

RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES
(FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
07/26/95
REVISION 1: 27 OCT 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 9 November 1995
HNC REVISION: 22 January 1998

1. **SITE NAME:** Forbes Field

SITE NUMBER: B07KS019803

LOCATION:

City: Topeka
County: Shawnee
State: Kansas

PROJECT NUMBER: B07KS019803

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 1

TAG RAC: 1

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** Forbes Field (also known as the Topeka Army Airfield and later as Forbes Air Force Base during DOD use) consisted of 4,232.69 acres. Forbes Field is located approximately 3 miles south of Topeka, Kansas in Shawnee County. The site is east of and adjacent to Highway 75. Forbes Field is an active municipal airport operated by the Topeka Airport Authority. The former administrative area is now used for commercial offices, state offices, and an

industrial park. The Kansas Air National Guard also uses a portion of the site. Most of the site is developed, but there are portions of the site (south and east of the main runway) that are heavily wooded and undeveloped.

During World War II there were ammunition storage bunkers and small arms ranges. These features were removed during construction of the new runway. New ammunition storage bunkers and ordnance storage warehouses were constructed. The bunkers are currently being leased to a company for storage of explosives and are locked. The ordnance storage warehouses are being used by the airport authority for storage.

There is a landfill suspected of containing munitions and rocket fuel. An empty ammunition can and jet engine starters were found during the site visit. It is also possible that the CWM ID sets are buried in this landfill. The Kansas City Corps of Engineers District is currently investigating this landfill.

There is an area south of the bunkers that is suspected of being a burial site for rocket fuel and munitions.

A local resident reported two areas where 6 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft deep holes containing small arms ammunition were located. One of the areas is south of the bunkers and is generally the same area suspected of containing buried rocket fuel and munitions. The other area is west of and adjacent to the main runway.

There is a wooded area just east of the main runway where a World War II practice grenade was found recently. The inspection of this area revealed 40mm practice grenades, spent 40mm smoke grenade casings, foxholes, and a suspected low crawl training area constructed of barbed wire. These items are believed to be the result of current Air National Guard use of the area. No additional evidence of past DOD use of the area was found.

A chemical warfare items inventory from 1945 indicates the presence of three M1 detonating gas identification sets and two M4 HS vapor detector kits. No documentation was found to indicate final disposition of the test kits.

No certificate of clearance or decontamination was found for this site.

4. SITE HISTORY: The air base was activated in 1942 for operational training of heavy bomber crews. The base closed in 1946, but reopened in 1948 and was assigned to the Strategic Air Command (SAC). It was closed again in 1949 and reopened in 1951 during the Korean Conflict. In 1952, a SAC reconnaissance wing was assigned. In 1960, the reconnaissance wing was replaced by a bombardment wing. The Tactical Air Command began operation of the base in 1965. Improvements included runways, hangars, barracks, administrative and support

structures and facilities. The site was disposed of in a series of transactions from 1945 to 1986.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area 1:

Size, Acres: 10 (Approximately)
Former Use: Landfill
Present Use: Landfill
Probable End Use: Same
OE Presence: Confirmed
Type: Jet engine starters (on surface)
Potential
Type: Rocket fuel, Munitions (type not specified)

Area 2:

Size, Acres: 15
Former Use: Landfill (Debris Area)
Present Use: wooded area with debris
Probable End Use: Same
OE Presence: Potential
Type: Rocket fuel, Munitions (type not specified)

Area 3

Size, Acres: 10
Former Use: Burial area
Present Use: Plowed field
Probable End Use: Same
OE Presence: Potential
Type: Rocket fuel, Munitions (type not specified)

Area West of Main Runway:

Size, Acres: 10
Former Use: Burial area
Present Use: Field
Probable End Use: Same
OE Presence: Potential
Type: Small arms ammunition, Rocket fuel,

**Area 4 - Air National Guard Training Area: (22 Acres)
(Ineligible):**

This wooded area has surface ordnance items like 40mm practice grenades but this area is still being actively used by the Air National Guard.

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archive Search Report was completed by the St. Louis District in July 1995.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: On 8 January 1998, a Priority RAC 1 Site Visit was conducted by Messrs. Richard Pike and Billy McPherson to determine if the conditions of the site warranted a TCRA and if the site constituted the current overall RAC of 1. A TCRA is not warranted and the RAC score of 1 remains (see attached Trip Report).

The CEHNC RCWM Team reviewed this ASR and revised fact sheet on 22 January 1998 and had the following comments: "I reviewed the revised Project Fact Sheet and re-reviewed the ASR Findings for this project to determine if there still exists a CWM concern for this project site. There is a possibility that CAIS kits could be on the installation, the probability is low. As in all of our OE projects, we need to ensure the statement is made as to what action is necessary should a suspect CWM item(s) be found. I would not classify this as a CWM site."

Recommend the Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group have this site deleted from the CWM list and add the attached revised RAC form to reflect this deletion. The OE RAC will remain a score of 1.

There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. 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.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only