



FORT ORD NATIONAL MONUMENT BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



EARLY HISTORY

- For nearly eight decades, Fort Ord played a significant role in U.S. military history. Fort Ord's origins date back to 1917 when the U.S. Army purchased land near Monterey Bay to use as a training ground for field artillery and cavalry troops stationed at the nearby Presidio of Monterey.
- The area was initially called Gigling Reservation, but in 1933, it was renamed Camp Ord after Maj. Gen. Edward O.C. Ord—a distinguished Civil War veteran.



MAJ. GEN. EDWARD ORD

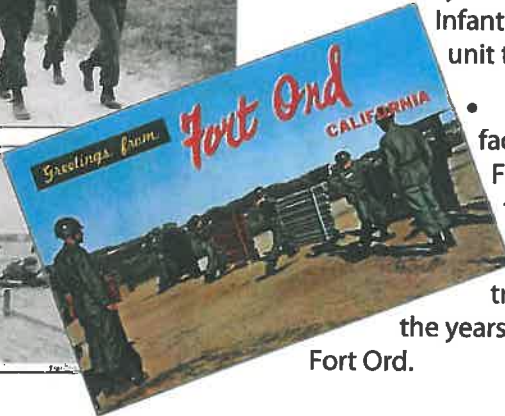


ARTILLERY PASSING BY RIFLE

Fort Ord, California



RIFLE AREA, FORT ORD, CALIF.



MID-20TH CENTURY

- Through the 1930s, Fort Ord's primary purpose was cavalry training. In 1940, the 23-year-old Camp Ord was re-designated Fort Ord, and the 7th Infantry Division was reactivated—becoming the first major unit to occupy the post.
- For the next 30 years, Fort Ord served as the primary facility for basic training in the U.S. Army. In its heyday, Fort Ord covered more than 28,000 acres and, at one time, was home to 50,000 troops.
- During the Vietnam War it served as a leading training center and deployment staging ground. Over the years, as many as 1.5 million American troops trained at Fort Ord.

CLOSURE & RE-USE

- In 1991, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission selected Fort Ord for decommissioning, and the post formally closed in 1994.
- Today, thousands of veterans carry the memory of its dramatic landscape as their first taste of Army life. These lands are an historical link to the heroism and dedication of the men and women who fought in the major conflicts of the 20th century.
- A number of veterans groups, including Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 5888, the Vet Voice Foundation, and a group of local veterans representing all branches of the military supported creating Fort Ord National Monument.





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MARITIME CHAPARRAL: The rare maritime chaparral found on Fort Ord Public Lands, which is composed of shrubs like manzanitas, wild lilac, and chamise, supports numerous plant and animal species.

BACKGROUND & SIGNIFICANCE

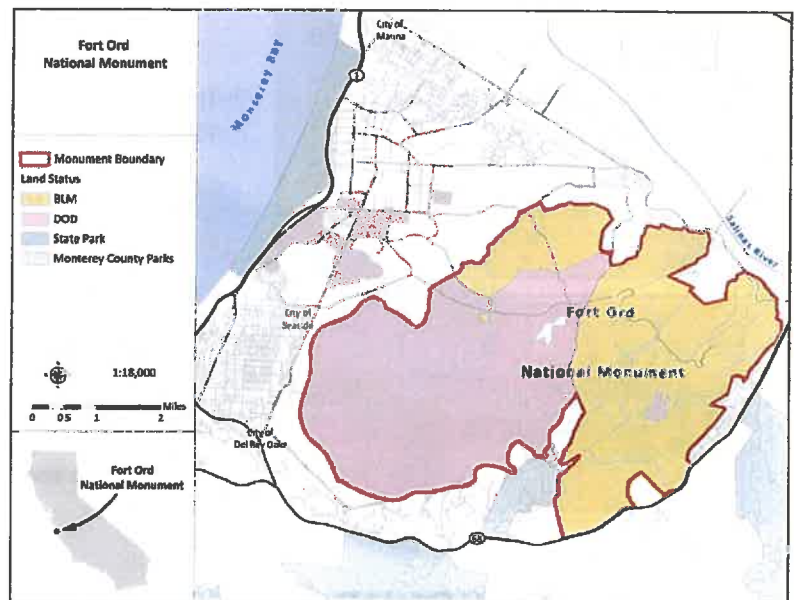
- In the heart of California's Central Coast, the former Fort Ord encompasses a sweeping landscape of vivid beauty and rich biodiversity and one of the largest remaining expanses of maritime chaparral.
- The Fort Ord area owes its undeveloped state in large part to its role as a U.S. Army facility from 1917 to 1994. These lands are a historical link to the heroism and dedication of the men and women who served our nation and fought in the major conflicts of the 20th century.
- Designation of Fort Ord as a national monument has widespread support from the public, veterans and conservation groups, state and local government, and the California Congressional delegation.

FACTS

- The new monument covers approximately 14,650 acres. The BLM currently manages 7,200 acres, and an additional 7,450 acres will come under BLM administration following the completion of appropriate environmental remediation by the Army.
- The monument will be administered by the BLM, and the agency will continue to work closely with its many Federal, state, and community partners to wisely manage Fort Ord lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



MAP



ACTIVITIES

- Today, the expansive landscape provides 86 miles of hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails to residents and visitors in the Monterey Bay area.
- The area is a host for the annual Sea Otter Classic—one of the largest mountain bike races in the country—with approximately 10,000 participants and 50,000 spectators every year.



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"Photograph of soldiers marching," *CSUMB Library Digital Collections*, accessed February 29, 2012, <http://library2.csumb.edu/omeka/items/show/341>.



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