

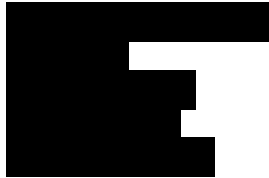


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, YUMA
301 C STREET
YUMA AZ 85365-9498

December 4, 2018

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Sciences Division



Dear: [REDACTED]

The U. S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (USAG YPG) has initiated a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to the natural and human environment that could result from adding additional target and gun positions to allow use of high explosive munitions and weapon firing to extended ranges up to approximately 180 kilometers (km).

To accommodate the anticipated Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) and Long Range Precision Fire (LRPF) missions, YPG requires a capability to fire munitions at ranges up to approximately 180 km. The USAG YPG completed the ERCA EA in 2017 that analyzed the impacts of a multi-element, multi-phase test program of U.S. Army's next generation 155mm artillery system that included test firing extended range munitions at distances up to approximately 73 km within the Kofa Region at YPG and the Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR), which is jointly administered by Marine Corps Air Station Yuma (MCASY) and Luke Air Force Base (LAFB). As development of this next generation of artillery has progressed, YPG now needs to fire greater distances and incorporate the use of guided and high explosive munitions that were not addressed in the 2017 ERCA EA. Based on the new requirement and technology developments, the 2017 EA needs to be amended to accommodate the following to meet the extended range requirements:

- Use of high explosive munitions;
- Use of guided munitions;
- Use of additional gun positions on BMGR West; and
- Use of additional targets on BMGR East to accommodate employment of high explosive munitions.

Under this Supplemental EA, up to six tests per year could occur on BMGR. Typical test duration would be up to approximately seven days: three days for mobilization, up to two days for test firings, and two days for demobilization. Munitions would be fired into previously approved targets on the North Tactical Range (NTAC), South Tactical Range (STAC), and East Tactical Range (ETAC) on BMGR East. Three additional targets within NTAC/STAC/ETAC are proposed to allow use of high explosive munitions. Firing into NTAC and STAC was analyzed in the 2017 ERCA EA, but targets in ETAC were not analyzed at that time. Use of the target in ETAC would provide the capability to fire a greater distance than targets in NTAC or STAC.

The enclosed map shows the new proposed gun positions and target areas. The map also provides an example of a possible firing scenario and associated safety buffer zone, and identifies a maximum distance that could be encompassed by the buffer zones for all possible firing scenarios and munitions. The statistically developed safety buffer zones depict the predicted ground and airspace where a projectile and all fragments or debris could return to earth. During the development testing of these munition technologies the exact dimensions of the associated safety buffer zones will vary by munition type and will gradually evolve over time. Some buffer zones, especially those associated with guided munitions, are likely to overlap portions of the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (see map) which could require closure of portions of the Refuge to public and staff use during the actual days of test firing. The extent of the safety buffer zone closure would be dependent on the munition type being tested but could be as large as 60% of the Refuge. If the selected alternative results in changes to current management direction of the Refuge, an amendment to the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan would be included as part of the proposed action. The analysis in the EA will include the maximum potential safety buffer zone to encompass all possibilities that could occur as testing develops; however, under no scenario would a buffer zone be developed that extends beyond the southern boundary of BMGR or the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

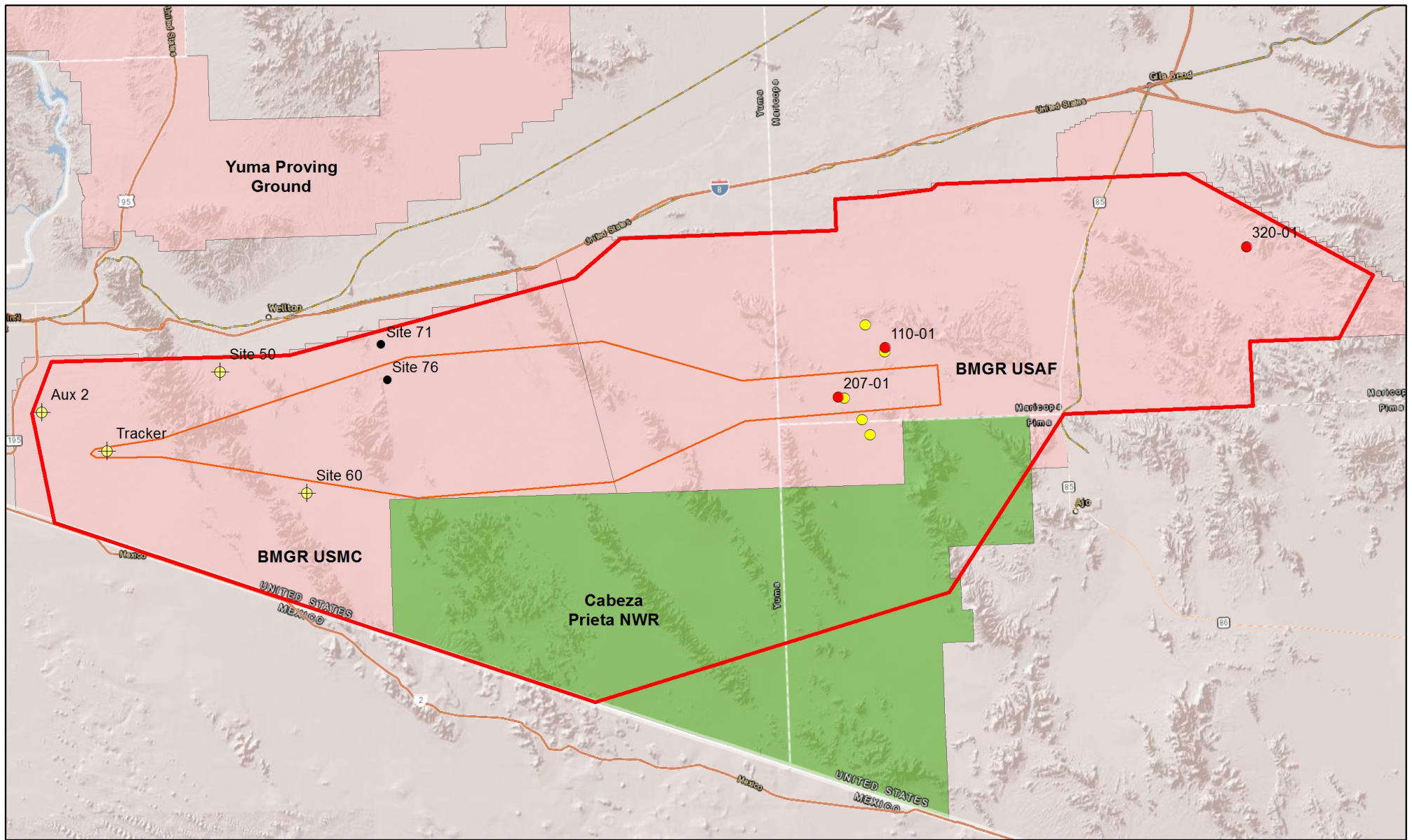
The USAG YPG is initiating scoping on this proposed modification to seek input on issues that should be addressed during the planning effort. Please submit comments no later than January 4, 2019. Comments can be submitted to USAG YPG NEPA Coordinator at U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground, 301 C Street, IMYM-PWE, Yuma, AZ 85365-9498 or via email to daniel.m.steward.civ@mail.mil. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Daniel Steward at (928) 328-2125.

Sincerely,

ROGERS.GORDON. Digitally signed by
ROGERS.GORDON.KEITH.1150031717
Date: 2018.12.04 09:09:18 -0700
KEITH.1150031717

Gordon K. Rogers
Garrison Manager

ERCA SUPPLEMENTAL EA GUN POSITIONS AND TARGETS



Legend

- Proposed HE Target
- Existing ERCA Target
- Existing ERCA Gun Positions
- ⊕ Proposed Gun Positions
- Example of a Safety Buffer for Non-Guided Munitions
- Maximum Extent Safety Buffer for Guided Munitions

1:800,000

0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

