

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

**HNC REVISION: 9 OCTOBER 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 4 NOVEMBER 1997**

1. SITE NAME: Carlsbad Precision Bombing Range No. 20

SITE NUMBER: K06NM036500

LOCATION:
City: Carlsbad
County: Eddy County
State: New Mexico

PROJECT NUMBER: K06NM036501

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. 20 consisted of 640 acres located 30 miles southeast of Carlsbad, Eddy County, New Mexico in section 23, township 26 south, range 29 east of the New Mexico Principal Meridian. The site is readily accessible from the northwest side of the section

from a county road that runs east to west. The land is owned by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and J.G. Ross. The part owned by DOI is leased to Byron W. Paschal and utilized under the Federal Grazing Program. Mr. Ross uses his land for raising cattle.

The general terrain of the area is relatively flat with a few small hills and low mountains. The area supports desert shrub land consisting of low brush and grass used for grazing and pasture land. Numerous oil/gas pumping rigs and oil/water separator tanks are in the vicinity of the site acreage. 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. The elevation of the site varies from 2850 to 3,025 feet.

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. 20 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. Photographs dated 1942, 1944, and 1957 show a bombing target 1,800 feet in diameter with five concentric rings around the target center as well as a rectangular feature to the east of center aligned north to south, a small circle to the southeast between the fourth and fifth rings, two small rectangular features to the south, and a large square feature to the north. Only the five rings of the target are presently visible from the ground level.

On 15 November 1945, the Department of Defense declared this site surplus to the mission. The Lease and Suspension Agreement was terminated, PLO 186 was revoked by PLO 530 dated 24 November 1948, and the site was returned to the DOI. A statement of clearance was made in a letter, dated 12 November 1947: "All harmful elements, on the land as a result of military use, which are reasonably possible to detect have been removed or neutralized and the land is considered safe for normal use."

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres:	640
Former Use:	Precision Bombing Range

Present Use: Grazing
Probable End Use: Grazing
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
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. 20 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 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) scattered over a wide area of the site. No energetic materials were found. Also, during research, historical photographs were found identifying five concentric rings located at the northwest 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. St. Louis District agreed with the safety comments and furnished the following replacement pages(attached) for the ASR which need to be changed out to finalize the ASR: 4-2 and 4-3 in the Findings and 1, 1-1, 1-2, 2-1, 2-3, 3-1 and the RAC form for the Conclusions and Recommendations. These changed pages also corrected the number of the bombing range in paragraph 4.2.

Site Area: The Clearance of 12 November 1947(see copy at appendix E), states that the site consisted of 640 acres in section 23, whereas a certificate of clearance dated 24 October 1958(see copy at appendix E), states that the 640 acres consisted of the south 1/2 of section 14 and the north 1/2 of section 23. Given that the area of the five concentric circles is depicted in Plate 3 as being part of the southern part of section 14, there is the possibility of OE potential in section 14.

Clearance at the Site: Paragraph 4.1.4 of the Findings states: "A 1947 decontamination certificate issued by the Bureau of Land Management that pertains to all CAAF ranges, states that all harmful elements, on the land as a result of military use, which

are reasonably possible to detect have been removed or neutralized and the land is considered safe for normal use."

CWM: The ASR states: "Based on the investigation of historical records reviewed, the results of the site survey and interviews, there is no evidence of the storage, use, or disposal of Chemical Warfare Materials occurred at Carlsbad Bombing Range No. 20."

Natural Resources: Federally and State threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in ASR Findings, pages 3-4 through 3-5, 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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