

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

HNC REVISION: 15 JULY 1996  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 25 JULY 1996

1. **SITE NAME:** Dover Air Force Base Precision Bombing Range

**SITE NUMBER:** C03DE025100

**LOCATION:**

City: Smyrna  
County: Kent  
State: Delaware

**PROJECT NUMBER:** C03DE025101

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 1

**ASR RAC:** 3

2. **POC=S:**

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**SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The site, composed of 3,500 acres, is a part of the 15,978 acres Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge(NWR). Nearly three quarters of the landscape is low, flat, tidal marshlands less than ten feet above sea level with winding rivers and creeks. The area has a temperate, humid climate typical of most coastal areas of the Middle Atlantic States.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** The United States War Department through a use permit dated 4 August 1944, acquired the site from the U.S. Department of Interior(DOI). The site was developed as a secret rocket testing range and was operated by the Research and Development Service, U.S. Army Air Force Base for air and ground rocket testing. The AAF made several improvements for operations purposes. These included two major range areas, precision (aerial rocket) range, and high explosive (rocket launch rail) range. The precision range was 2,000 yards long, bordered by a 1.5 mile tidal marsh area for aircraft rocket flight testing. The high explosive range, with a fixed rail rocket launcher located south of the precision range, was used for ground test of high explosive ammunition and rockets. The General Services Administration declared the site as excess in 1948. The use permit terminated in 1952 and control reverted to the DOI. According to the terms of the permit, the War Department cleared the area of duds in 1947 and 1948, and disposed of some of the buildings and towers. The remaining DOD installed structures were disposed of or abandoned by refuge personnel shortly after the War Department vacated the site.

**5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Area A

Size: 613 acres  
Former Use: Central Impact Area  
Present Use: Wildlife Refuge  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed  
Types: Inert Warheads with expended rocket motors from "Tiny Tim" 11.75" & 4.5" rockets

Area B

Size: 452 acres  
Former Use: East Region, Central Impact Area  
Present Use: Wildlife Refuge  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Rockets

Area C

Size: 114 acres  
Former Use: North Region, Central Impact Area  
Present Use: Wildlife Refuge  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Rockets

Area D

Size: 106 acres  
Former Use: South Region, Central Impact Area  
Present Use: Wildlife Refuge  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Rockets

Area E

Size: 509 acres  
Former Use: Firing Line/Target Area  
Present Use: Wildlife Refuge  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Rockets

Area F

Size: 51  
Former Use: Rail Launch Test Rocket Range(HE Range)  
Present Use: Wildlife Refuge  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Projectiles and Rockets

Area G

Size: 1845  
Former Use: Administrative Support and Remaining Lands  
Present Use: Wildlife Refuge  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: None  
Types: N/A

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report for the former Dover Air Force Base PBR was completed in September 1995 by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District.

**7. STRATEGY:**

Area A: EE/CA  
Area B: EE/CA  
Area C: EE/CA  
Area D: EE/CA

Area E: EE/CA  
Area F: EE/CA  
Area G: NOFA

It is recommended that Areas A - F have an EE/CA performed on them. However, due to the fact that area G is the Administrative Support Area and Remaining lands it is recommended that this area be considered for NOFA.

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The only ordnance that has been recovered since site closure have been inert warheads with expended rocket motors in Area A.

Areas D and E have been reworked with earth moving equipment during the dike/levee building. The major terrain feature is a fresh water pool. The higher terrain of Area E is farmed by local farmers.

Area F has had major reconstruction since site closure. Nothing exists of its former usage.

Approximately 75% of this site is salt water tidal marsh land and fresh water pools. Since site closure, the DOI has excavated, rebuilt, and added new dikes and freshwater pools. The Park Service desires to leave this area alone as the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and other water fowl use this area extensively throughout the year. There have been no injuries caused by OE since site closure, and a system is in place to remove the hazards as they occur. When OE is found, the NWR reports it to the nearby Dover AFB EOD. The EOD then takes care of the matter. There have been no instances where unexploded ordnance has caused any injury to anyone on the refuge. The safety threat from the general mud and deep silt along with the limited daily time periods between tidal actions will make remedial actions a very lengthy process.

**9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

**10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only

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