

RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
28 SEPTEMBER 1995  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 26 MARCH 1997

1. SITE NAME: Broken Bow Air-To-Ground Gunnery Range

SITE NUMBER: B07NE003800

LOCATION:

City: Broken Bow  
County: Custer County  
State: Nebraska

PROJECT NUMBER: B07NE003801

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. POC's:

GEO DISTRICT POC:

Name: Robert Dworkin  
Office: CEMRO-MD-HB  
Phone: (402) 221-7716

TECHNICAL MANAGER

Name: Richard L. Pike  
Office: CEHNC-OE-DC  
Phone: (256) 895-1559

GEO DIVISION POC:

Name: David Nusz  
Office: CEMRD-PM-H  
Phone: (402) 697-2523

HEADQUARTERS POC:

Name: Sara Goodwin  
Office: CEMP-RF  
Phone: (202) 761-5223

SUPPORT DIST (ASR) POC:

Name: Scott Barton  
Office: CELMS-PM-M  
Phone: (314) 331-8786

ASR TAG REVIEW POC:

Name: C. Fredrick Girard  
Office: SIOAC-ESL  
Phone: (815) 273-8849

3. SITE DESCRIPTION:

a. The Broken Bow Air to Ground Gunnery Range was located about eight miles south of Broken Bow in Custer County, Nebraska. Consisting of approximately 14,755 acres of rolling terrain and

high grass, this site served as a machine-gun and practice bombing facility in conjunction with the Kearney AAF and was also known as the Kearney Air to Ground Gunnery Range. Myer's Canyon (Sixteen-Mile Canyon) which generally runs north-south through the center of the FUDS previously served as the original road between Broken Bow and Lexington. Investigations have shown most of the targets were located along Myer's Canyon.

b. The site is currently used for ranching and farming activities, primarily as grazing land or planted in hay and forage crops.

#### 4. SITE HISTORY:

a. Purchased in 1943, the Broken Bow ATG Gunnery Range was used by airmen of Kearney AAF for bombing and machine-gun practice. According to newspaper articles of the time, there were actually three ranges in Custer County. Broken Bow, the largest range in the area, was four miles by six miles and served a dual purpose. The gunnery range was used for machine-gun practice during daylight hours and as a practice bombing range both day and night. The targets were electrically lighted for the night practice.

b. Aircrew training in B-17s and B-29s consisted of dropping M38-series 100 pound practice bombs filled with sand and loaded with either the M1A1, M3, or M4 spotting charge. There has been no evidence found that High Explosive munitions were ever used on the Broken Bow ATG Gunnery Range.

c. Based on the results of the site inspection, interviews, and photo interpretation, confirmed residue of practice bomb fragments, expended .50 caliber cartridge cases, and .50 caliber ammunition remain on the site. Only a small number of dilapidated bomb pieces, none potentially hazardous to the public, remain on the surface. During a careful search of the area, the team found evidence of the above and was able to verify that this range was utilized as an air-to-ground gunnery range during the WW II timeframe. No other evidence of OE was found on the range.

d. The archival research and interviews revealed no evidence of CWM activity on the site.

#### 5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres	14,755
Former Use:	Target Area

Present Use:	Grazing and dry farming
Probable End Use:	Same as Above
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Bomb, 100 lb. Practice M38A2, w/Spotting Charge, M1A1 and .50 caliber rounds

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for the Broken Bow Air to Ground Gunnery Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1995.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

a. The TAG has recommended that a low priority EE/CA be performed for the entire site since the SI Team encountered debris from M38-series 100 pound practice bombs scattered throughout the area.

b. There are known Federally-and State-listed species occurring in the site area. 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.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only