programs for their respective regions.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. This Order establishes responsibilities and prescribes policies concerning the management of the Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Reference (b) provides DOD policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures for conducting range clearance. Reference (c) establishes the Commanding General (CG), Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC) (C465) as the executive agent and resource sponsor for RTA management programs, and proponent for all range safety matters. Reference (d) directs that the CG, MCCDC (C465) and base/station commanders establish procedures for range clearance operations to permit the safe, sustainable use of ranges.

(b) Initial range clearance operations should achieve a "baseline" status. Baseline clearance status is the destruction or removal and proper disposition of military munitions and other range-related debris that is exposed or visible on the range surface, to the extent that the base/station commander determines will permit the safe, sustainable use of ranges for their intended purpose. For example, a fire and maneuver range may require more frequent and thorough clearance to maintain baseline (i.e., safe and sustainable) status than an artillery range.

(c) For subsequent clearance activities, munitions expenditure information in the Range Facility Management Support System should be analyzed along with resources available in the Range Managers Tool Kit, the Range Clearance Tool, and the results of visual inspections of the range, to include dedicated impact berms, to determine when an unsafe or detrimental loading condition exists. The Range Clearance Tool will provide tabular summaries of individual metal accumulations on specific ranges, giving the range manager an additional predictive capability as to when range clearance may be needed. The Range Managers Tool Kit and Range Clearance Tool are contained in the Range Management System, available at the Range and Training Area Management Division's website, https://rtam.tecom.usmc.mil.

(d) Subsurface clearance shall be considered only when needed to mitigate risk for a specific area (proximity to roadways, movement to/from targets, target construction and training device installation sites, etc.).

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) CG, MCCDC (C465)

(a) Promulgate operational range clearance program policy and guidance as part of the overall Marine Corps Range Safety Program.

(b) Provide institutional-level coordination and prioritization of funding for range clearance operations for Program and Objective Memorandum (POM) consideration. This funding will be coordinated by the Director, Range and Training Area Management Division, Training and Education Command, MCCDC (C465) with the Program Manager, Training Systems, and Marine Corps installation (MCI) regional commanders.

(c) Chair the annual Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board to determine prioritization of funding for range clearance operations.

(d) Coordinate with the appropriate contracting office to support range clearance operations.

(e) Within the Range Managers Tool Kit, provide a range clearance tool compatible with the Geographic Information System that provides a predictive capability for range loading from expended munitions, and target and range debris.

(f) Coordinate with Deputy Commandant, Installation and Logistics to realize efficiencies and enhance economy of management within the Operational Range Clearance Program and environmental programs.

(2) Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics

(a) Provide representation on the Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board.

(b) Coordinate with CG, MCCDC (C465) to realize efficiencies and enhance economy of management within environmental programs and the Operational Range Clearance Program.

(3) CG, Marine Corps Systems Command. Provide representation (Program Manager, Training Systems and Program Manager, Ammunition) on the Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board.

(4) Commanding Generals, MCI Regions

(a) Develop and integrate regional operational range clearance programs to improve efficiency and achieve economies of scale.

(b) Validate and prioritize base/station operational range clearance programs for submission to the Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board.

(c) Assist base/station commanders in the management of installation range clearance requirements.

(d) Participate as members of the Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board.

(5) Commanders, Marine Corps Bases and Stations

(a) Incorporate concepts during range design which improve the efficiency and effectiveness of range clearance such as target location and composition. Range Environmental Vulnerability Assessment (REVA) studies should be evaluated to assist with the design process. Per reference (c), these designs must be coordinated by facility planners and engineers with operational force planners to ensure that established training standards can be met.

(b) Develop and execute a base/station operational range clearance programs to ensure range clearance of used military munitions, munitions debris, and other range-related debris that may impair or inhibit the safe, sustainable use of installation ranges.

(c) Schedule clearance activities in such a way that disruption of operational range requirements is minimized.

(d) Determine, in coordination with the regional headquarters staff, the degree and frequency of range clearance operations to support safe and sustainable ranges.

(e) Conduct an explosives safety hazard assessment before each range clearance per reference (b).

(f) Establish procedures to safeguard personnel from clearance hazards. Information on ammunition and explosives safety for DOD contractors is contained in reference (e).

(g) Ensure that all range military munition expenditures (air and ground) are accurately accounted for through use of the Range Facility Management Support System. Scoring systems may be used to track expended air-to-ground delivered munitions debris.

(h) Review and update the base/station operational range clearance program every five years. Although clearance activities may not be required every five years, the program should be reviewed and updated, if necessary.

(i) Ensure that management, storage, handling, processing, transportation, and disposition of material potentially presenting an explosives hazard (MPPEH) comply with criteria in references (i) through (l). In general, MPPEH is material that is NOT known with certainty to present an

explosion hazard, but may contain hidden explosive material, or minor amounts of explosive material. MPPEH must be assumed to present an explosion hazard until it is visually inspected and/or processed, and certified safe by competent authority.

(j) Ensure close coordination between base/station range management and environmental departments for range clearance and munitions constituent mitigation projects. For example, information in the most recent REVA, available from the environmental department, may be used to assist range managers in the prioritization of range clearance. Similarly, munitions constituent mitigation efforts by the environmental department involving potential constituent migration may be planned with regard to range clearance in those areas.

(k) Ensure compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local environmental regulations or host nation agreements.

(l) Enter into use agreements with non-DOD users of operational ranges per reference (b), except in cases where it is determined to be unnecessary or detrimental to DOD interests.

(m) Per reference (d), Marine Corps EOD does not have the mission for range clearance operations. For safety purposes, they may be assigned as escorts during clearance operations.

(n) Submit range clearance plans to CG, MCCDC (C465), Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board, 2079 Barnett Avenue, Quantico, Virginia 22134-5001 via the appropriate chain of command for prioritization and funding consideration. A review of the U.S. Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance and Processing Plan, available under Range Clearance at https://rtam.tecom.usmc.mil, is in order prior to developing this project plan, particularly Appendix I.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Enclosure (1) contains the schedule for the Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board process.

(2) Enclosure (2) has the format for submissions to the Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board.

(3) Enclosure (3) contains a sample project submission.

4. Administration and Logistics

a. CG, MCCDC (C465) will administer the requirements and ensure the accuracy of this Order.

b. Compliance with the provisions of this Order will be subject to inspection by the Inspector General of the Marine Corps under the Command Inspection Program, RTA Management functional area.

5. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to the Total Force.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.

GEORGE J. FLYNN
Deputy Commandant for
Combat Development and
Integration

DISTRIBUTION: PCN 10203368000

Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board Process

1. General. The Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board Process functions on an annual cycle, which will be announced by electronic mail and posted on the range clearance program site.

2. Operational Range Clearance Program Evaluation Board Process

a. During February of each year, installation commanders may submit their range clearance projects for the next fiscal year (FY) into the range clearance database available at the RTAM Division website. The website operates similar to the existing Ground Range Sustainment Program site. Instructions are provided at the website for authorized users. Enclosures (2) and (3) provide format and a sample project submission.

b. In March, a range clearance prioritization board representing DC I&L, MCCDC, MCIs East and West, Program Manager, Ammunition, and Program Manager, Training Systems will meet to review and prioritize the range clearance project submissions for the next FY.

c. The prioritized list of projects is then submitted to CG TECOM for approval.

d. Approved projects will be funded based on prioritization and funding levels. Installation commanders must confirm that projects will be started within the FY the funds are obligated or the funding will be re-allocated by the Range and Training Area Management Division.

e. Range clearance projects for out-year consideration by the evaluation board may be submitted anytime into the Operational Range Clearance Program website for review, but must be updated annually.

FORMAT FOR MARINE CORPS OPERATIONAL RANGE CLEARANCE PROGRAM EVALUATION BOARD SUBMISSIONS

1. Funding for range clearance operations will be limited, so allocation of resources must be justified by thorough regional or base/station Operational Range Clearance Program package submissions in accordance with the guidance of this enclosure. Submissions may be amended or additional packages submitted up to the point of the board convening, but all should support the installation's range clearance program and the long-term range plan.

2. Submissions should be limited to six or seven pages (Courier New-12 pitch), plus supporting photographs. Topics should include, but are not limited to:

a. A general scope of work defining the activities to include range(s), constraints, time requirements, and an independent government cost estimate.

b. Note any special considerations or conditions that should be considered by the evaluation board. These could include unique training imperatives, specific installation considerations, impact if clearance operations are not funded, contractor issues, scheduling, etc.

c. Provide digital photos as attachments to help define the scope and nature of the project. Photographs will include captions describing the location and identifying major UXO/debris piles depicted. These photos must support the overall justification of the range clearance activity.

d. Provide points of contact for the installation's overall range clearance plan and the individual project (if different).

3. Additional information for review and consideration during development of the submission is contained in the U.S. Marine Corps Operational Range Clearance and Processing Plan, available under "Range Clearance" at https://rtam.tecom.usmc.mil.

SAMPLE ORCP EVALUATION BOARD SUBMISSION

The following sample submission package should serve as a guide for installations vying for prioritization of clearance projects; it is not all-inclusive. Each region or base/station's submission will have distinguishing characteristics and considerations that make their project unique and may elevate the priority of the package.

MCI XXXX/MCB XYZ
20XX
Range Clearance Planned Projects

1. Scope

a. There is no record of range clearance operations being performed on these ranges. The significant accumulation of UXO and range debris poses a threat to the safety of personnel and the sustainability of the ranges. Significant accumulation of debris hinders access to the targets and degrades training opportunities available on the ranges.

b. Range clearance projects planned for 20XX for this installation will total an estimated XX dollars (independent government cost estimate attached). The work plan will be tailored as three possible options to align with funding provided by TECOM in case the full amount is not available.

2. Project Requirements

a. This project supports the operational range clearance plan developed in 20XX for this installation to establish a baseline for future range clearance. These ranges have been in use since 1942, and while road maintenance has been routinely accomplished, significant quantities of expended munitions/debris/residue litter the target areas and are scattered throughout the range.

b. The planned requirement for these ranges in the short (1-2 years) and mid-term (3-5 years) continues to provide for the use of heavy mortar (120mm), artillery (155mm), and both inert and live air-to-ground ordnance. Access to the target

areas on these ranges requires the roadways and the immediate area around the targets to be appropriately cleared of any ordnance.

c. Range clearance activities will involve X targets, X debris piles, and X miles of roadway located within the three ranges. This effort will remove approximately X tons of munitions debris and range residue. Evaluators estimate X tons of removable munitions and debris lie on range X, about X tons on range X, and X tons are on range X.

d. Residue includes military hulks, armored and unarmored, that are no longer serviceable targets and other metal objects that are strewn about. Removal will require all certifications required by law, as well as appropriate chain-of-custody procedures through transportation to an appropriate disposal site. This project includes the demilitarization, certification, disposal and recycling of non-hazardous waste and debris. No sub-surface clearance will be required, except for obvious protruding/partially exposed ordnance and areas to/from/around target placement areas.

e. A crosscheck with the recent REVA report has revealed several potential areas of concern due to potential surface water runoff that this clearance may help to address. Significant amounts of ordnance are obvious and consist primarily of 60mm, 81mm, and 120mm mortar, MK 76's and MK 82's. Lesser quantities of other ordnance remain scattered throughout the range area. Some target areas have been cleared in the immediate vicinity, but that debris has been collected in piles at various range locations.

f. Contractor will ensure all certifications required by Federal, State, and local requirements are provided, as well as security of the material. Contractor shall furnish all labor, management, supervision, tools, materials, equipment, and transportation, unless specified herein.

3. Special Considerations

a. Supplemental funding has provided for the installation of new training devices on three of these target ranges, with an immediate need identified by the MEF. In order to complete the installation, this range clearance project needs to be executed this fiscal year.

b. Due to the MEF requirements, this clearance operation must be conducted during the January-June timeframe of 20XX.

c. The draft REVA report indicates X of these target areas have increased potential for munitions constituent migration during periods of heavy rainfall. These identified areas have been considered in the prioritization of these clearance plans.

d. Significant cost savings may be realized through the clearance of multiple ranges in close proximity on this installation.

4. Points of Contact. The POC for the base operational range clearance program and this project is Mr. _____ at DSN _____.

5. Supporting Photographs. As the pictures that follow reflect, quantities of munitions debris and destroyed target fragments are present at numerous locations on the ranges.