

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
USAESCH TAG REVIEW DATE: 25 April 1996**

1. **SITE NAME:** Coffeyville Army Air Field

SITE NUMBER: B07KS018700

LOCATION:

CITY: Coffeyville
COUNTY: Montgomery
STATE: Kansas

PROJECT NUMBER: B07KS018700

CATEGORY: OE/CWM

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 2 (NOFA)

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** Coffeyville Army Air Field is located approximately four miles northeast of Coffeyville, Kansas, Montgomery County. The site is situated on a 145591 acre tract of generally level land. The property is occupied by the City of Coffeyville Municipal Airport and an industrial park. The industrial park covers the majority of what had been the base cantonment area. There are only a few of the original facilities

which remain standing, most notably the hangars, the waste water treatment facilities and the water tower. The industrial park has a variety of industries. There is no residential use of the property.

4. **SITE HISTORY:** DOD use began in 1942 with the acquisition of 1455.91 acres for an Army Air Field. The Army constructed a complete Air Field, including runways, taxiways, parking aprons, hangars, housing, utilities, maintenance buildings, administration buildings, training facilities, recreational facilities and numerous storage/support structures. Between 1942 and 1944 the Air Field was used for the basic, or second stage, training of aviation cadets. Beginning in June 1944 the mission changed and the Air Field was used for Photo Reconnaissance Training. In 1946, the site was reported surplus and was transferred to the City of Coffeyville.

Investigation of historical records and of the site indicated both chemical warfare materials and conventional weapons had been utilized at the base.

Original personnel at the site included troops of the 366th Base Headquarters and the 820th, 821st, 822nd and 823rd School Squadrons. These units primarily functioned as the Army Air Force Basic Flying School.

During July 1942, a detachment of the 778th Chemical Service Company, Aviation was organized at Coffeyville Army Air Field. This unit's mission was to give chemical warfare training to personnel at the site. The detachment of the 778th Chemical Company was inactivated on 27 October 1942 and its members became the chemical section of the 366th Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron.

The unit functioned as both a supply depot for Chemical Warfare Service material and as a training department. During 1943, the work of the Chemical Warfare Service at Coffeyville fully commenced in accordance with training directives to organize a chemical warfare school. The unit controlled the following facilities: a toxic gas yard; a 14' x 16' pyrotechnic storage building; a 20' x 60' gas instruction building; and a 25' x 39' chemical warfare warehouse.

Chemical warfare munitions known to have been present at Coffeyville Army Air Field included: live mustard used at the monthly Chemical Warfare Refresher Courses; chlorine gas used in monthly gas chamber exercises; Mi Detonating Gas Identification Sets used in field identification exercises; and tear gas, white phosphorous grenades and smoke pots used to create realistic

atmospheres during First Aid for War Gas Casualties Courses.

Conventional ordnance was also utilized at Coffeyville Army Air Field. The 852nd Ordnance Company, Aviation was stationed at the site. Much like the 778th Chemical Company, the 852nd Ordnance Company was inactivated and became the ordnance section of the 366th Base Headquarters. The unit acted as a supply depot for weapons and small arms ammunition used at the site. The only documented facility controlled by the unit was a 25' x 27' small arms storage building.

Coffeyville Army Air Field also contained a skeet range and a rifle range. Much of the aforementioned small arms munitions were used at these locations.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area:	Coffeyville Army Air Field
Size Acres:	1455.91
Former Use:	Training of Aviation Cadets/Photo Reconnaissance Training
Present Use:	Municipal Airport and Industrial Park
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	Potential Types: Live Mustard Gas, M1 Detonating Gas Identification Sets; Grenades, Photo Flash Bombs, Flares, Signals, Simulators and Screening Smokes (WP, Incendiary, Smoke)

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report was completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District in February 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

RAC 2 due to test kits which are known to have been on site, but no documentation exists for whether they were used, shipped off site, or disposed.

NOFA for conventional ordnance.

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

The potential for CWM contamination on site was not handled appropriately in the ASR. The ASR contains documentation that records the use and storage of live Mustard Gas and M1 Detonating Gas Identification Sets, yet the ASR RAC gives a score of 0 in Part 1, Section E. "Chemical Warfare Material and Radiological

Weapons, when it should be a 20. (Based on the mission of Coffeyville AAF, the **Alive Mustard Gas** referred to is of the type contained in glass bottles for use in training and, therefore, should be treated like the ID kits.) It has been the policy of the USAESCH Center of Expertise, pertaining to the potential presence of these ID kits, to retain the correct RAC score and to recommend a NOFA strategy until such time technological advances have been made to provide a method of finding these sets. The TAG revised the overall RAC for this site with a score of 2 for CWM.

The ASR contains documentation that records the use and storage of white phosphorus and incendiary grenades, along with the probability of photo flash bombs, flares, signals, and screening smokes. While there is the potential of these items having been buried on site, after 50 years of extensive excavation since the site was transferred to the City of Coffeyville without a single report or rumor of OE/CWM having been found, it is unlikely.

9. SCHEDULED SUMMARY: NOFA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: NOFA