

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
AUGUST 1997  
HNC REVISION: 15 SEPTEMBER 1997  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 28 JANUARY 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Holtville Rocket Target 1R (#94)

**SITE NUMBER:** J09CA017200

**LOCATION:**

**CITY:** Holtville  
**COUNTY:** Imperial  
**STATE:** California

**PROJECT NUMBER:** J09CA017201

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 3

**ASR RAC:** 2

**TAG RAC:** 3

2. **POC'S:**

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**ASR TECHNICAL REVIEWER:**

**Name:** John R. Chapman, Jr.  
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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The former Holtville Rocket Target 1R (#94), consisted of 878 acres of land (including 640 acres [Section 24, Township 14 South, Range 16 East, San Bernardino Meridian] under permit and qualified by the FDE) used with the permission of the Department

of The Interior, Bureau of Land Management, beginning in May 1945. The site was used to train Navy pilots in low altitude dive bombing, strafing and rocket bombardment. The site is located 8 miles north, northeast of Holtville, California, approximately one mile east of the East Highline Canal. The general area may be characterized as desert, with scrub bushes dotting the landscape. Except for dunes in the north and east, the site is essentially level.

The climate of the area encompassing the former Holtville Rocket Target 1R (#94) is arid, with hot summers and mild winters. Sunshine averages more than 8 hours per day, even in winter. The lowest minimum temperature recorded was 16 degrees on January 22, 1937. The highest temperature, 119 degrees, occurred on 4 dates: 14 and 16 July 1936; 25 July 1943; and 25 June 1970. Average annual precipitation at Imperial is about 2.8 inches. Prevailing winds are westerly in winter and spring. On windy days, velocities of 15 to 20 miles per hour are common, and some gusts exceed 30 miles per hour. Humidity ranges from 24% to 40%.

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

The land comprising the Holtville Rocket Target 1R (#94) was used by the Navy under permit from the Bureau of Land Management, beginning in May 1945. It was used by naval aviators from Holtville Naval Auxiliary Air Station, and possibly, Naval Air Station, El Centro for training in low-level attack missions. It is apparent by its name that rocket practice was the original intended use; however, bombing and strafing also took place at the range. Except for the installation of concentric circles laid out to form the rocket target bull's eye, an observation post and some black topped roadway, no known improvements were made to the site. Control of the property was returned to the Bureau of Land Management in May 1958, although there is evidence to support the case that it continued to be used unofficially during more recent times.

#### **5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

##### **AREA A**

Size, Acres:	265
Former Use:	Target Area
Present Use:	Public Land/Barren Desert
Probable End Use:	Same as Present
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Miniature Practice Bomb, 3-lb AN-Mk

23; Practice Bombs, 100-lb Mk15 and Bomb, High Explosive, AN-M30; Rocket, Sub-caliber, 2.25-inch; Cartridge, 20mm TP-T and AP-T

**AREA B**

Size, Acres: 1  
Former Use: Observation Post/Target Area  
Present Use: Public Land/Barren Desert  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed  
Type: Practice Bombs, 100-lb Mk15 and M38

**AREA C**

Size, Acres: 238  
Former Use: Buffer Zone  
Present Use: Public Land/Barren Desert  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Type: Practice Bombs, 100-lb Mk15 and M38

**AREA D**

Size, Acres: 157  
Former Use: Buffer Zone  
Present Use: Public Land/Barren Desert  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Type: Miniature Practice Bomb, 3-lb AN-Mk 23; Practice Bombs, 100-lb Mk15 and M38 series; Bomb, High Explosive, AN-M30; Rocket, Sub-caliber, 2.25- inch; C Cartridge, 20mm TP-T and AP-T

**AREA E**

Size, Acres: 217  
Former Use: Unused remaining land (in FDE)  
Present Use: Public Land/Barren Desert  
Probable End Use: Same as Present  
Ordnance Presence: None  
Type: N/A

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Draft Archives Search Report (ASR) was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in August 1997.

7. **STRATEGY:** Areas A,B,C,D: Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA)

Area E: No Further Action (NOFA)

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group reviewed this ASR and determined a Risk Assessment Code score of 3 and EE/CA for Areas A thru D; NOFA for Area E.

Due to an addition error for the Hazard Probability Value on the RAC Form included in the ASR, the ASR RAC score of 2 shown for Areas A, B, C, and D should actually be 3 for all these areas.

There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area, including a reptile species, *Phrynosoma mcallii*, and a plant species, *Palafoxia arida* var. *gigantea*. An on-site inspection by the appropriate federal and state personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence, or location of listed species, or natural communities. There is a high probability that poisonous snakes inhabit this area and are active during the spring, summer and fall.

**9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

**10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only