

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

PROJECT FACT SHEET

APRIL 1995

HNC REVISION: 22 MAY 1997

TAG REVIEW DATE: 24 JUNE 1997

1. SITE NAME: Dover Survival Training Annex

SITE NUMBER: C03DE054600

LOCATION:

City: Dover
County: Kent
State: Delaware

PROJECT NUMBER: C03DE054602

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 3

2. POC's:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Dover Survival Training Annex consisted of 1,862.3 acres in Kent County, Delaware. The site is located on Marstown Road, off Delaware State Route 9, 1.5 miles north of Little Creek, 4 miles east of Dover and one mile west of Delaware Bay. The Department of the Interior owns 1379.6 acres which is now the southern portion of the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge which is approximately 85 percent tidal marsh. The State of Delaware Fish and Wildlife Service owns 326.5 acres which is used as the Little Creek Wildlife Area. Louis Demarie and Mary Cartanza own 136.9 acres and 19.3 acres respectively, which is used for agricultural purposes.

The area is characterized by warm, humid summers and cold winters which are not so severe. Topographic features in the area include small hills, drainage ditches, and vegetation. The eastern half of the site is tidal marsh with soil that is composed of brackish, water-logged, stratified sand and clay with thick peaty layers which is frequently flooded with the tide. The water table is at or near the surface of the soil most of the time. The western half of the site has soil which is deep and well drained with a depth to water table greater than five feet. Drainage at the site is directly into Delaware Bay. At least a portion of the site is wetlands adjacent to the Bay in the Little Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area.

4. SITE HISTORY: Beginning in 1944, a total of 1,862.3 acres of land was acquired by the U.S. Government through purchase, lease and letter of permit for use as Dover Survival Training Annex by the Army Air Corps and the Air Force between 1944 and 1976. Other names for the site included: Dover Air Force Range, Dover Rifle Range Annex, Little Creek Ground Gunnery Range and the Little Creek Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range. On 2 February 1944, a total of 838.1 acres was granted to the Secretary of War by letter of permit from the Department of the Interior. An additional 541.5 acres fee were acquired by deed on 5 April 1944. The remaining 482.6 acres were leased to the Government from various parties.

The site was used for small arms ammunition practice including submachine gun firing, air to ground gunnery, skip bombing and dive bombing. During World War II, an earthen bunker, approximately 25 feet high, was erected as a backstop for the small arms firing range. This bunker was also used for P-40 fighter strafing practice. Current site owners alleged that the Air Force used the marsh land for bombing practice utilizing practice bombs. The small arms range was used by the Air Force until the mid-1970's. Other structures constructed, none of which are now present, include a barracks building, an observation tower, an access road, and several disposal area berms.

The Government disposed of all but 47.9 acres between 30 November 1953 and 8 January 1963. The final tracts (25 and 22.9 acres) which had been part of the 541.5-acre tract acquired in 1944, were disposed of in 1974 and 1976, respectively. The 25-acre tract was declared excess to the Department of Interior effective 3 December 1974, and the 22.9-acre parcel was transferred to the Department of the Army on 12

March 1976. The 22.9-acre property was then reported excess to GSA on 19 January 1982, who in turn transferred it to the Department of the Interior effective 16 November 1983.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres:	1,862.3
Former Use:	Small Arms Range;air to ground gunnery;skip bombing;dive bombing
Present Use:	Wildlife Refuge
Probable End Use:	Wildlife Refuge
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Practice Bombs;Incendiary Bombs

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report for Dover Survival Training Annex was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St Louis District, in April 1995.

7. STRATEGY: RAC 3;EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The CEHNC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) recommended an EE/CA for the entire site. The area of OE presence in the southwest corner of the site consists of 50 acres. Recommend emphasis of the EE/CA be in this area. The TAG also recommends that the remaining 1,812.3 acres undergo sampling during the EE/CA process. The confirmed OE found by the site survey team consisted of the remains of two 10 lb incendiary bombs and a 100 lb practice bomb. Both of these finds were found in an area described as Area 6 in the ASR, near a road which evidently led to a disposal(dump) area where the site visitors found numerous ammunition cans and other metal debris

ASR OE Related Findings: An additional area of investigation, described in para 6.1 of the ASR Findings, is the firing range area, behind and including the bunker(firing range backstop) location (Area 1) where it was reported that the Air Force exploded ordnance, possibly small arms ammunition, practice smoke grenades, practice mortar rounds, incendiary devices and unknown other OE items. It is noted that the bunker has since been bulldozed.

Natural Resources: No known Federally-listed species occur within the site area. State-listed species are listed in para 4.5, page 4-4 of the ASR Findings. 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 (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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