

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
ORIGINAL DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 1997  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 1998**

**1. SITE NAME:** Harvard Target Range

**SITE NUMBER:** B07NE0055

**LOCATION:**

City: Harvard  
County: Clay  
State: Nebraska

**PROJECT NUMBER:** B07NE005501

**CATEGORY:** CWM

**INPR RAC:** 1

**ASR RAC:** 2

**TAG RAC:** 1

**2. POC's:**

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**3. SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Harvard Target Range is located four miles northwest of Harvard, Nebraska in Clay County on approximately 2,282.80 acres of land acquired by the United States Government in 1943. The site is located in Sections 16 (part), 17, 18, 19 (part), 20 (part), and 25 (part), Township 8 North (T 8N), Range 7 West (R 7W), and Sections 13 (Part) and 24 (part) T 8N R 8W. The site is approximately 3 miles west of the former Harvard AAF. Harvard Target Range lies in a very level farming area on the fertile plains of south-central Nebraska. Prior to its acquisition as a practice range assigned to Harvard AAF, the land was used for growing wheat and other small grain crops. The properties comprising the subject FUDS are presently used primarily for farming activities.

#### **4. SITE HISTORY:**

a. The Army Air Corps established Harvard Army Air Field (AAF), NE, under the command of the 2nd Air Force as a major WWII training center for bombing crews. Between 1943 and 1945, the operational units at Harvard AAF trained approximately 26 bombardment squadrons for the B-17, B-24, and B-29 aircraft. Training personnel at the Harvard Army Air Field conducted classes in small arms, aircraft cannon, bombs, fuzes, and demolition. Operational and training units fired ammunition held in permanent storage on the Harvard Army Air Field. The storage facilities accommodated both conventional and chemical ordnance.

b. Besides bombardment training, the Army Air Corps, through the War Department, also acquired an off-site training area in 1943, known as the Harvard Target Range. The military constructed the following small arms ranges for training:

(1) Poorman Range, at least 5 firing points, eventually incorporating a Moving Target (Jeep Type) Range, (.50 Caliber)

(2) Pistol Range, .45 Caliber, 5 fixed and 5 bobbing type targets with 15 and 25 yard firing positions

(3) Range (1000 inch), .22 Caliber, 20 targets

(4) Sub-machine Gun Range, .45 Caliber

(5) Rifle Range, .30 Caliber

c. Among the supporting structures built at the Harvard Target Range were 3 storage buildings (10' x 12'), 2 target store houses (one for the rifle range and one for the combined use of the pistol and sub-machine gun ranges), 3 office buildings, and a maintenance building.

d. In August 1946, a bomb and shell disposal team inspected the Harvard Target Range and found "...an estimated eighty-five percent of the subject

range...under cultivation..." and "...no evidence indicating that high explosive shells had been fired on the area...."

e. As mentioned previously, the army airfield also had chemical warfare munitions and supplies stored in ordnance buildings for training purposes at training facilities. Storage at the Harvard Army Air Field included several M1 gas identification (detonating) sets. Chemical Corps personnel at Harvard Army Air Field trained airmen for chemical warfare at training facilities. Training included identification of chemical agents, personnel protection and defense against chemical attack by chemical spray tanks and bombs, first aid, safety measures, decontamination, and gas exercises (17th Bomb Wing 1945). Chemical agents used in chemical warfare training exercises included tear gas and mustard gas.

f. During its August 1946 inspection, the bomb and shell disposal team found one area of the Harvard Target Range to be contaminated by mustard gas. Documentation describes the location of the contamination within a "...fenced-off area measured approximately nine hundred seventy-five (975) feet north, by six hundred forty-five (645) feet west. This fenced-off area lies approximately two hundred (200) feet from the east boundary and one thousand fifty (1,050) feet from the south boundary of Section 17, T8N, R7W".

g. In September 1946, a follow-up inspection by a chemical warfare officer confirmed contamination by mustard gas in the designated area above and "presumed" the presence of "...50 gallon containers to have been mustard gas containers...." The chemical warfare officer also "deduced" the contamination resulted from an incomplete destruction of surplus mustard gas on hand at the installation." Personnel supervised by the chemical warfare officer decontaminated the ground using chlorinated lime.

h. In June 1947, as a result of a complaint by an individual who tended the land, a chemical corps officer conducted another inspection of the area and found remnants of containers, including "...bottles 4 ounce capacity which at one time contained war gases for sniff sets or other purposes..." but "...no liquid mustard...." However, the chemical corps officer also noted "...an occasional odor of mustard gas aroused when a bottle cap or piece of sheet metal was unearthed...." Furthermore, the chemical corps officer thought it "possible" that "...additional bottle caps and pieces of metal..." were "...buried an inch or more below the surface of the ground...." The chemical corps officer did not consider it necessary, due to the expense, "...to obviate..." the possibility of additional contamination, which would require the military "...to plow up approximately one acre of ground and to use large scale decontamination methods...." Despite the possibility of additional contamination, the chemical corps officer declared the Harvard Target Range "...safe to livestock and to human occupancy....".

i. Declared surplus in 1946, the Army Air Corps transferred the Harvard Army Air Field to the War Assets Administration for disposal. The Army Air Corps also

declared Harvard Target Range surplus. After WWII, the former Harvard Target Range once again became cropland owned by private individuals.

**5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

<b>Area A:</b>	Size, Acres:	Approximately 15
	Former Use:	Target range and possible CWM disposal area
	Present Use:	Cultivated Croplands
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Potential
	Type:	Mustard Gas Containers and Gas Identification Kits

<b>Area B:</b>	Size, Acres:	Approximately 2267
	Former Use:	All other lands
	Present Use:	Cultivated Croplands
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Potential
	Type:	Small Arms Ammunition

**6. CURRENT STATUS:**

The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Harvard Target Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1996.

**7. STRATEGY:**

Area A: EE/CA;RAC 1  
Area B: NOFA

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

a. The RCWM Team reviewed this ASR and it was pointed out to him that the author of the RAC form scored Part I, E. with a 20 for War Gas Identification sets and did not score a 25 for the Mustard Agent contamination within Area A. He revised the RAC form which now reflects a score of 1 (attached).

b. The Huntsville Center reviewed this ASR and has determined that an EE/CA for Area A is required since the historical documentation and the SI Team inspection results indicate that this area might have been used as a CWM disposal area. This 975' by 645' area, was once fenced off, and is approximately 200' from the east boundary and 1050' from the south boundary of Section 17, T 8N, R 7W. NOFA is determined for the remainder of this FUDS as only small arms were used there.

c. 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