

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
MARCH 1996
TAG REVIEW DATE: 26 March 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Bostwick Bomb Target (Putnam Bomb Target)

SITE NUMBER: I04FL091400

LOCATION:

City: Bostwick
County: Putnam
State: Florida

PROJECT NUMBER: I04FL091401

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC's:**

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Bostwick Bomb Target, consisting of 640 acres of land, is located in Section 22, Township 8 South, Range 26 East, approximately 25 miles southwest of the city of St. Augustine and three miles west-northwest of the town of Bostwick in Putnam County, Florida. The site is part of a larger area that is used in the cultivation of pine trees for wood and pulp production.

The terrain around the site is slightly hilly; relief varies in the area up to 85 feet. The bomb target area itself is relatively flat with a ten foot difference in elevation from one end to the other. The land cover is mainly forest, with small lakes and swamps visible throughout the area. A two-lane highway and rail line going north-south are east of the site.

The swampy lowlands adjacent to the site are fed by Simms Creek. Three branches feed into this creek immediately south of the study area. The Simms Creek flows from north to south through the center of the site. Simms Creek is a tributary of the Rice Creek. All the surface runoff drains into the Simms Creek.

4. SITE HISTORY: In the early part of 1940, the United States acquired a total of 640 acres by lease and condemnation for leasehold(actual dates unknown) from eight different owners for a Naval bomb target. The site was developed and sequentially known as the Bostwick Bomb Target and the Putnam Bomb Target. Naval improvements at the site consisted of clearing about 40 acres in the middle of the site for a target in the shape of a circle (outlined on the surface of the ground), fencing, and warning signs. An updated General Development Map showed concentric circles of 100', 200' and 300' at the main target area, boundary fencing(chain link), a fire break, two observation towers, a glide angle observation point, control building and dirt access roads. The site remained active until 1977 when its functions were no longer required by the Navy for training purposes. The lease was terminated on 15 December 1977.

The site was used by the Naval Air Advanced Training Command stationed at Jacksonville Naval Air Station for operational training and practice dive bombing. A visual inspection was conducted by the Navy in 1977 in which 30 mm projectiles and various rockets and bombs, fragments and whole, and practice and HE were observed. Although no documentation was found, two witnesses, each interviewed independently, stated that this inspection was followed by an extensive clearance of the entire bomb target during 1978-79, costing millions of dollars, of site OE to a depth of two feet using heavy equipment. This is supported by historical aerial photographs.

From the time the lease was terminated until recently, the Union Camp Paper Corporation used the land to grow timber for harvest. Mr. George Nab is the present owner and still uses the land for wood production. Improvements built by the Navy are no longer present.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres: 640
Former Use: Dive Bombing Target
Present Use: Grow timber for harvest
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed
Type: Bombs(Practice and HE);
rockets(Practice and HE);
30 mm cartridge ammunition

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for Bostwick Bomb Target(Putnam Bomb Target) was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St Louis District, in March 1996.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA; (RAC 4)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The site is RAC 4 with a strategy of EE/CA. Based on Navy clearance of OE from the site to a depth of two feet using heavy equipment in 1978-79, the ASR recommended NOFA and RAC 5. Also, during the site inspection, the site survey team observed only small, scrap metal fragments from ordnance on the site. However, Safety review of the ASR recommended EE/CA, noting that the current requirements set forth in DOD 6055.9 STD for agriculture is a clearance to four feet. Based on Safety comments, the ASR writer filled out and submitted a new RAC Form with a RAC of 4. The geographic district will finalize the ASR by inserting the new RAC Form with a RAC of 4(attached) and changing the text of the ASR to reflect a recommendation of EE/CA, RAC 4 based on the additional information provided by HNC safety. Also, the new RAC Form must also have the values in Part I, A, for Medium/Large Caliber and Bombs, Explosive circled based on the listing of ordnance in paragraph 4.1.3 of pages 4-1 through 4-2 of the ASR Findings.

CWM: The research team found no information confirming chemical warfare material usage or storage at the Bostwick Bomb Target.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. Listings are provided in the ASR Findings, page 3-4, paragraph 3.5. 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: No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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