

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
MARCH 1996**

**HNC REVISION: 6 OCTOBER 1997  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 4 NOVEMBER 1997**

**1. SITE NAME:** Carlsbad Precision Bombing Range No. 18

**SITE NUMBER:** K06NM036300

**LOCATION:**  
City: Carlsbad  
County: Lea County  
State: New Mexico

**PROJECT NUMBER:** K06NM036301

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 4

**ASR RAC:** 4

**TAG RAC:** 4

**2. POC'S:**

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**3. SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Carlsbad Precision Bombing Range NO. 18 consisted of 640 acres located 39 miles southeast of Carlsbad, Lea County, New Mexico in section 34, township 25 south, range 32 east of the New Mexico Principal Meridian. The site is readily accessible from the west side of the section from

a county road that runs north to south. The land is owned by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and is utilized under the Federal Grazing Program.

The general terrain of the area is relatively flat with small hills and low mountains. The area supports desert shrub land consisting of low brush and grass used for grazing and pasture land. Natural storm water drainage occurs through draws and gullies that are dry in times of no precipitation. All drainage eventually flows into the Pecos River which flows south southeast into Texas into the Rio Grande River at the International Amistad Reservoir. Summer temperatures are hot. In winter, sub-freezing temperatures are tempered by considerable warming during the day. Much of the annual rainfall occurs from June through September and the least precipitation occurs in winter. Elevations range between 3,370 feet NGVD and 3,260 feet NGVD.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** The War Department acquired the site, which totaled 640 acres, from the Department of Interior (DOI) by Public Land Order (PLO) #186, 11 October 1943, and by Lease and Suspension Agreement. This land was designated as Precision Bombing Range No. 18 and used by the Carlsbad Army Airfield as an auxiliary precision bombing range facility from 1943 to 1945 to train pilots and bombardiers. Documents of record do not mention improvements at the site by the Government. A photo dated 1955 does show the five concentric rings of the target as well as a rectangular feature, none of which is visible at ground level today.

On 15 November 1945, the Department of Defense declared this site surplus to the mission. The Lease and Suspension Agreement was canceled on 30 June 1947, and the site was returned to the DOI, which took custody on 24 November 1948.

**5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Size, Acres:	640
Former Use:	Precision Bombing Range
Present Use:	Grazing
Probable End Use:	Grazing
Ordnance Presence:	<b>Confirmed</b>
Type:	Practice bombs; sand-filled (100 lb., M38A2), concrete (100 lb., M85) and 100 lb. incendiary AN-M47 series-- most likely sand or water filled

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The draft Archives Search Report (ASR) for Carlsbad Precision Bombing Range No. 18 was completed by the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, St Louis District, in March 1996 with changes submitted September 1997.

**7. STRATEGY:** RAC 4;EE/CA

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Technical Advisory Group reviewed this ASR and a strategy of EE/CA, RAC 4 applies. The site inspection team found numerous pieces of scrap metal from M38A2 practice bombs, spotting charges, tail fins, M85 concrete practice bombs and AN-M47 incendiary bombs (probably water or sand filled). No energetic materials were found. Also, during research, a historical photograph was found identifying five concentric rings located at the south central part of the section of land identified as the site. The potential for subsurface OE exists.

**HNC Safety Comments:** He agreed with the strategy of EE/CA but stated that RAC 4 and not RAC 3 would be a more appropriate RAC score, given that there was only a remote likelihood that M47 Series 100-lb incendiary bombs were not sand-filled for use at this practice range. He also noted that in Appendix E, the Certificate of Clearance listed is for PBR #20 instead of PBR #18. St. Louis District agreed with the safety comments and furnished the following replacement pages(attached) for the ASR which need to be changed out before the ASR is finalized: 4-2, 4-3, 6-1, 7-1, and Appendix E-1 in the Findings and 2-1, 2-2, 3-1 and the RAC form for the Conclusions and Recommendations. These changed pages also corrected some other errors such as the number of the bombing range in paragraph 4.2 and the county where the site was located in paragraph 6.0 of the Findings.

**CWM:** The ASR states: "Based on the investigation of historical records reviewed, the results of the site survey and interviews, there is no evidence that the storage, use, or disposal of Chemical Warfare Materials occurred at Carlsbad Bombing Range No. 18."

**Natural Resources:** Federally and State threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in 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:** The ASR did not indicate if historical/cultural resources were found to be present at the site. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (and/or other like organizations).

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