

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
4/22/97**

**HNC REVISION: 25 June 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 23 July 1997**

1. SITE NAME: Deming Army Air Field, PBR No. 3

SITE NUMBER: K06NM038700

LOCATION:

City: Deming
County: Luna
State: New Mexico

PROJECT NUMBER: K06NM038701

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 5

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. POC'S:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: Deming Precision Bombing Range No. 3 was positioned on 960 acres of land located approximately 26 miles southeast of the City of Deming in Luna County, New Mexico. The site includes all the land in Section 29 and the E 1/2 of Section

30, T26S, R5W, New Mexico Principal Meridian. Prior to DOD use, the site was public domain under control of the Department of the Interior (DOI). The land was used by a private party for grazing, and acquisition of the site involved suspension of the grazing lease. Currently, the property that once comprised the site is public domain and is administered by DOI, Bureau of Land Management. The land is leased to a private party for livestock grazing purposes.

4. SITE HISTORY: Deming Army Air Field was the home of a Bombardier Training School and assigned to the Western Flying Training Command. The first class graduated in February 1943, and the last class graduated in January 1945. In 1945, the base was transferred to the Second Air Force. The Bombardier Training School was closed and the base supported Tow Target operations for Ft. Bliss.

On 24 April 1942, Executive Order No. 9146, the 960 acres of public land that makes up Deming PBR No. 3 was withdrawn for use as a bombing range. This was confirmed in PLO #105, dated 29 March 1943. This range was assigned to Deming Army Air Field under the jurisdiction of the Western Flying Training Command. This range, also known as Deming Range S-3, was a day and night target. This range was part of a bombing circuit called the "B" series and included Deming PBR No. 2 and PBR No. 7. The range was transferred to the Second Air Force on 25 October 1944, and on 1 September 1945, the range accountability was transferred to Biggs Field (Near El Paso, Texas). On 13 May 1946, the property was declared surplus; custody was transferred to DOI effective 1 March 1949, and, on 1 June 1956, the land was officially transferred to DOI.

In December 1944, authority to use this range was granted to Biggs Army Air Field. Specific information on their use of the range has not been uncovered. It is assumed that their use conformed to the previous use by the Bombardier School at Deming Army Air Field.

There is no evidence of bombing operations on the ranges associated with the Tow Target operations.

In July 1945, a Sonic Bomb Scoring Target, Type E-1 was installed on this range, which indicates that the Second Air Force intended to continue using this range after Deming AAF closed.

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There has been no evidence uncovered which would indicate CWM usage

associated with this bombing range. Chemical Warfare Training was conducted on Deming AAF.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA

Size, Acres:	960
Former Use:	Precision Bombing Range
Present Use:	Livestock grazing
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	M38A2 Practice Bombs, M26 Flares

6. CURRENT STATUS: The ASR was completed by the St. Louis District in March 1997.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA (RAC 4)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The TAG recommends an EE/CA be performed.

The Site Survey, conducted 23 January 1997, confirmed there is no evidence of conventional high explosive OE contamination on Deming PRB No. 3. The only ordnance related metal debris encountered was from M38A1 Practice Bombs and M26A1 Flares.

Archival research established each cadet dropped two demolition bombs (M30) as part of his training. Historical documents corroborated by interviews with former military personnel indicate that Deming PBR Nos. 5 and 8 were used for demolition bombing. On site visits conducted by St. Louis District, casings of a 500-pound GP bomb and other traces of HE rounds were found on Deming PBR No. 22. In an interview with a former bombardier instructor, Mr. Ed Hooten, it was reported that demolition bombs were dropped on lava beds, known as Malpais, north of Deming PBR No. 8.

Contamination is generally concentrated near the target area, but some practice bomb pieces would be expected to be found outside the target and immediate surrounding area.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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