APRIL 2006

INFORMATION SHEET

by

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
FORT RICHARDSON
UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Fort Richardson

General Description – The installation known as Fort Richardson consists of approximately 61,376 acres located approximately 5 miles north of the municipality of Anchorage in south central Alaska.

Research completed to date indicates that Fort Richardson was originally established in 1940 under the command of the Alaskan Defense Force (ADF) to protect Alaska against foreign attacks. In 1941, the installation became a staging and supply area. In 1947, Fort Richardson became the headquarters for the U.S. Army, Alaskan Division. The fort was divided in 1950 between the Army and Air Force. In 1975, the post became headquarters for the 172nd Infantry Brigade and in 1988, the Army forces in Alaska were reorganized as the 6th Infantry Division, with half of the division stationed at Fort Richardson. The Division was inactivated in 1994 and forces were reorganized as the 1st Brigade, 6th Infantry Division under the control of the U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK). The mission of the USARAK is to command and control U.S. Army forces in Alaska. The largest military tenant at Fort Richardson is the Alaska National Guard, with facilities at Bryant Airfield, Camp Denali, and MTA Camp Carroll.

Training Schedule and Munitions Use – Twelve Closed, Transferred, or Transferring Ranges and Munitions Sites located on Fort Richardson property have been identified for further investigation under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP.) These sites may contain Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), Discarded Military Munitions (DMM), or Munitions Constituents (MC).

Davis Ranges A&B are comprised of 9,197 and 163 acres, respectively, and are located adjacent to the southern portion of the installation. An operational range area splits the range into two non-contiguous segments. This site was used in the 1960s as a safety zone, impact, and ricochet area for artillery firing at Fort Richardson, as well as a rifle range. These ranges were used under a permit with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and are currently part of the Chugach State Park.

The **Grezelka Machine Gun Range** site is comprised of 92 acres and is located adjacent to the southeastern portion of the installation outside of the installation boundary. The range is estimated to have been used during the 1980s as a small arms range. This range was used under a permit with the BLM and is currently part of the Chugach State Park.

The **Mahon Machine Gun Range** site is comprised of approximately 1,278 acres and is located adjacent to the southeastern portion of the installation outside of the installation boundary. The range is estimated to have been used in the 1980s as a machine gun range and may also have been used for 81mm mortar and M-31 rifle grenades. A smaller version of the range is still in use on the installation. This range was used under a permit with the BLM and is currently part of the Chugach State Park.

The **McGee Machine Gun Range** site is comprised of 49 acres and is located adjacent to the southeastern portion of the installation outside of the installation boundary. The range is estimated to have been used in the 1980s. Munitions used at this range include small arms. A smaller version of

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the range is still in use on the installation. This range was used under a permit with the BLM and is currently part of the Chugach State Park.

The **Mortar Range 1A** site is comprised of 13,119 acres located within the open waterway of the Knik Arm northwest of the installation. The range is estimated to have been used from 1960 until 1984. The range fan extends partially into the water of Knik Arm and overlaps the range fan from Mortar Range 2A.

Mortar Range 1B was identified as a portion of a Mortar Range during the Phase 3 Inventory. Based on maps and aerial photographs reviewed for the HRR, it was determined that there had been a mapping error and the range should be located completely within the operational range area. It has been recommended that that this site be removed from the MMRP as it is no longer eligible.

The **Mortar Range 1C** site is comprised of 10 acres located outside of the operational range at the base of the range fan for Mortar Range 1A. It is separated from the rest of the range fan by the operational range area and is considered a closed range. The portion of the range which extends into the Knik Arm overlaps Mortar Range 1A. The range was estimated to have been used from 1960 to 1980.

The **Mortar Range 2A** site is comprised of 35,949 acres located within the open waterway of the Knik Arm northwest of the installation. This range is a combination of several former ranges including two ranges known as McLauglin Range and a tank training area. These two ranges have the same firing point. Cole Range and Moore Range are also included within this area. The range is estimated to have been used from the 1960s until the 1980s. The majority of the range fans extend to the north beyond the current installation boundaries. The impact area for the ranges was located in the center of the water between Fort Richardson and the other side of Knik Arm.

The **Mortar Range 2B** site consists of approximately 201 acres located in the northwestern portion of the installation. This area is an extension of the range area for the Cole Range described under Mortar Range 2A and is located behind the firing point. This area may have been used for artillery firing from the 1960s until 1980. A portion of this site is used as a wildlife and recreation area.

The **Pistol Range** site is a closed range located in the current cantonment area. The range was identified on a map and aerial photographs from the 1940s and is estimated to be approximately 3 acres.

The **Rifle Range** is a closed range located within the cantonment area and consists of approximately 111 acres. The range is shown on 1942 and 1948 maps historic aerial photographs. Based on the photographs, construction began on a housing complex at the site in the 1950s.

Anti-Aircraft Range and Anti-Aircraft Range – TD are comprised of 663 and 2,336 acres respectively. The range begins in the cantonment area and extends to the southeast over operational range area, beyond the installation boundary, overlapping Davis Range A. The site was used in the 1950s for anti-aircraft artillery training.

Conclusions – Based on the Preliminary Assessment (PA) completed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2002 at Fort Richardson and the Draft HRR completed in 2006, further action may be required at each of the above sites under the Military Munitions Response Program.

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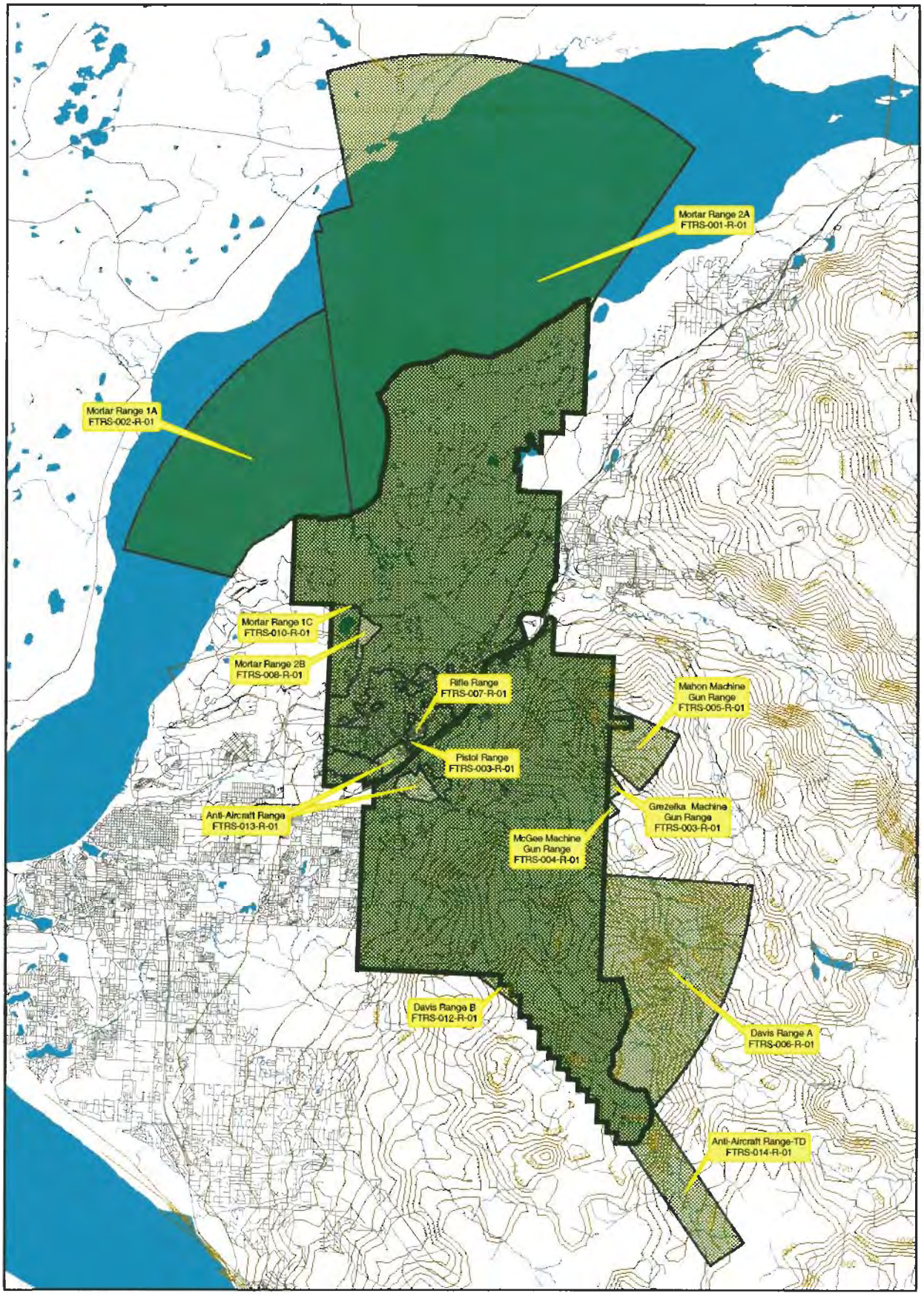

Legend

- Roads
- Contour Elevation (60m Intervals)
- Streams
- Water Bodies
- Installation Boundary
- MR Site
- Operational Range Areas
- Other than Operational Range Area

N
W E
S

1:221,760

0 1 2 4 Kilometers

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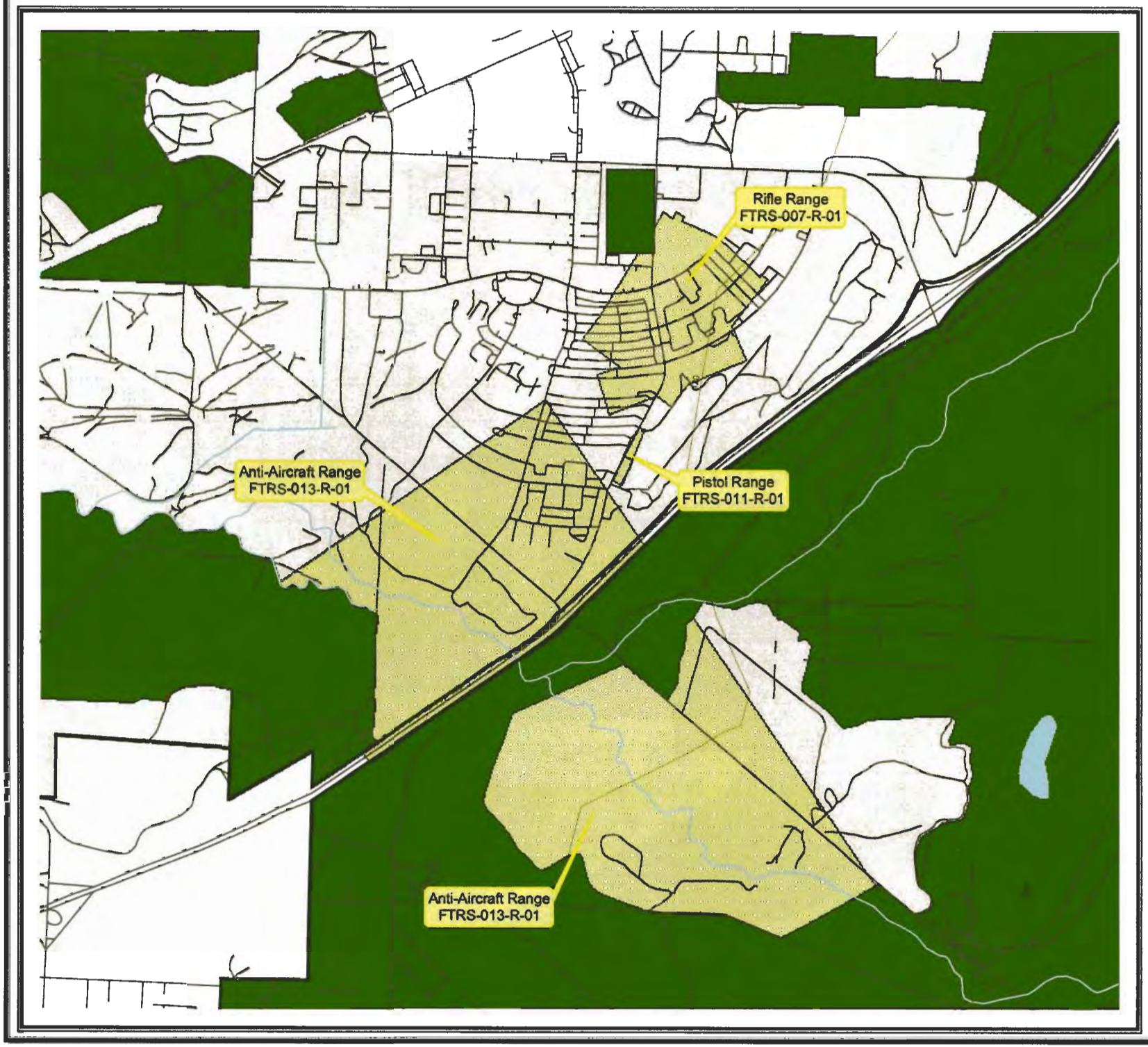
Fort Richardson MR Sites



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0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

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