

**Administrative Record**

FORT WINGATE DEPOT ACTIVITY, GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

**Document No. 95-6**

*Final Report*

*Fort Wingate Depot Activity,*

*Gallup, New Mexico,*

*Public Meeting, Removal of Ordnance from  
Property Adjacent to Fort Wingate*

Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters

April 1995



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FORT WINGATE DEPOT ACTIVITY SHOULD BE MADE TO:  
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FORT WINGATE DEPOT ACTIVITY  
REMOVAL OF ORDNANCE FROM PROPERTY  
ADJACENT TO FORT WINGATE  
PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

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APRIL 20, 1995  
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO

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A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S

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TOM YANCEY and BILL DICKINSON:	Project Technical Representatives UXB International, Inc., Chantilly, Virginia
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1 MR. MORGAN: My name is Bud Morgan, and I'm  
2 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers out of Huntsville,  
3 Alabama. I'm glad to see everyone show up tonight,  
4 especially these gentlemen here from the Bread Springs  
5 Chapter.

6 What we would like to do tonight is very informal.  
7 What I would like to do is just briefly tell you what this  
8 project is going to be, how it's going to impact you, and  
9 introduce the contractors here that's going to be doing  
10 the work out there. They will explain to you how they're  
11 going to do it and everything, and then we'll open it up  
12 for questions and open discussion on the general subject.

13 Now, what we're doing here is back when the depot  
14 was active, they had an open burn/open detonation area  
15 over on the western side of the installation there.

16 During the time that it was actively detonated,  
17 ordnance and explosives and kits along that western border  
18 there, during that time when they were exploding this  
19 stuff, some of the items were kicked out or blown out of  
20 those pits, across the boundary onto the adjacent land.

21 What we're planning on doing with this particular  
22 project here is that we're going to go in and we want to  
23 clear 250 acres along that boarder there.

24 Now you say 250 acres? How did we come up with 250  
25 acres? Well, basically that's 1200 feet deep and 9,000



1 feet along that border there, along that OBOD area there.  
2 The reason that we came up with that particular depth  
3 there is that's how we calculated or what we thought would  
4 be the maximum depth that an item would be kicked out that  
5 pit, how far it would go over on the adjacent land there.

6 Now, again, there is not -- we don't anticipate a  
7 lot of ordnance being over there, but there is some. We  
8 have seen it over there. These gentlemen here, who are  
9 with UXB, have seen it across the fence there. We want to  
10 come in now and clear that particular area there. Again,  
11 it's 250 acres there.

12 Now, these gentlemen here, Mr. Tom Yancey and Mr.  
13 Bill Dickinson, they're with the UXB International. They  
14 are an ordnance clearance company. They're subcontractors  
15 to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers out of Huntsville. The  
16 Huntsville division is responsible for all ordnance items  
17 over the entire United States, now, for ordnance cleanup.

18 At this time, I'd like for Bill and Tom to come  
19 forward and basically tell you how they plan on clearing  
20 this 250 acres, and then we'll come back and we'll recap  
21 anything that we've got to cover at that time and then  
22 we'll open it up for questions and any concerns you have  
23 about that particular area.

24 MR. DICKINSON: Well, the way we're going  
25 to do it, we have surveyors coming in. They're going to





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1 survey, and we're going to get the four corners of the  
2 2,000 and the 9,000 so we get to know where the boundaries  
3 are. Then after we get the surveys in, we're going to  
4 start coordinating it off, and then we're going to start  
5 doing a sweep. When I say a "sweep," we have our text,  
6 we're going to do a surface sweep. They're going to look  
7 for any ordnance on top of the ground. And then after we  
8 get all the ordnance that's on top of the ground, we're  
9 going to do a magtometer (sic) sweep which we have a, you  
10 know, (demonstrating), so we know when we have an item  
11 that's in the ground. It's, you know, the dirt's fallen  
12 over it or whatever, so then we know where to pick it up.  
13 Mainly that's it.

14 We're going to clear that whole area in sections and  
15 we want to make sure we clean everything that's there and  
16 take it out. That's how we're going to go about doing it.

17 Like I say, any questions on -- mainly, it is a sweep  
18 and you have people on line, and you're going to go into a  
19 certain amount of sections, and you're going to get  
20 everything off the top of the ground, and you're going to  
21 make sure there's nothing underneath the ground that was  
22 laying there. So when we finish, it will be clean  
23 completely, and it'll be signed off saying there's no more  
24 ordnance there.

25 MR. WINKLER: Do you use those on top

1 there?

2 MR. DICKINSON: You just swing it back and  
3 forth and, like I say, the way it really works is you come  
4 near any metal and it'll ring off when you have the metal  
5 so that we'll know where it's at. (Demonstrating.)  
6 That's after we clean up what we see on top of the  
7 ground. We'll also be doing what's underneath the ground.

8 MR. YANCEY: Bill, I'd like to just add one  
9 thing to that. We expect most this ordnance debris to be  
10 on the surface. When it was blown, it just went in a  
11 fairly general arc and just landed. It wasn't really  
12 driven into the ground by the explosion. It was more of a  
13 falling motion. We expect it all to be on the surface.

14 But due to the erosion over the years, some of it  
15 may have been washed into gullies and covered up later.  
16 But we don't really expect anything deep at all.

17 MR. DICKINSON: Mainly, I'd say that's  
18 basically what we're going to do. We're going to clean  
19 the whole area so there is no more ordnance left there.

20 MR. MORGAN: Like Bill was saying, they're  
21 going to --

22 MR. KELLY: Excuse me. I have a question.  
23 My name is David Kelly. I'm with Navajo EPA. I have a  
24 question regarding your survey, according to how your  
25 survey -- especially down in this area, open burn/open





1 detonation area that was closed down in 1956 or whatever.

2 MR. YANCEY: Yes.

3 MR. KELLY: It seems like you're going to  
4 do the survey right outside the Reservation boundary; is  
5 that true? Are you going to go do a survey in the Navajo  
6 Reservation area?

7 MR. DICKINSON: Yes. If you look at the  
8 next page here, this is the area here. This is the  
9 boundary fence here. (Indicating.) And what we want to  
10 do is go 1200 feet in, 9,000 feet along here, along this  
11 OBOD area, onto the Indian land.

12 MR. KELLY: Is 1200 feet sufficient?

13 MR. DICKINSON: 1200 feet is basically what  
14 we are surveying at this time. Like I said earlier, what  
15 we have calculated with the 1200 feet, that's basically a  
16 quarter of a mile there. What we're looking at is the  
17 projectery of an item coming out of those pits going  
18 across that mountain, how far over it would go. And  
19 basically we felt like 1200 feet was a sufficient area for  
20 that.

21 Now, this is, like I said, if something being blown  
22 out of a pit, up and over for a maximum distance of a  
23 quarter of a mile past the boundary there, if you look at  
24 it there, it's probably more than that, if it's coming,  
25 actually, from the pit area there.



1 Now, when they clear this stuff, everything will be  
2 documented as to where they found stuff and how far out  
3 they found it. Now, if there is an indication that there  
4 is more ordinance further, then we'll come back later and  
5 extend our boundaries. But right now we have to work with  
6 a certain boundary area. And we figure that 1200 feet  
7 beyond the border line, or beyond the boundary line will  
8 get the ordinance at this time.

9 Like I said, when we run the survey and these  
10 gentlemen conduct their survey out there, if there is  
11 additional indication that there is more ordinance further  
12 on out, then that will be extended later.

13 Does that answer your question?

14 MR. KELLY: Yes, in a way it does. But I'm  
15 still concerned slightly because the physics involved in  
16 here, it might have traveled further than the quarter mile  
17 or the 1200 feet.

18 MR. DICKINSON: It may have.

19 MR. KELLY: It may have, yes. And you sort  
20 of answered my concern, in a way, by saying that if they  
21 find ordinance further than 1200 feet, then you'll clear a  
22 larger area. I'm sure that these gentlemen from Bread  
23 Springs Chapter will be very interested in that.

24 MR. DICKINSON: Right. Like I say, we have  
25 to start somewhere. We can't go, you know, six miles out





1 because there is no reason for us to think that ordnance  
2 goes out that far -- has been blown out that far. So we  
3 are working right now with the 1200 feet and 9,000 along  
4 that particular area.

5 Now, like Bill said, basically they're going to  
6 surface clear the entire 250 acres; that is, 1200 feet  
7 deep, 9,000 feet across. During that time, they will  
8 basically surface sweep and clear that entire area. If  
9 there is an indication that there is something buried,  
10 then they will excavate that or will mark that and then  
11 they will excavate that.

12 In addition to the surface clearing of that  
13 particular area, what they're going to do is they're going  
14 to do 150 100 by 100 squares and sample those for  
15 subsurface ordnance.

16 Like Tom said, we do not anticipate anything being  
17 buried deeper than one foot there because there was  
18 nothing fired that impacted into that area. Everything  
19 that is in this area was blown out of this pit as shrapnel  
20 or as bulk ordnance or whatever that is blown out in a  
21 trajectory and just fell onto the land. It did not impact  
22 and was driven into the land, that we can determine. But  
23 again, we're going to do 150 100 by 100 squares and sample  
24 a subsurface clearing to one foot depth over this area.

25 Now, these 150 squares will be selected at the most

1 -- or at the area where the most likely possibility of  
2 ordnance has been buried.

3 MR. DICKINSON: When you get an area where  
4 there is a lot laying on top of the ground, that's more  
5 area that you're going to pick out for the grid to search  
6 underneath. But there is going to be 150, and we want to  
7 get it evenly out on the grid so we can cover all of the  
8 area.

9 MR. SKEET: I have a question.

10 MR. DICKINSON: Yes, sir?

11 MR. ARVISU: I'm referring here to the  
12 demolition. The way this map shows, this is exactly west  
13 of that.

14 MR. DICKINSON: Right.

15 MR. ARVISU: Can those servicemen, south of  
16 this boundary, take care of this area? That's where the  
17 horse got hit.

18 MR. KELLY: How far away was that?

19 MR. ARVISU: I'd say it was about one  
20 quarter mile southwest from there.

21 MR. DICKINSON: That's quite a distance  
22 there.

23 MR. KELLY: It is very true.

24 MR. ARVISU: One time around '60, '60 or  
25 about '59, they exploded powder blasts, then they just





1 quit. That's the time that the horse got hit. See, the  
2 other thing, when they blew that thing, it shook my house  
3 at Crestview.

4 MR. KELLY: How far away is that?

5 MR. ARVISU: That's about -- about how  
6 many --

7 MR. SKEET: No. It was about five miles.

8 MR. ARVISU: Five miles, then. It shook  
9 and had cracks in the house.

10 MR. DICKINSON: Is it a rock base?

11 MR. ARVISU: Yes.

12 MR. DICKINSON: That's why you get the  
13 shaking. When you get the detonation going on around  
14 that, that rock base will shake that ground and it will  
15 travel right along. That's why they go that far, because  
16 it's all rock here.

17 MR. ARVISU: After that it just exploded --  
18 the thing is not very powerful. You could see the smoke  
19 size, and it was like a ton of bombs.

20 MR. DICKINSON: Those larger ones, they  
21 could have been when they were disposing the bombs, the  
22 base plates and suspension lugs. The bombs will travel  
23 further than smaller, thinner, scanned parts of it. The  
24 parts that do travel that far, they won't be explosive.  
25 They'll just be metal fragments. So that could be how

1 that traveled that far.

2 MR. MORGAN: To answer his question, again,  
3 we basically had to start somewhere. This particular  
4 parcel of land is where we think most of the ordnance will  
5 be. Now, what we're planning on doing, again, they're  
6 recording every time they find something, and we will take  
7 that data that these gentlemen generate and determine if  
8 there is a possibility or a need to extend this particular  
9 area here out further than where we have originally  
10 planned here.

11 MR. BEGAY: The reason I say that -- my  
12 name is Charley Y. Begay, and I'm with the Bread Springs  
13 Chapter. The reason why I say this is we need something  
14 to clear that with to the south from here. If they find  
15 something, or these gentleman, if they found something  
16 here bad, I think they can move a little farther.

17 MR. MORGAN: Like I said, we will use that  
18 data and make a determination. And if there is a need to  
19 extend it, then that determination will be made.

20 MR. BEGAY: As far as you can, to go the  
21 Zuni Tower. I don't know why they call it the Zuni Tower,  
22 no one lives there.

23 MR. SKEET: I've got a couple of  
24 questions. That gadget you had, is that only to detect  
25 the metal or ordnance, explosives?



1 MR. DICKINSON: Well, parts of the  
2 ordnance. It's all various metal. And what it does is it  
3 detects that type of metal. Like aluminum, it won't  
4 detect aluminum. What we're looking for is what ordnance  
5 is made out, the metal that it's made out of, things like  
6 that, and any components of that is ordnance. So it's  
7 pretty accurate, and it'll let us know when there is metal  
8 on the ground.

9 MR. SKEET: The other question is: Is  
10 there a live ordnance out there?

11 MR. DICKINSON: Yes, there is. When you  
12 get detonation like that going on, that's kicking things  
13 out. That's live right there. When it lands, you don't  
14 know what condition it is in because it's been forced into  
15 a worse condition than if it was just laying there, and it  
16 was an unarmed piece of ordnance and they were destroying  
17 it.

18 Once the detonation hits, it just destroys that.  
19 Being unarmed, it makes it armed, and it makes it  
20 dangerous for just sitting out there.

21 MR. SKEET: Say that thing is 20 years old,  
22 it'll still blow?

23 MR. DICKINSON: That's right. Time does  
24 not matter. It doesn't matter. It could sit out there 50  
25 years and somebody could come along and kick it. That's



1 all it takes.

2 MR. MORGAN: That's why we are wanting to  
3 get out there and get this area cleaned up.

4 MR. SKEET: We need to explain that. Well,  
5 do your work and if there is indication to go south  
6 because we found -- one of our boys, he brought a big  
7 piece of iron from one of the head's of the big shells.  
8 It's all flattened out. I think I know where that thing  
9 is.

10 MR. MORGAN: That is what we're --

11 MR. SKEET: You may want to come by and  
12 pick that up.

13 MR. MORGAN: A major part of the material  
14 that these gentlemen are expecting to find is not  
15 ordnance, though. Mainly what they're expecting to find a  
16 majority of is just shrapnel. That is where the bomb or  
17 ordnance did explode and create shrapnel, bits and pieces  
18 of metal from it. That is the majority of what has been  
19 kicked out. Like I said, we don't anticipate a whole lot  
20 of actual ordnance items. That's items with the explosive  
21 inner parts that will explode. But there is some out  
22 there. We don't expect much, but there is some. And that  
23 is the reason that we want to get out there, find it,  
24 locate it, and get it out of there.

25 MR. BEGAY: Is there not a way or other way



1 if they found something that's bad enough to kill  
2 somebody, can they do more to go out there a little  
3 farther?

4 MR. MORGAN: Expand that area there?

5 MR. BEGAY: Like I said, under this current  
6 contract, we're dealing mainly with this area here that we  
7 have to find.

8 MR. BEGAY: Then are you going to expand  
9 that area?

10 MR. MORGAN: Not under this -- like I said,  
11 under this current contract, we're dealing mainly with  
12 this area here that we have to find.

13 MR. BEGAY: Unless these gentlemen find  
14 something, then you'll come back with your hands  
15 extended?

16 MR. MORGAN: If there is an indication that  
17 there is a possibility that there is more ordnance beyond  
18 the limit that we went, yes.

19 MR. WINKLER: Joe Winkler. This ordnance,  
20 you said, can remain active for like 20, 30 years. Now,  
21 is that fused ordnance or could it just be a bomb without  
22 a fuse that the initial explosion is done so?

23 MR. DICKINSON: It's hard to tell because  
24 it's hard to know what the explosion does to this  
25 ordnance. But if it was a piece of ordnance and had fuses





1 or they just were destroying fuses, right, and some kicked  
2 out and they have explosives in them and it just damaged  
3 it enough to where it makes it more sensitive, so somebody  
4 just was fooling around with it it could go off. That's  
5 what I'm saying.

6 MR. MORGAN: There's really no time limit  
7 on the ordnance. There has been ordnance found from the  
8 Civil War, the war between the states, of cannon balls  
9 that are still active. The black powder in cannon balls  
10 can still be detonated from cannon balls that they found  
11 in the field here this last year from that particular  
12 war. Black powder doesn't go away.

13 MR. DICKINSON: No, it doesn't, unless it  
14 gets moist. But if it dries up again, then it's  
15 sensitive.

16 MR. MORGAN: So there is a possibility you  
17 would have a piece of ordnance there that is a shell of  
18 something that does not have a fuse in it, that will not  
19 detonate from a, like a concussion onto that fuse. But  
20 there's still explosives in there that can detonate if  
21 it's mishandled or handled improperly.

22 MR. WINKLER: How did they detonate a  
23 cannon ball?

24 MR. MORGAN: A cannon ball usually had a  
25 fuse on it. They would light the fuse, put it in the



1 cannon, light the powder behind it and blow it out and it  
2 would land out there. And the fuse would burn out and  
3 blow up. The trick was cutting the fuse to make sure it  
4 exploded when it hit the ground or in the air before it is  
5 detonated.

6 MR. WINKLER: Very good.

7 MR. KELLY: These days you don't detonate  
8 or demilitarize ordnance with -- let's say the main  
9 portion of that explosive is not detonated and the same  
10 with -- along with the fusing. Normally you have an  
11 operation where you take the fuse apart first, take it off  
12 the main body of the explosive itself and then detonate  
13 them separately. That's how it's done. A long time ago  
14 they probably used to maybe destroy them at the same time.

15 MR. MORGAN: That poses another area that  
16 we probably should cover here. There are two ways that  
17 these gentlemen will handle ordnance, and it's basically  
18 any shrapnel that is not explosive they plan on collecting  
19 and removing here. If it is an ordnance item that can be  
20 moved slightly, then they will pick it up and move it out  
21 of the area. If they cannot move it safely, then the  
22 other option is that they have to detonate that particular  
23 item. But then they take all precautions to minimize  
24 damage to that area there by sandbagging it and taking  
25 additional safety precautions on it. But again, safety is



1 the primary theme for this clearance here, not only from  
2 your safety of clearing the ordnance off your land but the  
3 safety of these gentlemen here that will be removing that  
4 ordnance from there. So we do not want to jeopardize  
5 their lives moving an item that is not safe, if they  
6 cannot move it. Yes?

7 MR. KELLY: I was wondering, in the  
8 contract, are they going to be the ones doing the EOD work  
9 or are you guys going to contract the EOD portion?

10 MR. MORGAN: These gentlemen are EOD. They  
11 do everything. They will find it, locate it, collect it  
12 and dispose of it. Yes, you had a question?

13 MR. SHIRLEY: My name is Albert Shirley  
14 from Church Rock Chapter. Are you only discussing this  
15 area?

16 MR. MORGAN: That's the only area that  
17 we're discussing tonight at this public meeting. Now, I  
18 realize that there are some other projects that are going  
19 on on it, Fort Wingate and all, but we're not to cover  
20 that tonight. Those will be covered under separate public  
21 meetings and those issues will be addressed at that time.

22 Now, if you have a specific question, we possibly  
23 could take it down later.

24 MR. SHIRLEY: As we have been discussing  
25 these other issues to the Fort Wingate land situation, we





1 had numerous public hearings where a lot of people who  
2 live around there gave testimony. A lot of them herd  
3 sheep and they don't take their sheep into the gate hole  
4 area, that's one thing. They stay on their own land. But  
5 many of them have talked about live ammo being out there  
6 in their area. So I was wondering if you had an  
7 opportunity to talk to some of those people that live  
8 around there. I know they'll point out where some of  
9 those things are.

10 MR. MORGAN: Well, that was the purpose of  
11 this public meeting here was that -- we put notice out a  
12 month ago and notified people if they had concerns and  
13 everything to come in. Now, we will be happy, if you know  
14 their names and everything, to contact them and maybe they  
15 can assist these gentlemen here, if their area is in that  
16 area that we're clearing.

17 MR. SHIRLEY: You can to go Church Rock  
18 Chapter. They have maps available showing you where  
19 people live in that area. Most of them do herd sheep, and  
20 that's been their testimony.

21 MR. MORGAN: Is there testimony on record  
22 there at Church Rock?

23 MR. SHIRLEY: No. The U.S. Army should  
24 have their testimony, the other ones that --

25 MR. MORGAN: The other projects?

1 MR. SHIRLEY: Yes, at their public  
2 hearing. That's when that testimony came up. I think  
3 they talked about an area larger than this, and I would  
4 recommend that you do go beyond this area and that should  
5 -- I think there is some ammo out there.

6 Are you going to also discuss the -- one of the big  
7 concerns in talking about the Fort Wingate Army Depot is  
8 the contaminated area inside the base. Just a quick  
9 question. Is that going to be taken care of, too, through  
10 the same process?

11 MR. MORGAN: It will be taken care of  
12 through a similar process. There will be a public  
13 meeting. There will be a contract to let contractors come  
14 in and clean up those areas. But again, those issues will  
15 be discussed at a separate meeting that is tailored just  
16 for that particular area on site.

17 MR. SHIRLEY: And then finally, there are,  
18 I think, three or four environmental organizations that  
19 are about to file a lawsuit against a coal mining company  
20 out there, and the coal mine is right along that same  
21 area. They're addressing contamination that's been done  
22 by the coal mining activities. But they also seem to be  
23 mixed with the contamination that's been done through the  
24 ordinance disposal that's there. So maybe before they  
25 file a suit you should get ahold of them.



1           Those organizations have also contacted Church Rock  
2 Chapter and made them aware that they're about to file a  
3 suit for contamination that they have left. I'm  
4 personally glad that this matter is being taken care of  
5 because it's been used as a political obstacle in the talk  
6 about the land return. And it's my recommendation I think  
7 you should go.

8           MR. MORGAN: Again, like I said, what we're  
9 hoping to do is we had to start somewhere. And from our  
10 calculations, that area there is our best indication of  
11 calculations as far as finding ordinance that had been  
12 kicked out of that kit. Again, we will take that data and  
13 we will analyze it, and if there is an indication that we  
14 need to expand it, then we will come back and expand it in  
15 that area.

16           What I would like to do is, again, you know, this is  
17 sort of a warning for the people who live in that area,  
18 there can be no 100 percent absolute clearance of it. We  
19 can give you our best shot at it, but there is nothing  
20 saying that we might miss an item. So any time that an  
21 item is found, if it's shrapnel or if it's an ordinance  
22 item, is to let the authorities know, especially at Fort  
23 Wingate.

24           There are caretakers there at Fort Wingate. Notify  
25 those people that you have found an item there. Like I



1 said, just leave it alone, notify those guys and they will  
2 get in contact with us to do it. Like I said, you know,  
3 these gentlemen here -- we're going to be out here for  
4 close to a month or so with this particular project. And  
5 like I said, if, for instance, there's something that you  
6 know about on your land or something you could notify  
7 these gentlemen, we'll try to take care of it at that  
8 time, as an individual item there.

9 MR. SHIRLEY: I'd like to ask just one more  
10 question.

11 MR. MORGAN: Yes?

12 MR. SHIRLEY: You're dealing with cleaning  
13 up the contaminated area, and right now the other plans  
14 with Fort Wingate is to set up missiles. And the call  
15 that we received is that they went to send up a missile  
16 right from the contaminated area again. I mean, there is  
17 still another area where they did send missiles off from,  
18 but that's in this one section. But the thought is, I  
19 think, just to get at the land that's given to us is that  
20 you're going to set missiles off right from this area that  
21 you're talking about right now.

22 Now, I want to ask if they want to send off the  
23 missiles very shortly here and you want to do a job, too,  
24 but it seems like you're going to do it right away too.  
25 What we hear is two U.S. Army organizations wanting to do



1 something at the same time in the same area. That needs  
2 to be clarified for us. I would trust you --

3 MR. MORGAN: As far as I know, there is no  
4 missile area being -- no missiles being launched from this  
5 particular area, from the EOD area there. I am not  
6 positive where those missile locations are, but I do know  
7 they are not in that particular area. They would not go  
8 into that area anyway because it is an ordinance  
9 contaminated area.

10 MR. SHIRLEY: Thank you. I'm glad to hear  
11 that because this area is a lot of hills. You can't  
12 really get into a lot of that area. There's some areas  
13 where it's only accessible -- see, the talk is that --  
14 they talk as if this whole area is a flat area, and we  
15 know better, you know, that you can't go to those areas at  
16 certain points because of the hills.

17 We want to have all this clarified by the U.S. Army,  
18 so that's why I'm asking these questions.

19 MR. MORGAN: We know this area. We have  
20 been out there. We know that it's not flat. We know that  
21 in this particular area, the 250 acres that we're talking  
22 about, in the Fenced Horse Canyon there, we know that area  
23 there and, like I said, it has an arroyo through there and  
24 it's a deep arroyo. Then immediately, once you get on the  
25 other side of that arroyo, then you have a mountain





1 there. And that's true of that whole area out through  
2 there. You have bridges and mountains through that whole  
3 area. So we're aware of what it is out there. But there  
4 is no way that the missile defense command is going to be  
5 putting missiles -- launching missiles from that OBOD  
6 area.

7 MR. SHIRLEY: We know where they used to  
8 send off the missiles. We try to keep their attention  
9 only to that area, but they talk to us claiming all this  
10 area over here. See, that's why I'm asking. Since you're  
11 going to be working in that area, and it seems like some  
12 of the land claim is incorrect.

13 MR. MORGAN: I do not know how they are  
14 dividing the property or how they were dividing it up or  
15 what portions they are going to be taking. Like I said,  
16 all that we're handling right now is this particular  
17 area. And like I said, that's a whole different area  
18 there. It's a whole different branch, for the most part,  
19 of the Army there.

20 The Missile of Defense Command is planning, I guess,  
21 planning on launching missiles. Like I said, I'm not  
22 working in there and I really don't know that much about  
23 it right now.

24 MR. SHIRLEY: Everybody that lives in this  
25 area is against their plans, yet they want to do it. It's



1 just for your information. You probably talk to the same  
2 General, too, so pass it along.

3 MR. BEGAY: I just want to say a few words  
4 about what Mr. Shirley said. He pointed out some people  
5 -- I know that Reina Pinto lives up there. I told it all  
6 to this gentlemen, where to go, where to find it. And my  
7 nephew lives on top, just right across from this  
8 detonation area. His name is Tom Livingston and Bobby  
9 Livingston. They're up there. You can contact those  
10 people because they're just like me, they can talk. So  
11 you don't need to interpret. I think it's bad enough in  
12 that area.

13 MR. MORGAN: We'll certainly get up there  
14 and talk.

15 MR. BEGAY: Is this still under the federal  
16 government because this is inside the --

17 MR. MORGAN: I think they would know more  
18 about it.

19 MR. BEGAY: They know more about what we're  
20 talking about because a lot of times they said they found  
21 something. I think you can pinpoint where they are.  
22 What's going to be done with it?

23 MR. MORGAN: I have no idea as to what the  
24 final decision is they made on Wingate. Again, like I  
25 said, we're only discussing -- what we plan to cover



1        tonight is the 250 acres outside of the fenced area. Now  
2        the future of the depot there, I have no idea about that.

3                MR. KELLY: I have an idea about it.

4        General O'Neal, he's the decision maker in this issue,  
5        issued a decision on March 21st, 1995, and they selected,  
6        out of all alternative test ranges and all that, Fort  
7        Wingate has been selected as one of the launch sites for  
8        the target missiles. Isn't that considered an off-range  
9        launch site? You're only launching the various types of  
10       target missiles towards White Sands. And they'll have  
11       maybe one or two launch sites which will require a four  
12       and a half mile launch hazard area to be cornered off in  
13       case they're going to launch missiles which overlaps this  
14       area, pretty much. I just wanted to answer the question:  
15       Do they have plans? They already made the decision  
16       against all -- even the opposition from this area -- they  
17       decided to go ahead and select this site. Everybody --  
18       about 95 percent of the population is against it. We've  
19       expressed -- the Navajo Nation had past resolutions  
20       saying: No, we oppose this. The Zuni opposed it.  
21       Everybody opposed it. Even the City of Gallup wanted this  
22       for this short term economic benefit. But the thing is  
23       that a lot of people in the community pretty much oppose  
24       it. But General O'Neal said that there would be no  
25       significant environmental impact that had been identified



1 for this area, pretty much. So they're going to still go  
2 ahead with their decision. So I just want to make that  
3 clear to you.

4 MR. MORGAN: Well, again, that's a separate  
5 issue.

6 MR. KELLY: Right. That's a separate  
7 issue.

8 MR. BEGAY: Are you going to turn it into a  
9 national park?

10 MR. MORGAN: I'm sure that there have been  
11 numerous things as to how the land could be used; a  
12 national park, turning it over to the Indian tribe or  
13 turning it into an industrial park. Like I said, there's  
14 been numerous proposals for it.

15 MR. SHIRLEY: One other thing. When the  
16 General that was mentioned, in his decision, one of the  
17 reasons that he used to justify his decision was that  
18 there was no more money available and especially money  
19 that the community here could obtain from the U.S.  
20 Government to do this cleanup that you're talking about  
21 right now. He says there's no money available to do  
22 that. This is already a contaminated area that we're  
23 unfit to take care of, so the best thing is just to leave  
24 it in the hands of the Army. That's the justification,  
25 and now you're talking about a cleanup. We're hearing



1 different things from the Army, and we really would like  
2 to have this whole matter cleared. Hopefully, we wish it  
3 could be through one voice, but we hear it from different  
4 people.

5 MR. MORGAN: Like I said, unfortunately,  
6 there's several different entities involved in the Fort  
7 Wingate proposals there as to what's going to happen to  
8 the property and how it's going to be dealt with. The  
9 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers bears no input or say into  
10 that.

11 We are just basically an arm of the government, and  
12 they tell us, We want you to go out there and we want you  
13 to contract and have this park cleaned up. Like I say,  
14 we're sort of a redheaded step child in the sense of them  
15 telling us what to do, and we did it.

16 Like I said, we have no say-so in how the land will  
17 be allotted or disposed of or be used for.

18 MR. KELLY: That being a separate issue, we  
19 do definitely need that cleanup for the people around that  
20 area.

21 MR. MORGAN: Right. That's why we're out  
22 there. We understand that there is a hazard there and  
23 that's why we're trying to correct that.

24 MR. SHIRLEY: When we heard this from the  
25 other part of the Army, the one about the missile and



1       telling us we're incapable of clearing this up, we don't  
2       have no money to clean this up, the United States don't  
3       have any to help us and that's their justification to go  
4       ahead with the missile launch. But then there was also  
5       talk about going ahead, by the Navajo Tribal Council,  
6       going ahead and suing the U.S. Army to go ahead and clean  
7       this up.

8               Now, maybe they don't have to sue since you're -- it  
9       seems like you're going to do the cleanup, and the cleanup  
10      is appreciated very much.

11             MR. FISHER: Larry Fisher, Tooele Army  
12      Depot in Utah. That particular area you're talking about  
13      right here, when they talk about doing a cleanup, they're  
14      not talking about making that pristine again. You can't  
15      do that because that area has been used so extensively  
16      that it would cost in the millions and millions of dollars  
17      to get up there and try to clean that and detect every  
18      piece of metal, every piece of metal fragment, and that's  
19      just about impossible to do and the Army does not have  
20      enough money to spend to make that totally clean in this  
21      open detonation area on post. So we will go in and do a  
22      little bit of a cleanup, a surface cleanup, try to pick up  
23      as much as we can. We can see there is a lot of stuff  
24      buried there that -- and basically what is going to happen  
25      is we're going to fence about 1700 acres off up there and



1 keep people out of there forever and ever, and nobody will  
2 be able to go in and use that area, and we will monitor  
3 the groundwater and do -- you know, there's a lot of other  
4 requirements that we have to do to make sure that  
5 contamination does not get down to the groundwater. Then  
6 if it ever does, and I don't think it ever will because  
7 the groundwater is so deep up there, then we will take  
8 care of the problem at that time. But I think that's  
9 probably what they were talking about not having enough  
10 money because it just costs too many millions of dollars.

11 MR. SHIRLEY: There was a justification  
12 that was used to go ahead with missile launching.

13 MR. MORGAN: Like I said, that's a separate  
14 issue there and we should probably stay away from that.

15 MR. WINKLER: How big an area is that?

16 MR. FISHER: They have estimated it at 1700  
17 acres.

18 MR. KELLY: I have another issue here. The  
19 last meeting we talked about, we had a contractor, or  
20 whatever, came in and talked about the water tables and  
21 how it impacts --

22 MR. MORGAN: That was on post --

23 MR. KELLY: Yes. Maybe at that time what I  
24 should have done is request that it also be done for the  
25 Navajo Nation lands too. This was -- I guess because the





1 Zuni Tribe requested that. The Zuni Tribe's reservation  
2 doesn't really abut this Fort Wingate area. If you look  
3 at the water table, how the water table -- how the water  
4 flows, it's generally to the west and northwest. But in  
5 our case, the Navajo Reservation land abuts this Fort  
6 Wingate in three areas -- I mean, three major areas pretty  
7 much. So I think I should request a similar study for the  
8 water impact, the water table impact around this area up  
9 here. I mean, we're a little bit late in this.

10 MR. MORGAN: Like I said, I don't see that  
11 that will be your decision on that as to how, you know,  
12 what you would request on that. Again, what we're looking  
13 at here does not impact water tables. This is ordinance  
14 only surface area.

15 Again, like I said, that's a separate issue there  
16 and that would probably be best addressed through those  
17 channels that are looking at beyond-post contamination.

18 MR. FISHER: David, you can probably bring  
19 that up at our next RAM meeting, which will be sometime in  
20 May. We will have another public meeting here concerning  
21 everything that's going on within the depot boundary.

22 MR. MORGAN: We look forward to seeing you  
23 here.

24 MR. BEGAY: That's just outside of that  
25 ordinance depot, the one that we're talking about



1 requesting or something?

2 MR. KELLY: You're requesting a study of  
3 the impact on the water table?

4 MR. BEGAY: Yes.

5 MR. KELLY: Pretty much. The land  
6 surrounding the Fort Wingate Depot.

7 MR. MORGAN: Do we have any other  
8 questions?

9 MR. KATENAY: I'm not really, really a  
10 demolition expert, I just work for the EOD for a number of  
11 years, for about 17, so I know what you guys are talking  
12 about. Almost 20 feet deep there's explosives, all kinds  
13 of detonating we make there. Mostly I work for the  
14 Navajos over there in Flagstaff. I spent 17 years on the  
15 demolition grounds, so I'm not really an expert. But I  
16 was surveying for the EOD of the Army. So we got to  
17 detonate all kinds of ammunition like you guys talk  
18 about. From small ones of five, something like that, they  
19 got defused. A lot of them they buried there under the  
20 ground. Every time they select the way they detonate and  
21 ship it over, cover the holes. They were always digging  
22 up something there, like 105 or maybe half is gone, some  
23 of it still has the fuses. I'm not worried about those  
24 bombs, they'll defuse them, unless they got some special  
25 use to ship them back overseas. Some of them they fall in



1 the ditch and they just cover it and leave it alone.

2 MR. MORGAN: Well, that is the area there.  
3 Like I said, those are the demolition pits on post there  
4 that we were talking about in that 1700 acres that will be  
5 cleared under a different project later on.

6 MR. GABALDON: You got all kinds of TNT  
7 mixed in the dirt. Every time they try to blow something,  
8 they make it low ordinance.

9 MR. MORGAN: Make a sole explosive.

10 MR. KATENAY: And another area where  
11 they're making -- they just make a hole there.

12 MR. MORGAN: Right that's being taken care  
13 of under another project.

14 MR. KATENAY: There is so many feet down,  
15 but afterwards somebody finds it. It's not safe. Now I  
16 know they haul in the water and they try to burn it. You  
17 just make little holes, then they dump the water on them.  
18 They try to burn just the top water. It will go only so  
19 far down. That's what you guys talk about, though.

20 MR. MORGAN: Those washout areas, I guess  
21 they are actual soil that is considered explosive in the  
22 sense --

23 MR. KATENAY: Whenever they detonated those  
24 bombs, there are pieces of metal that can fly out, some of  
25 them may be three quarters of a mile. There would be some



1 up there, big pieces on the side of the bomb, what they  
2 used to call fragmentation bomb. They got cords like  
3 coil. Some maybe just had the bulk of these things, and  
4 some were still loaded with the TNT. And another thing,  
5 they blow those chemical bombs. They are live. Every  
6 time you move they start smoking.

7 MR. MORGAN: As far as I know, there are no  
8 chemical bombs leaking. As far as I know, and as far as  
9 our task service goes, there were no chemicals destroyed  
10 here at the Wingate center, from our task services.

11 MR. KATENAY: Just like they told us, I  
12 don't know how many years ago, it was 1989, they used to  
13 put poison gas over there in France some place. After the  
14 World War II, they tried to make a level ground. Somebody  
15 did give us gas bombs. They started smoking. They made a  
16 smell and a poison gas. Just like this guy was talking  
17 about. There is no time limit. They're there for years  
18 to come.

19 MR. MORGAN: That's why we're in here now,  
20 and trying to get it taken care of now.

21 MR. KATENAY: That's all I have.

22 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

23 MR. WINKLER: What's explosive soil? Would  
24 that be soil so heavily contaminated?

25 MR. MORGAN: Explosive soil is soil that





1 has explosives mixed with it, and to a certain percentage,  
2 that makes the actual soil explosive.

3 MR. KELLY: Nitro-based soil?

4 MR. MORGAN: Basically, yes. And usually  
5 there is a percentage to go with like two or three  
6 percent.

7 MR. WINKLER: And that would be from stuff  
8 actually being washed out into the soil?

9 MR. MORGAN: It could be stuff washed out  
10 into the soil. It could be from, like I said, the  
11 detonation there where all of the explosives did not  
12 explode and this is just mixed with the soil.

13 MR. BEGAY: Is there any way that that  
14 gentleman over there is going to clear this up? Is there  
15 any way that he can give us another report when he  
16 finishes, see what kind of stuff he found, seeing how  
17 important the thing is?

18 MR. MORGAN: There will be a bound report  
19 generated that will detail the work that these gentlemen  
20 did. It will detail the ordinance that was found, the  
21 scrap that was found. It will give locations where the  
22 ordinance items were found. It will be a detailed report  
23 on everything that they did and what they found.

24 MR. BEGAY: Is there any way that we can  
25 have another meeting like this and invite the Church Rock

1 Chapter and Bread Springs Chapter? There's two  
2 communities really involved.

3 MR. MORGAN: I will look at that.

4 MR. BEGAY: And see how far we're going to  
5 expand this afterwards because we might be way up here to  
6 Crestview. You never know.

7 MR. MORGAN: You never know. That's  
8 right. Like I said, that's why we want to get started on  
9 it and find out what we've got out there.

10 MR. BEGAY: So if you clear this 250 acres,  
11 that's fine. I got my boys over there, my nephews. They  
12 can contact you because they know where they are. Reina  
13 Pinto lives right there.

14 MR. KELLY: It would have been good to try  
15 to coordinate some meeting for these UXB experts,  
16 whatever, to start their operation out there.

17 MR. BEGAY: The reason I say that is these  
18 people live out there and they can provide a lot of  
19 valuable information that would really save you guys time.

20 MR. MORGAN: What we would like to do, like  
21 I said, we're going to try to -- we will start Monday,  
22 basically, as far as the survey goes on the property.  
23 That is laying out the 250 acres and getting out grids.  
24 What I mean by grids is putting it in sprayers so that  
25 they can coordinate how they search this particular area.





1 They will start on Monday surveying that.

2 Now, what we would like to do is they have been  
3 pushed back about a week, so about the 1st of May, the  
4 first day of May, these gentlemen will start going out and  
5 they will start surface clearing and actually start  
6 clearing the property at that time.

7 Now, again, what we would like to do is get the  
8 community involvement there. If you guys know of  
9 something in particular on your property or anything, if  
10 you can come by the Fort Wingate office there and they  
11 have a building there, Building T-16. Notify them and  
12 tell them about any ordinance that you have outside, even  
13 if it's outside the 250 acres there. Just let them know  
14 where it is and we will work something out on that.

15 MR. BEGAY: That's fine.

16 MR. MORGAN: Do you have any other  
17 questions?

18 MR. BEGAY: We just clear everything  
19 because we have about three sessions in here.

20 MR. MORGAN: We understand. Sometimes it's  
21 hard to keep it on one subject. I understand that.

22 MR. BEGAY: I think all that waste up there  
23 goes through the Rio Puerco and comes to Gallup.

24 MR. MORGAN: Again, I want to thank  
25 everyone for coming tonight.

1 MR. MORGAN: Thank you. We appreciate you  
2 being here tonight. Like I said, if there is anything  
3 that you want to discuss with us, stop by Wingate and give  
4 us a call there. If you can't find anything else, I have  
5 my cards up here. You can give me a call in Huntsville  
6 and I will try to take care of it.

7 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 7:17  
8 p.m.)  
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