

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: 8 DECEMBER 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 25 MARCH 1997**

1. SITE NAME: Harvard Army Air Field

SITE NUMBER: B07NE005100

LOCATION:

City: Harvard
County: Clay
State: Nebraska

PROJECT NUMBER: B07NE005102

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 2

TAG RAC: 5

2. POC's:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION:

Harvard Army Air Field(AAF) is located about two miles northeast of Harvard, Nebraska. (Pop. 976) Before becoming DOD property, this level farming area in south-central Nebraska was used for growing wheat, corn, milo and hay. After WW II, the State of Nebraska procured the site from the U.S. Government and renamed the airfield to Harvard State Airport. The airport is operated today by the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics. The State of Nebraska leases part of the property to local farmers for cultivation.

4. SITE HISTORY:

a. Consisting of 1,759.3 acres, Harvard AAF began operations in 1942 as a satellite airfield of Kearney AAF. Facilities at the field included runways, hangars, fuel storage tanks, barracks, administration buildings, and other related structures necessary for airfield operations. Harvard AAF became the parent field for the 17th Bombardment Operation Training Wing (Second Air Force). Expansion of the base continued until the end of WWII to accommodate the B-29 Superfortress bombers, and the additions of the 505th and 501st Bombardment Groups. Between 1943 and 1945, twenty-six bombardment squadrons received proficiency training at Harvard AAF. Complete engine and airframe repairs were also available for the B-17s, B-24s, and B-29s assigned (Hurst 1991).

b. Harvard AAF personnel received various types of associated training, including the Small-Arms Qualification and Chemical Warfare training common to all military installations. Classes were conducted on airfield ranges in small-arms, aircraft cannon, bombs, fuzes, and bomb handling. Ammunition and related ordnance buildings existed in the southeast sector of the field and were used for the storage of bombs, small arms and chemical warfare materials. Bombing practice involved the use of 100-lb. practice bombs with a 4-lb. black powder charge and .50 caliber ammunition.

c. Declared surplus on May 20,1946, the land and improvements were reported to the War Assets Administration (WAA) for disposal. In August 1946, an inspection memorandum indicated that the target range was "ready for release except for the area having poisonous gas used on it." A month later, another memorandum reported that the contamination resulted from an incomplete destruction of surplus mustard gas on hand at the installation. The "contaminated barrel was hauled to a sanitary landfill to be buried." In 1947, a Chemical Corps inspection report reveals that 4-oz bottles from war gas "sniff sets" and "many caps for these bottles" were found by Mr. Daniel H. Schultz. This report discussed whether plowing approximately one acre of ground and using large scale decontaminating methods was necessary to obviate the possibility of additional discovery but considered it an unnecessary expense. This same report recommended that Harvard AAF Target Range be declared safe to livestock and to human occupancy.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: According to the INPR, there have been no reports of OE since site closure.

Area:	Size, Acres:	1,759.3
	Former Use:	Harvard Army Air Field
	Present Use:	Harvard State Airport and cropland
	Probable End Use:	Same as Present Use
	Ordnance Presence:	Potential
	Types:	OE - small arms

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report(ASR) for Harvard Army Air Field was completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in November 1995.

7. STRATEGY:
NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

a. The TAG has determined that no further action (NOFA) is required for this site. The AAF can no longer be specifically defined and portions are under cultivation. If waste had been hauled to and disposed of in a sanitary land fill, that waste would be considered a HTRW concern and not a CWM concern and would only be addressed if the land fill was to be cleaned up.

b. 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.

c. Deed Clauses: Both deeds to the state of Nebraska contained recapture clauses, restricted use of the property to public airport purposes, and stated that the Government was released from any liability or damages/claims arising from their use of the property.

d. CWM: Chemical Warfare Materials were present at the site and the usual CWM training was also conducted for assigned personnel. A Gas decontamination station and storage space for CWM once existed at Harvard AAF. Research recovered documents describing a target range associated with the airfield on which poison gas existed. On this site identified as the Harvard Army Air Field Target Range contamination from the incomplete destruction of surplus mustard gas from the installation was found in 1946. The documents indicate that on one occasion a contaminated barrel was hauled to a sanitary fill to be buried. It is also stated that objectionable material was hauled to the dump at the airfield. Chemical and conventional munitions were used for training purposes at Harvard Army Air Field, and on at least one associated practice range. Furthermore, it is known that mustard gas CWM was disposed of in accordance with guidelines and procedures in effect at the time. The decontamination and subsequent disposal of objectionable and contaminated materials into a landfill(s), was most likely into either of the two landfills that were on the DOD controlled property at the airfield. Finally , a February 1945 *Report of Controlled And Other Critical Items* indicated that although no M1 Gas Identification Kits were authorized, two (2) were on

hand at Harvard AAF and four (4) were loaned out. The final disposition of the kits was unclear from the research. Archival research and interviews revealed no other evidence of potential OE(CWM) contamination.

e. Potential FUDS: Several sites not included under B07NE005100 but associated with Harvard AAF were confirmed and/or identified through the Archive Search process. Harvard Target Range was a 2,282.80 acre leased site used as a moving target range. There was also a 6-acre tract located SE of the field for a Radio Homing Station; possibly up to five practice ranges, either identified as Air-to-Ground Gunnery or Precision Bombing Ranges; a clay target and jeep range located two miles east of the airfield; and the Harvard Multipurpose Army Air Field Rifle Range located 1-2 miles south of the airport.

f. Limited Site Visit: According to their trip report (Appendix L-2), the site team performed six site visits in 3 ½ days. Harvard Army Air Field was the last site visited. The team arrived in time for lunch on Thursday.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: NOFA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: NOFA