

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
AUGUST 1994
HNC REVISION: 29 MAY 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 24 JUNE 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Camp Gordon Artillery Range

SITE NUMBER: I04GA098400

LOCATION:

City: Marietta
County: Cobb
State: Georgia

PROJECT NUMBER: I04GA098401

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 5

2. **POC's:**

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Camp Gordon Artillery Range included approximately 6000 acres of land located one mile east of Marietta, Georgia in Cobb County on the west half of Blackjack Mountain. Actual boundary lines cannot be determined, as acquisition and disposal documentation either could not be located or were reportedly destroyed in the 1950's. Approximate acreage is based on a Quartermaster Report, the Pease Report, as well as newspaper accounts of the happenings of this period in time. The site is presently residential in nature, with a portion of the lower section being utilized as a landfill area by the City of Marietta.

The climate has a moist, temperate climate with an average daily minimum temperature of 30 degrees Fahrenheit in January and an average daily maximum of 90 in August. The elevation in Cobb County is about 750 feet above sea level along the Chattahoochee River with elevations of 900 to more than 1800 feet on the ridge tops and mountains. The terrain in the county ranges from nearly level to very steep, but is not considered extremely hilly. The eastern and southeastern parts of the county are drained by the Chattahoochee River, and the southwestern part is drained by Sweetwater Creek.

4. SITE HISTORY: In January of 1917, General Leonard Wood selected a site for the establishment of Camp Gordon. In August of 1917, the Blackjack Mountain location was selected to serve as the artillery range training area for Camp Gordon. Specific acquisition documentation was not located during archival research.

The first soldiers arrived to begin building this range in November of 1917. The artillery, which consisted of three inch guns, was positioned near the present day Highway 41 and fired into the west side of Blackjack Mountain. Improvements to the site consisted of only a lavatory, which is no longer present.

Documentation regarding disposal of the Camp Gordon Artillery Range was not located. Records at the General Service Administration Records Center indicate that disposal files on the site were destroyed in 1955. According to a local historian, the site was used as an artillery range from 1917 to 1918. Camp Gordon, the parent installation, was demobilized and abandoned on December 13, 1919.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A

Size, Acres:	743
Former Use:	Artillery Range, High Impact Area
Present Use:	Residential Housing
Probable End Use:	Residential Housing
Ordnance Presence:	None

Type: Not Applicable

AREA B

Size, Acres: 113
Former Use: Artillery Range, Low Impact Area
Present Use: Landfill Area
Probable End Use: Landfill Area
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: Not Applicable

AREA C

Size, Acres: 303
Former Use: Firing Positions
Present Use: Residential Housing
Probable End Use: Residential Housing
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: Not Applicable

AREA D

Size, Acres: 4,841
Former Use: Firing Positions
Present Use: Residential Housing
Probable End Use: Residential Housing
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: Not Applicable

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report for the former Camp Gordon Artillery Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in August 1994.

7. STRATEGY: Entire site: NOFA (RAC 5)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The CEHNC Technical Advisory Group (TAG) recommended no further action (NOFA) for this site. An updated RAC Form is attached. The site inspection team could find no evidence to confirm the existence of ordnance and explosives (OE) at the site other than one story of a possible 3-inch round found about 20 years ago in area B. Additional detail for site area strategies are described below.

NOFA for Areas A, C and D: There is no reported incident of OE being found in these areas since the site closed 78 years ago. Extensive digging and excavation has been conducted and new construction is in progress with no incidents of OE being reported. The use of dynamite for construction has been common due to the underlying granite in

the area. These areas are predominantly residential and much earth has been disturbed for this construction. The site inspection team found no evidence of OE in these areas. Area C was a firing position, it is mainly residential today, and major highways, including I-75, have been built. Historically, this range was selected as a replacement for another range(Kennesaw Mountain) where 4 civilians were accidentally killed by an exploding round; a news article of the time stated that the greatest precautions were taken to keep this range clear and make the practice safe.

NOFA for Area B: Mr. Ron Gosa, a supervisor in the Public Works Department of the City of Marietta and area resident for 32 years, related a story that a probable 3 inch round, not known to be live or not, was found twenty years ago and allegedly turned over to Dobbins AFB for disposition. However, the ASR author could not verify this story with any other source of information.

Moreover, the ASR author concedes that the possibility of finding OE in this area is remote as it has been used as a landfill by the city of Marietta for over thirty years without any substantiated problems and dynamite has been initiated in this area with no sympathetic detonations being reported

ASR Sources of Information: Mr. Phil Gowdy, a local citizen who is collecting information on Camp Gordon to write a book, was a primary source of information regarding the site and areas of use within the site when it was used as an artillery range. He made available to the ASR team documents he has collected as well as the results of interviews with knowledgeable persons who have died in the interim.

Natural Resources: Known State and Federally-listed species may occur within the site area and are listed in Table 3-2 on page 7 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.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: NOFA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: NOFA

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