

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET**

MARCH 1997

HNC REVISION: 15 SEPTEMBER 1997

TAG REVIEW DATE: 4 NOVEMBER 1997

1. SITE NAME: Borrego Hotel (Target Area and Emergency
Landing Field)

SITE NUMBER: J09CA701100

LOCATION:

City: Borrego Springs

County: San Diego County

State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA701104

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 3

2. POC'S:

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICT:

Name: Trudy Knutson

Office: CESPL-PM

Phone: 213-452-3990

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION:

Name: Anthony L. Mei

Office: CESPDM-R

Phone: 415-977-8247

HEADQUARTERS:

Name: Mohinder K. Saini

Office: CEMP-RF

Phone: 202-761-1594

ASR/INPR TEAM LEADER:

Name: Richard L. Pike

Office: CEHNC-OE-DC-D

Phone: 205-895-1559

ASR SUPPORT DISTRICT:

Name: Nicholas Iaiennaro

Office: CENCR-ED-DO

ASR TECHNICAL REVIEWER:

Name: Thomas M. Meekma

Office: SIOAC-ESL

3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Borrego Hotel (Target Area and Emergency Landing Field), also known as Halfhill Dry Lake and as Target 63, consisted of 160 acres located approximately 17.5 miles southeast of Borrego Springs and 4 miles southeast of Ocotillo Wells, California, San Diego County, near the western border of Imperial County. The draft ASR identified 61.30 additional acres along the south and east borders of the site with confirmed or potential OE bringing the total site acreage to 221.30 acres. The FDE acreage of 160 acres is located in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 26, Township 12 South, Range 8 East. The land is barren desert land, jointly owned by two private landowners, one of whom recently died. The land has been put in the care of an attorney for estate sale and settlement. The property is located approximately 1.5 miles south on Split Mountain Road from the intersection of Highway 78 and Split Mountain Road.

The climate is characterized by hot summers and mild winters. From June through August, the average daily temperature is 88.93° F, while the average is 57.3° F for the months December through February. Average yearly rainfall is 6.83 inches. Rainfall from summer storms can be locally heavy and cause damaging flash floods. Occasionally, a tropical Pacific cyclone, known in Mexico as a chubasco, will strike the area and dump large amounts of rain in a short period of time. On average, summer rains attributable to tropical Pacific storms reach Southern California once every two years. The site is at the southeast end of the Borrego Valley at an elevation of 80 feet above sea level on a fairly level, broad, and arid plain between Borrego Mountain and the Fish Creek Mountains.

Project lands appear to be perfectly flat desert land, falling slightly below the elevation of surrounding lands, forming a pocket for drainage waters. The vegetation of the area is extremely sparse, with solely brush and hummocks present. The drainage pattern and absence of standing water and vegetation characterize approximately 100 acres which is considered a dry lake, bearing the title of Halfhill Dry Lake. It holds water briefly following summer flash floods for three or four days maximum. There are no permanent surface bodies of water on or near the site.

4. SITE HISTORY: The former Borrego Hotel (Target Area and Emergency Landing Field), consisting of 160 acres, was acquired from Elmo Rowland Livingston by the U.S. Government via Declaration of Taking, dated 10 July 1941, for use as an emergency landing field and dive bombing target by personnel from the San Diego Naval Air Station. The site was developed to support high altitude bombing (horizontal), dive bombing, strafing, and emergency landing activities. Practice bombs and small arms ammunition of unspecified types and models were the only ordnance items historically documented as used on the Borrego Hotel site.

Improvements consisted of a north-south runway, 2600 feet long by 250 feet wide, an east-west dirt runway, 2500 feet long by 250 feet wide, and a bombing target with three concentric circles, 50 feet, 100 feet and 200 feet in radius and a center circle of 15 feet in diameter. The actual east-west runway was found to be considerably shorter due to main target placement to the southeast of site center.

On 31 October 1955, the Department of the Navy declared the Borrego Hotel site excess to Navy requirements and transferred the property to the General Services Administration (GSA) for disposal. The Chief of the GSA declared the site excess to the requirements of the Federal Government on 20 December 1955 and surplus on 25 January 1956. Sale of the property was to Ray Formost on 6 September 1956. The present owner is Josef Janota/ Margaret Acers.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A

Size, Acres: 8.10

Former Use: Main Target Area

Present Use: Desert/Dry Lake

Probable End Use: Desert/Dry Lake

Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**

Type: Bomb, practice: 100 lb., M38A2;
3 lb., MK 23; 500 lb., MK 65

AREA B

Size, Acres: 1.00

Former Use: Secondary Target Area

Present Use: Desert/Dry Lake

Probable End Use: Desert/Dry Lake

Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**

Type: Bomb, practice: 100 lb., M38A2

AREA C

Size, Acres: 150.90

Former Use: Impact Area

Present Use: Desert/Dry Lake

Probable End Use: Desert/Dry Lake

Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**

Type: Bomb, practice: 100 lb., M38A2

AREA D

Size, Acres: 30.65

Former Use: Impact Area (Additional Land)

Present Use: Desert

Probable End Use: Desert

Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**

Type: Bomb, practice: 100 lb., M38A2;
3 lb., MK 23

AREA E

Size, Acres: 30.65

Former Use: Buffer Zone (Additional Land)

Present Use: Desert

Probable End Use: Desert

Ordnance Presence: **Potential**

Type: Bomb, practice: 100 lb., M38A2;
3 lb., MK 23

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The draft Archives Search Report (ASR) for Borrego Hotel (Target Area and Emergency Landing Field) was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in March 1997.

7. **STRATEGY:**

AREA A: RAC 3;EE/CA

AREA B: RAC 3;EE/CA

AREA C: RAC 3;EE/CA

AREA D: RAC 3;EE/CA (Not identified as FUDS acreage in the FDE. It is not FUDS property eligible but it is FUDS project eligible due to findings of OE residue during the ASR site inspection. Recommend that the INPR be amended to include this acreage in this Project.

AREA E: RAC 3;EE/CA (Not identified as FUDS acreage in the FDE. It is not FUDS property eligible but it is FUDS project eligible due to potential for OE residue. Recommend that the INPR be amended to include this acreage in this Project.

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** Based on the RAC high hazard probability and findings of practice bomb debris, the TAG recommends a strategy of EE/CA, RAC 3 for the FDE site acreage of 160 acres, consisting of Areas A, B, and C, as well as for the additional 61.30 acres identified as Areas D and E in the ASR. The ASR writer found practice bomb debris in Area D and states that Area E has the potential for OE. Recommend that the INPR acreage be amended to include the additional acreage of 61.30 acres in Areas D and E since it adjoins the southern and eastern borders of the site and it is FUDS project eligible. The site survey team did find one 20mm armor piercing projectile in Area A, but considered it an isolated instance that does not have any bearing on strategy.

HNC Safety Comments: He agrees with a strategy of an OE EE/CA, RAC 3. However, he points out for correction that there are two page 20s. Also, he states that the captions for photographs J-20 and J-21 need to be switched.

Clearance at the Site: The ASR makes no mention of finding any documents regarding clearance of the site.

Chemical Warfare Materiel: No documentation was noted that indicates that chemical warfare activities occurred at the site.

Natural Resources: Federally and State threatened species may occur within the site area and are listed in ASR Findings, pages 6 through 7, para 3f and Table 3-2. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: The ASR indicated that no known historical/cultural resources were found to be present at the site. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office and/or other like organizations.