

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET**

REVISION 1: 4 AUGUST 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 9 AUGUST 1995
HNC REVISION: 15 OCTOBER 1997
SECOND TAG REVIEW DATE: 5 NOVEMBER 1997
HNC REVISION 2: 22 MAY 1998
THIRD TAG REVIEW DATE: 3 JUNE 1998

1. **SITE NAME:** Camarillo Airport (Oxnard Air Force Base)

SITE NUMBER: J09CA012600

LOCATION:

City: Camarillo
County: Ventura County
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA012603

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 1

TAG RAC: 3

2. **POC'S:**

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The Camarillo Airport is located in Ventura County, within the city limits of Camarillo, CA, approximately 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles, 13 miles southeast of Ventura, and 8 miles east of Oxnard. The FUDS is 1/4 mile south of California Highway 101 (Ventura Freeway). It was originally developed early in 1942 as a landing strip for light planes on approximately 100 acres by the U.S. Public Roads Administration (PRA). Late in 1942, the U.S. Army Air Force took over the strip and purchased an additional 303 acres, extending the base south to Pleasant Valley Road. Prior to its development as the Oxnard Flight Strip, local farmers owned most of the 303 acres which were used for agricultural purposes, primarily the growing of vegetables and pasture for livestock.

4. SITE HISTORY: DOD used the site during WW II for pilot training in numerous types of aircraft and joint use by Army, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel. The Army formalized plans for inactivation of the flight strip in June 1945. The County of Ventura, CA, acquired an interim lease from the War Assets Administration and the PRA to operate 303.35 acres as an airport. During this time the county allowed DOD to use the facility. These joint uses continued until 1951, when the county canceled these leases and the property was reacquired by the U.S. Air Force and after improvements opened as the Oxnard Air Force Base. The base was declared excess and closed in 1969. The County of Ventura submitted an application to reacquire the base. However, it went to an inactive status so that Ventura County, CA, could accomplish an Environmental Impact Statement. On 30 May 1975, the General Services Administration granted the former Oxnard AFB to the County of Ventura. The majority of the FUDS is currently owned by Ventura County and is occupied by the Camarillo Airport and related operational facilities, and the County Fire Department headquarters and Sheriff's training facility. In addition, other current land usages include three educational entities, a park district, religious organization, the U.S. Navy, and leased facilities to private businesses.

The documentation gathered during the Archives Search Report (ASR), supported by field evidence, suggests the potential remains for discovery of conventional ordnance and explosives (OE) presence at the Camarillo Airport. As described below, the demolition of unserviceable munitions by both burning and controlled detonation once occurred during the period of Air Force control from 1953-1969. These activities were in the western sector of the FUDS. Aerial photo interpretation identified several suspect ground disturbances in this location.

The Explosive Ordnance Detachment of the 414th Material Squadron destroyed the following munitions from 1962 through 1964:

June 1960: 1,977, 2.75 inch High Explosive Rocket Warheads and 825 Misc. explosives.

September 1960: 161, 2.75 inch High Explosive Rocket Warheads and 40 lbs. Misc. explosives.

December 1960: 50 Double Star Red Signal Flares, 20 Night and Day Flares and 150, 2.75 inch High Explosive Rocket Heads and 40 lbs. Misc. explosives.

June 1961: 12 Explosive Aircraft Ejection Cartridges, 31 Flares, 3 MB-1 Rocket Igniters, and 49 Explosive Cartridge Assemblies.

September 1961: 5 GAR Rocket Igniters, 200 lbs. of Dynamite, 39 Commercial Blasting Caps and 12 Explosive Bolts.

March 1962: 253 Explosive Destructors, 9 Flares, 9 GAR Rocket Igniters, 109 Explosive Frangible Studs.

September 1962: 2 MA-1 Rocket Igniters.

March 1963: 2 Cases of Dynamite, received from off base.

March 1964: Large Amount (Undetermined) unserviceable Commercial Explosives.

June 1964: 256 Blasting Caps and 207 Sticks of Dynamite from off base, personnel also set up a demonstration of firing atomic weapon simulators.

September 1964: Large number of unserviceable munitions and several cases of Commercial Explosives and Blasting Caps received from off base rural areas.

Ordnance troops destroyed the OE on an undetermined location on the west side of the base. The demilitarization activities of ordnance probably occurred either north and west of the ordnance storage area (Buildings 413, 415, 419 and 421) or in the area of the rifle range where the berm would offer some containment of the explosions.

The site survey did not reveal surface evidence of OE presence near the ordnance facilities located in the southeast corner of the former Air Force Base. This area had been identified in the INPR as having potential for hazardous explosive material. However, it is judged that OE is not present at this location, a conclusion reached based upon the non detection of OE, or OE related material, during the field survey, archives research, and interviews with individuals knowledgeable of the site.

It is known that limited Chemical Warfare training is likely to have occurred on the Oxnard Air Force Base. However, no gas chamber is documented on historic real estate or other facility plans or records. Available information also did not confirm the occasional presence or storage of chemical warfare materials (CWM) during any of the three periods

of DOD use of the facility. Therefore, it is judged unlikely that CWM was buried anywhere on site or disposed of in the landfills existing on the FUDS.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area "A"

Size, Acres: 15 Approximately
Former Use: Landfill and adjacent Suspected EOD Disposal Area
Present Use: Property of Camarillo Airport
Probable End Use: Airplane Hangar, Storage
Ordnance Presence: Potential
Types: .50 caliber, 20mm, 100# practice bombs, plus ordnance from above list

Area "B"

Size, Acres: 5 Approximately
Former Use: Two Earth Covered Igloos adjacent to Rifle/Pistol Ranges
Present Use: Used by Ventura Co. Sheriff's Dept
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: None
Types: N/A

Area "C@"

Size, Acres: Unknown
Former Use: Rifle Range
Present Use: Rifle/Pistol Ranges for local Law Enforcement and Security Officials
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: None
Types: N/A

Area "D"

Size, Acres: Unknown
Former Use: Rocket Storage and Assembly
Present Use: Property of Camarillo Airport
Probable End Use: Airplane Hangar, Storage
Ordnance Presence: None

Types: N/A

6. CURRENT STATUS: The ASR was completed by the St. Louis District in May 1995.

7. STRATEGY: Area A: EE/CA
Areas B, C, and D: NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) reviewed and discussed the trip report of 18 May 1998 and agree with its findings. The TAG decided RAC 3 EE/CA for the portion of Area A that is the location of the suspected EOD Disposal Area, west of the former landfill, and RAC 5 NOFA for Areas B, C and D. RAC score changes are due to development of the site and the narrowing down of the area of concern (See attached revised RAC forms).

On 18 May 1998, a Priority RAC 1 Site Visit was conducted by Messrs. Richard Pike and Bill McPherson to determine if the conditions of the site warranted a TCRA and if the site constituted the current overall RAC score of 1. A TCRA is not warranted. Site dynamics have extensively changed enough to revise the RAC score of 1 to 3. Recommend the TAG approve the attached revised RAC (see attached Trip Report).

The TAG review of 9 August 1995 recommended an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) for this site. This was not in conformance with current practice. The second TAG of 5 November 1997 recommended an EE/CA for this site.

The storage of munitions and OE related activities during DOD control have occurred throughout the history of the Camarillo Airport. Small arms training continues to occur at the rifle/small arms range in the western segment of the airport. OE which is potentially hazardous to the public is believed present in ground disturbances in the two general locations on the west side of the airport. The first location is the known landfill site, and the second location is identified as items 6A, B, and C on Map M-7, 1953 Aerial Photography, and/or item 10 on Map M-8, 1959 Aerial Photography. These areas are of special interest and should be considered suspect of containing OE presence. The risk is particularly noteworthy due to the demilitarization and demolition activities that were documented to have occurred in the western area of the airport during the period of late 1950s to mid-1960s.

The Ammunition Storage Area had no documentation or other evidence to confirm demilitarization by burial at this location.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified one candidate species that occurs in the

vicinity of the Camarillo Airport Site. The California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base list one species of plant of state concern in the vicinity of the Camarillo Airport. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence location of listed species or natural communities.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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