



# NDCEE

National Defense Center for Energy and Environment



**DoD Executive Agent**

Office of the  
Assistant Secretary  
of the Army  
(Installations and  
Environment)

## Demonstration/Validation of Incremental Sampling at Two Diverse Military Ranges and Development of an Incremental Sampling Tool

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The NDCEE is operated by:  *Concurrent Technologies Corporation*

**Technology Transition – Supporting DoD Readiness, Sustainability, and the Warfighter**

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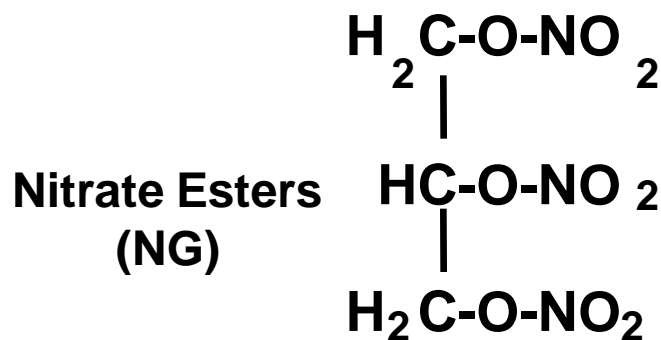
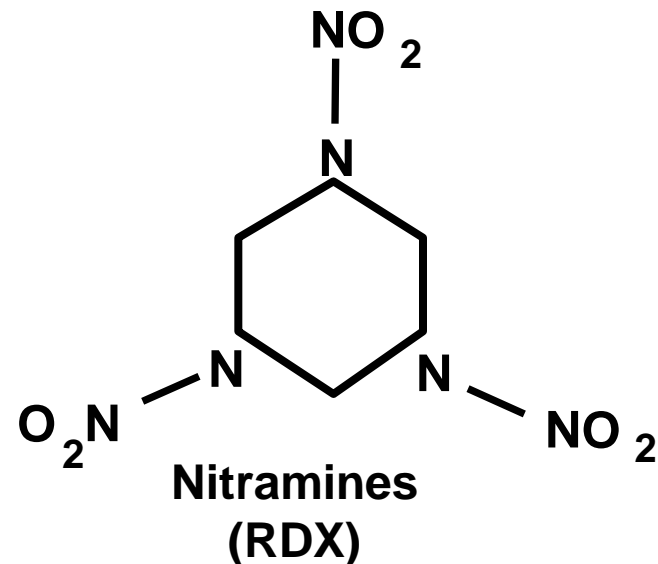
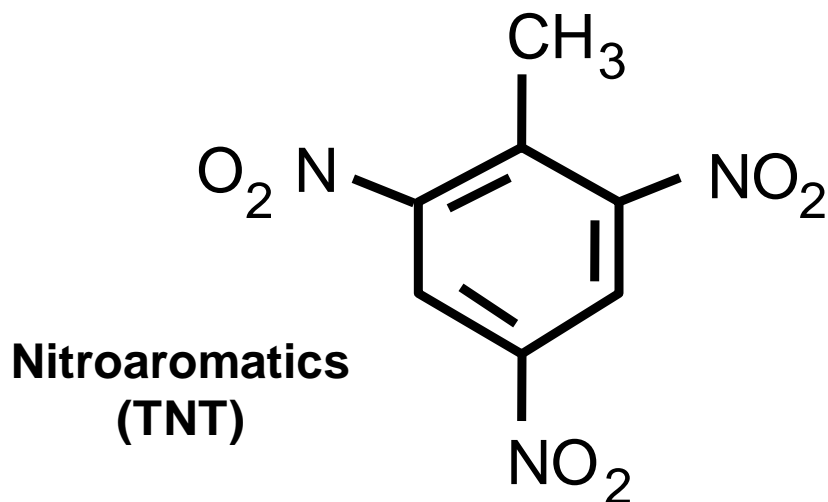
# Objectives/Goals

- Reduce uncertainty in site chemical characterization of military ranges by:
  - Demonstrating a reliable soil sampling strategy to accurately characterize contaminant concentrations in spatially extreme and heterogeneous conditions
  - Decreasing potential for missed hot spot characterization
  - Decreasing sampling costs compared to discrete sampling
- Additionally, assessment of:
  - “Scoop off the top” subsampling error
  - Variance among laboratory triplicates
  - Two different grinding techniques in the laboratory
  - Analytical results for different detectors after separation

# Why is Sampling Conducted at DoD Ranges?

- Major potential problem of migration of energetic compounds off range in aqueous solution
  - Contamination of underground drinking water aquifers (MMR - range closed by EPA)
  - Contamination of surface water bodies
- Ecological risk assessments
  - Eagle River Flats impact range (Ft. Richardson) closed due to water fowl poisoning with white phosphorus
- DoD Directive 4715.11 establishes requirement for each DoD component to assess environmental impacts of munitions use on operational ranges
- MMRP program – For pre-9/30/2002 non-operational, non-permitted sites under DERP

# Major Classes of Energetic Compounds Used by DoD



# DoD Sites Potentially Contaminated with Energetic Compounds

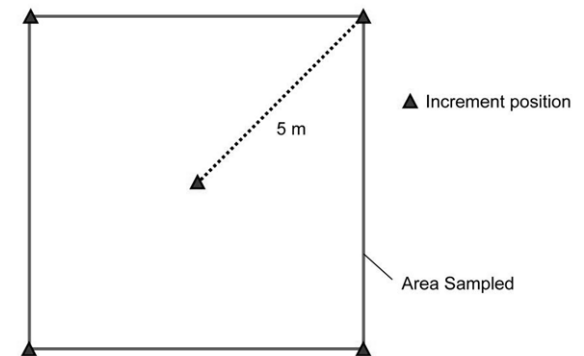
- Ammunition plants
  - Synthesis
  - Load, assemble, and pack
  - Destruction of off-spec material
- Depots
  - Storage
  - Destruction of out-of-date munitions
- Training and test ranges
  - Impact areas
  - Firing points
  - Demolition ranges



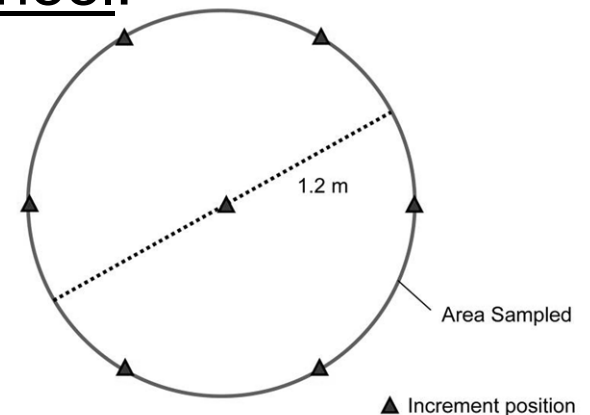
# Traditional Sampling Approaches

- Site divided into a set of decision (exposure) units
- One or several discrete or small-scale composite soil samples collected to represent each decision unit
- Analytical results assumed to be normally distributed (and representative)
- Mean (or 95% upper confidence limit) and estimates of uncertainty computed using normal statistics

## Box:

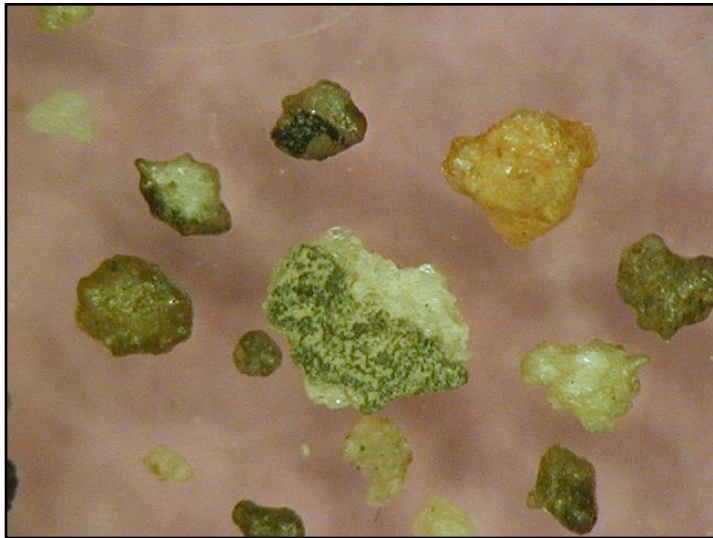


## Wheel:



# Energetics Residue Deposition

Firing points - particles  
and fibers of propellant →  
with nitroglycerin (NG)  
and dinitrotoluene (DNT)  
w/in nitrocellulose matrix



← Impact areas - particles  
of explosives deposited  
from low-order (partial)  
detonations



# Residues of Composition B Deposited at Impact Areas

- Particles (chunks) of Composition B deposited range in size from micrometer to centimeter
- Soil sized particles are defined as  $< 2$  mm
- One 1-mm spherical particle of Composition B:
  - weighs about 0.9 mg
  - contains ~ 0.50 mg of RDX  
0.35 mg of TNT  
0.05 mg of HMX
- If the soil concentration is 1 mg/kg of RDX, a kilogram sample contains only two of these 1-mm particles
- Energetics deposition results in surficial contamination w/ both distributional and compositional heterogeneity

# Representativeness: Often the Missing Element in QA

- Does the sample collected and shipped to the laboratory adequately represent the exposure area?
- Does the portion of the sample that is used for extraction/digestion adequately represent the sample arriving at the laboratory?
- CRREL research on energetic compounds in soil at training ranges addressed these questions. Method 8330B including *MULTI INCREMENT*<sup>®</sup> sampling (MIS) field sampling protocol is the result of this research.
- This project provided an independent demonstration/validation of MIS compared to traditional field sampling protocols for energetics

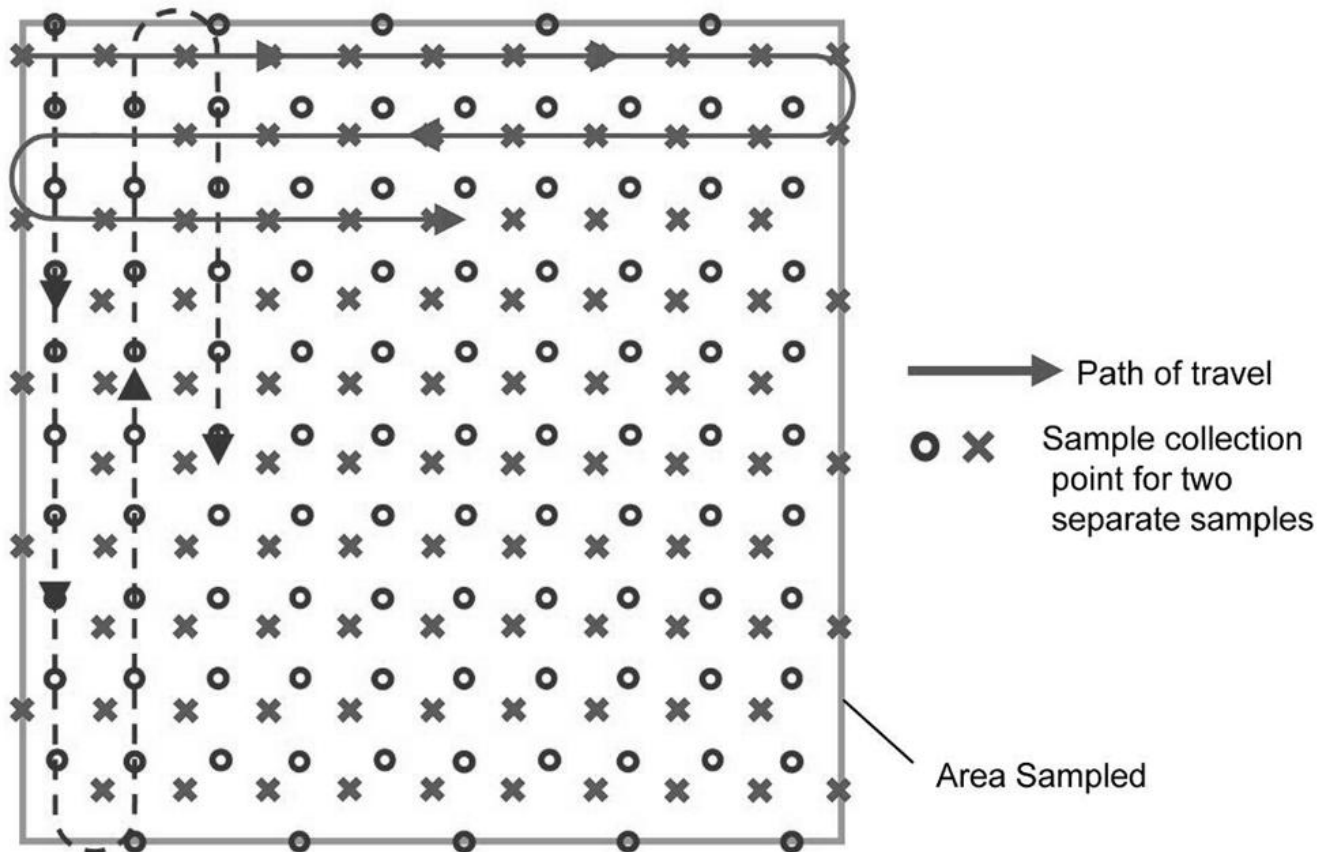
# What is *MULTI INCREMENT*<sup>®</sup> Sampling (MIS)?

- Technique of combining many increments of soil from a number of points within exposure area
- Developed by Enviro Stat (Trademarked term “*MULTI INCREMENT*<sup>®</sup>”); Researched by CRREL for surface soil sampling at ranges for energetic compounds
- Differs from typical composite in two ways:
  - Number of increments (grabs) much greater (30 minimum)
  - Entire area of interest (decision unit, exposure area) is represented by each sample
- MIS theory is to mitigate single sample variability that results from:
  - discrete (single point) sampling
  - composite sampling with limited increments and/or small areal extent of coverage

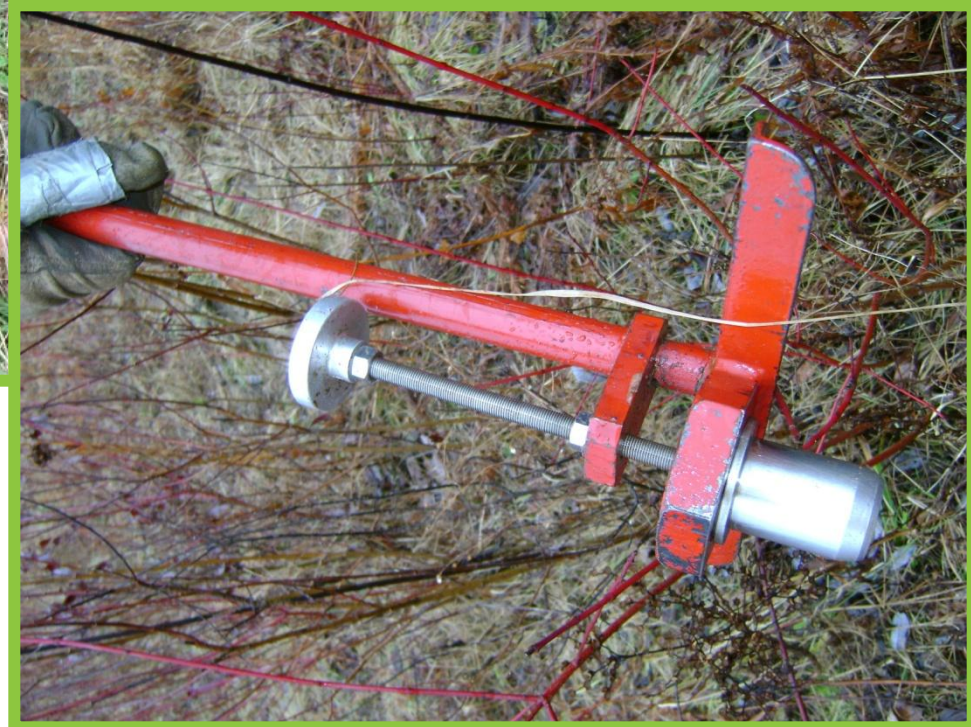
# More on *MULTI INCREMENT*<sup>®</sup> Soil Sampling

- Balance between number of increments collected, volume of each increment, and depth of sample should result in about 1 to 2 kg of total sample size sent to lab
- Helps address both compositional and distributional heterogeneity
- Normalizes distribution
- This project demonstrated MIS validity compared to the discrete, box, and wheel techniques for a single decision unit at two diverse military ranges by assessing reproducibility (variance) of replicates

# Pattern of *MULTI INCREMENT*<sup>®</sup> sample collection using systematic-random sampling design



# Tools for *MULTI INCREMENT*® Sampling



# Laboratory Analyses of Energetics by EPA Method 8330A

- Traditional analytical method for surface soil samples resulting from discrete, box, and wheel methods
- Per typical lab protocol, subsampling under 8330A consists of taking a “scoop off the top” of the soil (in-transit settling of sample can lead to unrepresentative lab subsample even from field composite)
- Per 8330A, this subsample is ground with mortar and pestle, and screened w/ 30 mesh sieve, and HPLC/UV extraction and analysis
- Modifications to 8330A for this project
  - 10 mesh (2 mm) sieve size
  - Include nitroglycerin as a target analyte

# Laboratory Analyses of Energetics by EPA Method 8330B

- EPA Method 8330B released in 2006 calls for drying and sieving (10 mesh or 2 mm) entire sample – a subsequent presentation will detail laboratory aspects
- Entire portion <2 mm subjected to grinding, then subsampling is conducted using a MIS technique in the laboratory
- 8330B allows either HPLC/UV or HPLC/MS
- Additional evaluations per 8330B for this project
  - Two different grinding techniques will be used for MI samples (roller ball mill and ring and puck mill)
  - Both UV and MS will be used as detectors for a subset of extracts and results compared



# Project Completion

- Government approved Field Sampling and Laboratory Sampling and Analysis Plans
- Draft Final Report submitted to Government
- Field sampling at Red Rio Bombing Range, Live Drop Area, Holloman AFB completed March 2009
  - Impact area - arid bombing range, dry sandy soils, particles
- Field sampling at Range 59, Fort Lewis completed July 2009
  - Firing points - humid firing range, well-drained soils, propellant site
- TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc., Denver, CO analyzed samples
  - All lab managers and bench chemists trained on project requirements
  - 4 discrete; 4 box; 4 wheel; 4 MIS for roller ball mill; 4 MIS for ring and puck mill for analysis
  - QA samples include two soil blanks and two aqueous equipment blanks

# Sampling at Holloman AFB



**Entering Bombing Range**

# Sampling at Holloman AFB



**Dropped Bomb Weathering**



**CRREL Tool Prepared for Sampling**

# Sampling at Holloman AFB



**Meeting with EOD Technician to Finalize Safety Protocol**

# Sampling at Holloman AFB



**Layout of 10 x 10 m Decision Unit (Area of Interest)**

# Sampling at Holloman AFB



Conducting *MULTI INCREMENT*<sup>®</sup> Sampling (100 increments/hour)

# Sampling at Holloman AFB



**Template Set for a Wheel Sample**

# Sampling at Holloman AFB



## Composting the Seven Wheel Increments



# Sampling at Holloman AFB



**Completing Sample Documentation/QA Sampling/Packing**

# Sampling at Holloman AFB



← Tritonal (TNT with aluminum) from low-order detonation of 2,000-lb bomb

Expray field kit used to verify TNT content →



# Holloman Decision Unit

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

- Est. 10 m x 10 m decision unit adj. to crater of low order detonation of 500 lb. bomb
- Tritonal (TNT w/ Al) prime CoC; extremely heterogeneous site
- Collected four reps ea. of discrete, box, wheel, MIS ball mill, and MIS puck mill samples
- All samples 0 – 2.5 cm depth, dry, loose fine to coarse sand w/ very little vegetation
- 100 increments for MI samples

# Data Evaluation

- True mean is unknowable; Assess representativeness by “reproducibility”, indicated by variance of data in like groups
- Calculate Mean and Standard Deviation of each like data group
- Calculate % Relative Standard Deviation (% RSD) of each like data group; Compare % RSDs (e.g. data resulting from “scoop off the top” vs. “in-lab MIS procedure”)  $\% \text{ RSD} = (s \cdot 100) / m$
- The lower the % RSD for a like data group, the better quality the data in terms of reproducibility, therefore representativeness
- Calculate Relative Percent Difference (RPD) to compare two values (e.g. subsample to bulk sample)  $\text{RPD} = \text{ABS}(A-B) / m \cdot 100$

# Holloman Laboratory Replicates TNT Results (mg/kg)

Sample Type	Replicates			Corrected Bulk	Mean	Range	Std Dev	% RSD	RPD	Range RPD	
	1	2	3							High	Low
Discrete	1900	230	210	1960	780	210-1900	970	124	86	3	161
Box	1100	1800	1500	3260	1470	1100-1800	351	24	76	58	99
Wheel	0.6	0.37	0.47	0.80	0.48	0.37-0.6	0.12	24	50	29	74
MIS-Ball-HPLC/UV	1700	1700	1600	1600	1670	1600-1700	58	3	4	6	0.2
MIS-Ball-HPLC/MS/MS	1600	1300	1400	1590	1430	1300-1600	153	11	11	0	20
MIS-Puck-HPLC/UV	1500	1400	1700	1890	1530	1400-1700	153	10	21	10	30
MIS-Puck-HPLC/MS/MS	1600	1400	1800	1500	1600	1400-1800	200	13	6	18	7

# Holloman Field Replicates TNT Results (mg/kg)

Sample Type	Replicates				Mean	Range	Std Dev	% RSD	95% UCL
	1	2	3	4					
Discrete	1900	11	37	200	537	11-1900	913	170	1610
Box	1100	160	6400	3700	2840	160-6400	2800	99	6140
Wheel	0.6	21000	42	90	5280	0.60-21000	10500	198	17600
MIS-Ball-HPLC/UV	1700	1300	2000	3300	2080	1300-3300	866	42	3090
MIS-Ball-HPLC/MS/MS	1600	1100	1500	2900	1780	1100-2900	780	44	2690
MIS-Puck-HPLC/UV	1500	2100	1000	1700	1580	1000-2100	457	29	2110
MIS-Puck-HPLC/MS/MS	1600	2300	1100	1500	1630	1100-2300	499	31	2210

# Project Conclusions – Holloman AFB

- Heterogeneous distribution of TNT in arid, sandy soils; 100-increment MIS compared to discrete, box, wheel
- Compared to traditional sampling methods, MIS provided:
  - Better reproducibility of laboratory replicates
  - A more representative subsample than scoop off the top
  - Better reproducibility of field replicates
- On ring and puck mill vs. roller ball mill grinding and detection by UV vs. MS/MS:
  - Differences between grinding methods were not observed at this site; project-specific determinations necessary
  - UV provided slightly better reproducibility than MS/MS; MS/MS may be preferred for some projects for reasons such as detection limits/better resolution

# Sampling at Fort Lewis



**Entering Range Area**



# Sampling at Fort Lewis



## Decision Unit

# Sampling at Fort Lewis



**Core from CRREL MIS Tool**

# Fort Lewis Decision Unit

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

- Est. 10 m x 20 m decision behind live-fire firing point of M72 LAW and AT-4 Shoulder-fired Rockets
  - Nitroglycerin prime CoC; relatively homogeneous within decision unit
  - Collected four reps ea. of discrete, box, wheel, MIS ball mill, and MIS puck mill samples
- 
- All samples 0 – 2.5 cm depth, well-drained, loose sandy loam with some small pebbles
  - 100 increments for MI samples

# Fort Lewis Live-Fire Laboratory Replicates NG Results (mg/kg)

Sample Type	Replicates			Corrected Bulk	Mean	Std Dev	% RSD	RPD	Range RPD	
	1	2	3						High	Low
Discrete	2390	2020	2110	1590	2170	193	9	31	40	24
Box	5320	4730	4950	2770	5000	298	6	58	63	52
Wheel	2470	2380	2550	2690	2470	85	3	9	5	12
MIS-Ball1-HPLC/UV	1940	---	1880	1820	1910	30	2	5	6	3
MIS-Ball1-HPLC/MS/MS	1870	---	1900	2030	1890	15	1	7	6	8
MIS-Ball6-HPLC/UV	1750	1800	1790	1730	1780	26	1	3	4	1
MIS-Ball6-HPLC/MS/MS	2090	2080	1800	1800	1990	165	8	10	15	0.1
MIS-Puck-HPLC/UV	1630	1630	1650	1580	1640	12	1	3	4	3
MIS-Puck-HPLC/MS/MS	1550	1630	1790	1600	1660	122	7	3	11	3

# Fort Lewis Live-Fire Field Replicates NG Results (mg/kg)

Sample Type	Replicates					Mean	Range	Std Dev	% RSD	95% UCL
	1	2	3	4	5					
Discrete	2390	1900	1550	6360	---	3050	1550-6360	2230	73	5680
Box	5320	1520	4200	5120	---	4040	1520-5320	1750	43	6100
Wheel	2470	3490	1800	2400	---	2540	1800-3490	701	28	3370
MIS-Ball-HPLC/UV	1940	1690	1660	1800	1750	1770	1660-1940	110	6	1880
MIS-Ball-HPLC/MS/MS	1870	1760	1440	1700	2090	1770	1440-2090	238	13	2020
MIS-Puck-HPLC/UV	1630	1890	1990	1950	---	1870	1630-1990	162	9	2060
MIS-Puck-HPLC/MS/MS	1550	1970	2140	2120	---	1950	1550-2140	274	14	2400

# Project Conclusions – Fort Lewis

- Less heterogeneous distribution of NG in humid, well-drained loam; 100-increment MIS compared to discrete, box, wheel
- Compared to traditional sampling methods, MIS provided:
  - Better reproducibility of laboratory replicates
  - A more representative subsample than scoop off the top
  - Better reproducibility of field replicates
- On ring and puck mill vs. roller ball mill grinding and detection by UV vs. MS/MS:
  - Differences between grinding methods were not observed at this site; project-specific determinations necessary. At high concentration site, homogeneity may be result of mixing rather than mechanical breakdown of nitrocellulose fibers (Jenkins)
  - UV provided slightly better reproducibility than MS/MS; MS/MS may be preferred for some projects for reasons such as detection limits/better resolution

# Cost Benefit Analysis Assumptions

- DQO Goal of mean soil concentration in a decision unit
- Equivalent Data Assumptions (to one MIS sample)
  - 30 discrete samples
  - 15 box samples and 15 wheel samples
- One-time Event (Operation & Maintenance not applicable; Travel differences negligible; Mobilization to site not included)
- Surface soils (2.5 cm depth)
- Field QC (two field duplicates (discrete); one field duplicate (box, wheel, MIS))
- Lab QC (MS/MSD for all; LCS for MIS)
- Analytical by HPLC/UV (\$150/sample for all, plus \$100 prep for each MIS sample)

# Cost Benefit Analysis

<b>Expense</b>	<b>30 Discrete</b>	<b>15 Box or Wheel</b>	<b>One 30-increment MIS</b>
Labor (\$75/hr)	8 hrs \$600	12 hrs \$900	4 hrs \$300
Method-Specific Equipment*	\$125	\$150	\$1300
Misc. Equipment	\$100	\$100	\$100
Shipping	\$400	\$175	\$100
Laboratory Analysis	\$5,250	\$2,850	\$1,350
Cost to characterize one decision unit	\$6,475	\$4,175	\$3,150
Cost to characterize ten decision units	\$62,725	\$39,500	\$18,900

\*Assumes purchase of an IS pogo-stick style sampler



# Validation of EVC Soil Stick

- EVC Soil Stick used in Fort Lewis to collect eight replicate samples (0-2.5 cm depth) of 100 increments each
- Same decision unit as discrete, box, and wheel data
- Four samples analyzed by EPA 8330B using puck mill grinding; HPLC/UV



# Fort Lewis Live-Fire Laboratory Replicates NG Results Using EVC Tool (mg/kg)

Sample Type	Replicates			Mean	Std Dev	% RSD
	1	2	3			
Discrete	2390	2020	2110	2170	193	9
Box	5320	4730	4950	5000	298	6
Wheel	2470	2380	2550	2470	85	3
MIS-Puck-HPLC/UV	2230	2250	2220	2233	2	0.1

# Fort Lewis Live-Fire Field Replicates NG Results Using ECV Tool (mg/kg)

Sample Type	Replicates				Mean	Range	Std Dev	% RSD	95% UCL
	1	2	3	4					
Discrete	2390	1900	1550	6360	3050	1550-6360	2230	73	5680
Box	5320	1520	4200	5120	4040	1520-5320	1750	43	6100
Wheel	2470	3490	1800	2400	2540	1800-3490	701	28	3370
MIS-Puck-HPLC/UV	2230	2020	1830	1680	1940	1680-2230	238	12	2220

# Technical Comparison of Soil Sampling Methods

- Hot Spots - a 30- to 100-increment MIS sample will more likely incorporate hot spots to be included in results
- Applicability
  - Wide variety of ranges and settings studied for characterization of energetics
  - Expansion to additional parameters under study
  - Laboratory procedure modification needed
  - Comparisons to historical data
- Laboratory availability – full sample processing for MIS
- Alternate applications and sampling depth – cost-effectiveness likely more dependent on analytical savings

# Multi Increment Sampling Status

- Regulatory status and conditions of acceptance
  - Many states have accepted use of MIS; Some require it
- Mr. Alan Hewitt, formerly of U.S. ACE, ERDC-CRREL, Completed Cost and Benefit report focusing on MIS for ranges in ESTCP-funded project
- U.S. ACE, ERDC-CRREL, SERDP-funded project to evaluate expansion of MIS to metals contamination at ranges just beginning
- Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) work group on Multi Increment Sampling evaluating MIS for expanded use

# Multi Increment Sampling Benefits

- Time for MIS increment collection in field same or less than traditional methods
- Fewer MI samples needed for equivalent data variability compared to discrete or box or wheel
- Accepted as most representative sampling technique for surface soil sampling for energetics residues at military ranges
- Studies underway to expand MIS for use with additional contaminants and depths/applications (SERDP– metals at ranges; ITRC MIS Team – theory; DOE – mixed contaminants pre- and post-removal of soils)



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