

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
20 DECEMBER 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 30 MAY 1996

1. **SITE NAME:** Gavilan Plateau Maneuver Area

SITE NUMBER: J09CA037500

LOCATION:

City: Perris
County: Riverside
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA037501

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 1

2. **POC's:**

TECHNICAL MANAGER:

Name: Karl Blankinship
Office: CEHNC-OE-DG
Phone: 205-895-1548

GEO DISTRICT POC:

Name: Thomas Sage
Office: CESPL-ED-D
Phone: 213-894-2515

GEO DIVISION POC:

Name: Anthony L. Mei
Office: CESPDM-PM-R
Phone: 415-705-1468

HEADQUARTERS POC:

Name: Sara Goodwin
Office: CEMP-RF
Phone: 202-761-5223

SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:

Name: Randal Curtis
Office: CELMS-PM-M
Phone: 314-331-8786

3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The site, originally known as **Gavilan**

Plateau Maneuver Area, was situated on 19,325.74 acres of leased property in Riverside County, California, 40 miles southeast of Los Angeles and about 12 miles south of Riverside, California. The site is located in the Upper Santa Ana River Basin, on rugged terrain ranging from 1700-2400 feet Net Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD). The maneuver area on Gavilan Plateau is between elevation 2100-2200 ft NGVD. The climate of the area is generally pleasant and mild throughout the year, due primarily to the effect of the nearby Pacific Ocean, about 30-35 miles southwest, and the elevation of the area. Abundant sunshine is the norm from spring through much of the fall. The bulk of the precipitation occurs during the winter months. There are currently an estimated 2,000-4,000 separate tax parcels in private ownership being used for residences, agriculture (orchards and ranches), mining and business. The **Gavilan Plateau Maneuver Area** is located near the City of Perris, California. This community ranked first in the US for Population and Economic Growth. There is an expected 22% annual growth for this area.

4. SITE HISTORY: Prior to DOD use, the land comprising the **Gavilan Plateau Maneuver Area** was used predominately for orchards, ranch land, or was undeveloped chaparral. The War Department directed that 19,325.74 acres be acquired for the **Gavilan Plateau Maneuver Area** on 14 July 1943. The date when acquisition was complete and use of the site began was not specifically found but probably occurred in the fall of 1943. Military use of the site was for less than one year and on a co-use basis with the property owners. The basic mission was as a maneuver area for March Army Air Field, which was approximately 10 miles to the northeast. Troops used the area to "enter, maneuver upon, pass over and bivouac or camp upon" on a co-use basis with the farms in the area. The specific field training exercises are not known but probably included: natural obstacle courses, physical conditioning, bivouacking, individual weapon familiarization, and live fire exercises. Historical documentation for this site was scarce, with only one document indicating an ordnance-related use of the site. This document (See Appendix E-2) recommended the restriction of Section 35, Township 4 South, Range 5 West, to surface only, based on visual inspection that indicated that hand and rifle grenades had been used there. The **Gavilan Plateau Maneuver Area** was declared surplus on 16 March 1944.

No historical documents were found that specifically described the OE activities at **Gavilan Plateau Maneuver Area**. Conventional ordnance probably used was .30 caliber for rifle training as well as hand and rifle grenades. Use of the hand and rifle grenades was indicated in Section 35 of T4 S, R 5 W. Aerial photo analysis located the probability of a practice range in this section. During the site visit, team members discovered

two .30 caliber bullets and one rifle grenade tail fin at this location.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA: Section 35 of T4 S, R 5 W

Size, Acres: Approximately 80
Former Use: Range for maneuver area
Present Use: 5-10 acres lots
with private
residences,
some
undeveloped
Probable End Use: more development is anticipated
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed
Type: small arms, a
single grenade
tail fin (HE or
Practice)

AREA: Remaining land

Size, Acres: Approximately 19,845
Former Use: maneuver area
Present Use: residences,
agriculture
(orchards and
ranches),
mining and
business
Probable End Use: more development is anticipated
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated

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

7. STRATEGY:

Section 35 of T4 S, R 5 W: EE/CA
Remaining land: NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

The RAC 1 for this site is based on the assumed use of HE grenades. Records indicate that the leaseholds were on a co-use basis, meaning that the Army and the owners used the land simultaneously. At the time of the lease, there were farm buildings and houses occupying the land. Farms and other uses were not to be disturbed. The grenades referred to by the

document in Appendix E-2 are, therefore, probably practice grenades and not HE. If the grenades were practice only, the RAC for this site would be a RAC 3. It may be prudent for CEHNC to send a Safety Specialist in advance of an EE/CA to investigate what is in Section 35 of T4 S, R 5 W.

It should be noted that troops from Camp Haan and Camp Anza were well within marching distance to the maneuver area. However, review of available documents and previously completed Archive Search Reports on those sites gave no indication of troops from those camps using the **Gavilan Plateau Maneuver Area**.

The acreage in the ASR does not concur with the real estate figures stated in the INPR. The acreage in the INPR stated the site consisted of 20,514 acres. The 19,325.74 acre figure is substantiated by the final project ownership map of Gavilan Plateau Maneuver Area dated 1 July 1949 (see Findings, Appendices K-1 and K-2) and the Military Acquisition Project Report-Final dated 7 July 1949 (see Findings, Appendix F-1).

There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. These include the Stephens' kangaroo rat, the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon. 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. See Paragraph 3.5 Ecology in the Findings for a more complete listing of these species.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY:

<u>Phase</u> EE/CA	<u>Orig.</u> <u>Start</u>	<u>Sch.</u> <u>Start</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Start</u>	<u>Orig.</u> <u>Comp</u>	<u>Sch.</u> <u>Comp</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Comp</u>
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10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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