

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
FEBRUARY 1993
HNC REVISION: 3 OCTOBER 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 4 NOVEMBER 1997**

1. SITE NAME: Kincheloe Air Force Base

SITE NUMBER: E05MI002500

LOCATION:

City: Kinross
County: Chippewa County
State: Michigan

PROJECT NUMBER: E05MI002505

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 1

ASR RAC: 1

TAG RAC: 2

2. POC'S:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Kincheloe Air Force Base consisted of 7,265.55 acres located 20 miles southwest of Sault Ste. Marie and 37 miles north of Ste. Ignace at Kinross, Michigan, Chippewa County, Michigan. The base is directly east of Interstate 75 at geographical coordinates 46 degrees 14

minutes North Latitude and 84 degrees 27 minutes West Longitude. Chippewa County International Airport, Kinross Correctional Facility, Kinross Manufacturing, American Kinross, Inc. and Pickford Township Schools are now located on the property. Additional portions of the site are owned by the State of Michigan and Kinross Township. Usage of the land is for public housing, businesses and the airport. During the winter months, General Motors leases a portion of the airport to test automobiles.

The climate is influenced by the Great Lakes which make temperatures cooler in the summer and warmer during the winter than normal for the latitude. Mean daily maximum temperatures for July are 75° F and 22° F for January. Highs in July/August are 94° F and lows reach -33° in January. Mean annual snowfall is 111.1 inches. The site lies in a rural setting, in an area of low topographic relief varying from flat grassland to small hills, and swampy bogs to altered topography due to construction. Drainage is away from the base in all directions. The former air force base wells are used by Kinross Township residents as the primary water supply.

4. SITE HISTORY: The former Kincheloe Air Force Base was acquired by the U.S. Government through lease, license, easements and by fee of different tracts and was built and established in 1941 as a refueling base for Alaska-bound aircraft throughout World War II. It was later part of the Air Defense Command and was finally part of the Strategic Air Command. Other names for the base were Kinross Municipal Airport, Kinross Army Air Field, Kinross Air Field, Kinross Air Force Auxiliary Field, and Kinross Air Force Base. In 1945 the airfield was leased to the City of Sault Ste. Marie for a civilian airport and was maintained in that status until 1952. It served as a base for the 91st Air Base Squadron from October, 1952 to October, 1953. In early 1953, the 534th Air Defense Group and the 438th Fighter Squadron were activated on base. In August, 1955, the 507th Fighter Group replaced the 534th Air Defense Group. In February, 1961, the 507th Fighter Group was expanded into a Fighter Wing. In November, 1961, following two years of construction, the 4239th Strategic Wing of the Strategic Air Command arrived with B-52 bombers and was designated the 449th Bomb Wing on 1 February 1963. By fall of 1963, the 908th Air Refueling Squadron was present with KC-135 tankers. In the fall of 1968, the 438th Fighter Squadron departed, the 507th Fighter Wing was deactivated, and the 4609th Air Base Group was activated to support the 449th Bomb Wing. On 1 July 1971, Kincheloe Air Force Base was changed from an Air Defense Command Base to a Strategic Air Command Base with the 449th Bomb Wing as host.

With the closing of the base in 1977, 887.2 acres fee, 2,816.69 acres lease, 3.65 acres license, and 1,950.57 acres easement, for a total of 5,658.11 acres, was excessed to GSA by SF-118 dated 2 September 1977. Prior to the closing, 1.05 acres lease, 1.10 acres license and 1,639.04 acres easement had been terminated at various dates, of which 28.75 acres lease and 5 acres easement had been reacquired for a net of 1,607.44 acres. Of the 5,658.11 acres excessed to GSA, 3.65 acres were retained by GSA, 2,816.69 acres were conveyed to the State Base Closure Authority, and the remaining 2,837.77 acres were conveyed directly to Chippewa County (1,013.62 acres), the State Department of Corrections (13.8 acres), Pickford Township (127.0 acres), American Kinross, Inc. (424 acres - previously owned by Nevis - Pauly - Hauss until bankruptcy and foreclosure proceedings occurred in March 1986), and the State of Michigan (1,259.35 acres). The deed conveying the airport property to Chippewa County reserved the Government right to have exclusive or non-exclusive use of the airport facilities during a declared emergency. The Government was released from liability for restoration or other damage under any lease or agreement involving the airport. Restoration clauses contained in leases between the Government and the State of Michigan were waived.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA 1

Size, Acres:	7.0
Former Use:	Burial Site (by Landfill D Area)
Present Use:	Burial Site
Probable End Use:	Burial Site
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	2.75" rocket motor propellant

AREA 2

Size, Acres:	60.00
Former Use:	Explosive Ordnance Demolition Range Area
Present Use:	Undeveloped fields, woods and swamp
Probable End Use:	Undeveloped fields, woods and swamp
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Small Arms Ammunition(.30 and .38 cal.); 20mm Target Practice; CS Grenade; Signals, Smoke and Illumination; Countermeasure Round (Chaf); Flares, MK 13 Mod 0; M39A1 spotting charge.

AREA 3

Size, Acres: 80.00
Former Use: Burial Site (by Landfill B Area)
Present Use: Burial Site
Probable End Use: Burial Site
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
Type: 2.75" rocket motor propellant

AREA 4

Size, Acres: 11
Former Use: Burial Site (by Landfill C Area)
Present Use: Burial Site
Probable End Use: Burial Site
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
Type: 2.75" rocket motor propellant

AREA 5

Size, Acres: 60
Former Use: Ammunition Storage Area; Firing Range
Present Use: Deserted Ammunition Storage Area
Probable End Use: Deserted Ammunition Storage Area
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
Type: 40mm cartridges; signal devices; marine flares

AREA 6:

Size, Acres: 6.00
Former Use: Rifle/pistol range
Present Use: Rifle/pistol range
Probable End Use: Rifle/pistol Range
Ordnance Presence: **None**
Type: Not Applicable

AREA 7:

Size, Acres: 7,041.55
Former Use: air base
Present Use: airport; business
Probable End Use: airport; business
Ordnance Presence: **None**
Type: Not Applicable

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report for Kincheloe Air Force Base was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in February 1993.

7. STRATEGY:

AREA 1: RAC 2;EE/CA
AREA 2: RAC 2;EE/CA
AREA 3: RAC 2;EE/CA
AREA 4: RAC 2;EE/CA
AREA 5: RAC 5;NOFA
AREA 6: RAC 5;NOFA
AREA 7: RAC 5;NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Recommend a strategy of **EE/CA, RAC 2** for **Areas 1 - 4** and **NOFA** for **Areas 5 - 7**. Although the site inspection team found a variety of ammunition items at the site, all were expended; there was no live ammunition found. An interview with one witness, unconfirmed by any other source, indicates that 2.75" rocket motor propellant was buried near landfill areas D, B, and C designated **Areas 1, 3, and 4**, respectively. Many ammunition items were found at **Area 2**, the **Explosive Ordnance Demolition Range**, and there is a historical document at F-9 stating that one spotting charge and one flare were found during a clearance in 1977. **Area 5**, the **Ammunition Storage Area/Firing Range** was used by a manufacturer of ammunition since DOD ownership; the area was under the control of this company and should be held liable for any OE cleanup. Strategy for this area is NOFA pending resolution of litigation between the company and the U.S. Government. **Area 6**, the **Rifle/pistol Range**, is being used by security guard personnel at the Kinross Correctional Facility and is therefore not eligible for any removal actions. **NOFA** is recommended for **Area 7**, which includes all remaining areas, because the ASR authors did not mention that OE was present. A new RAC form, Score 2 and applicable to areas 1-4, is attached. **The draft ASR actually recommends a strategy of RI/FS (remedial investigations/feasibility studies) for the various areas, whereas the current recommendations are EE/CA.** More justification for area strategies is provided below.

HNC Safety Comments: The initial safety comments of 11 January 1993 concurred with the ASR, findings, conclusions, and recommendations with regard to conventional OE; stated that ASR findings regarding CWM needed to be resolved prior to start of cleanup; and stated that CELMS would be directed to further investigate the CWM archives for the site. The more in depth comments of 17 March 1993 were: (1)The ASR incorrectly refers to 20mm and 40mm as small arms. (2)"Ordnance" is spelled incorrectly on Plate 3. (3)States that the RAC Form should be revised, deleting values for Toxic Chemical Agents and

radiological contamination (The cylinder said to contain Toxic Chemical Agents was removed from the site and the radiological contamination was removed and sent to Kentucky. He points out that the RAC score will still be 1. (4)He does not agree with the draft ASR recommendation for an IRA given that no live OE was found on the surface. (5)Points out a grammatical mistake requiring correction. **Agree with all these comments except for the RAC score, which is now 2.** Finally, the comments from 19 July 1993 state that all the comments made previously had not been incorporated and needed to be corrected and resubmitted.

Site Status Update, 5 November 1997: William D. Merte, CELRE-EP-DG, phone 313-226-2433 provided an update on the site status:

(1)The OE debris outside the north perimeter fence of the ammunition storage area was left there by the manufacturer and is not a cleanup responsibility for the Corps of Engineers. (2)Area 5 is still under litigation and no further action is required there until the litigation is settled. He stated that the State of Michigan would probably work with the Department of Justice regarding any cleanup required. (3)Buffalo District has been performing tests at the site, including the landfills, for HTRW and he stated "the reports consist of four 4" binders. To his knowledge these tests do not indicate the presence of OE. Also, while it was known that there were suspect OE burial sites, he does not believe that this influenced where or what tests were taken. Permission was received to enter Area 5 to perform tests.

Area Strategies:

Areas 1 (near Landfill D Area - 7 acres), 3 (near Landfill B Area - 80 acres), and 4 (near Landfill C Area - 11 acres) shown on Plates 1, 2 and 4: ASR documents at F-5 and I-1 record the testimony of a former NCO who worked at the air base in 1957-1960 and witnessed the burial of 2.75" rocket motor propellant sticks in trenches at these three locations. Some might have been buried in metal sleeves but most were evidently buried without a container. The site inspection team could not verify from appearances of the surface ground at these locations that this burial had been accomplished. Small amounts were buried at **Area 1 and Area 3, in the northwest edge of Landfill B Area. Most of the propellant was said to be buried at Area 4, which is not actually in Landfill C, but west of the ammunition storage area and east of Landfill C.** Eight single axle military truck loads were said to be buried at this latter site. The likelihood of propellant being found at **Area 1, near Landfill D Area,** is less because the Air Force excavated it after the base ceased operations, removed low level radioactive contents, and shipped these contents to Kentucky. **Recommended strategy is EE/CA for Areas 1, 3, and 4.**

Area 2, Explosive Ordnance Demolition Range Area: The Certificate and Report of Clearance at F-9 provides a legal description of this 60 acre location, dividing it into 3.1 acres of actual demolition range and 56.9 acres of surrounding fragmentation zone. Clearance was accomplished using the search line method of walking and plowing to a minimum depth of 24 inches in the three acres that included the actual demolition area. Found were one spotting charge, one flare, and assorted 20 MM TP heads and brass. In addition, the site inspection revealed much OE debris of various types of ordnance. **The Draft ASR recommended IRA for this area, but concur with safety that since no live OE was noted, IRA is not required.** Recommended strategy is EE/CA.

Area 5, Ammunition Storage Area/Firing Range - 60 acres; This area, was not inspected by the Site Inspection Team because the Kinross Manufacturing Corporation (KMC), which used the site to manufacture munitions for DOD between 1984 and 1988, is under investigation and litigation by the U. S. Government. Specifically, the Environmental Protection Agency has charged KMC with dumping Hazardous and Toxic Waste into the ground. The ASR recommends this area be assessed once liability is established. **Disagree, since the company used the storage area for manufacture and storage of ammunition and should be responsible for any removal actions required.** This also applies to a 40mm testing range the site inspectors found outside the north perimeter fence of this area, which was littered with thousands of 40mm TP, M781, (1310-B519). This was left there by KMC, which manufactured these cartridges. Recommend NOFA for this area pending the outcome of litigation.

Area 6, Rifle/Pistol - approximately 6 acres: The strategy is NOFA since the State of Michigan Department of Corrections previously excavated this area, renovated and fenced the area, and uses it as a small arms firing range for their employees.

Area 7, Airport/other lands - 7,041.55 acres; NOFA applies since no mention is made in the draft ASR that there are any OE concerns.

Other Projects: E05MI002501 (CON/HTW); E05MI002502 (CON/HTW); E05MI002503 (BD/DR); E05MI002504 (HTRW). Draft ASR recommends HTRW actions for Areas 1 - 5 to test for potential OE contaminants in surface water, ground water and soil. There is also a recommendation for radiation monitoring at landfill D (Area 1). Nonconcur with these recommendations since the Air Force had the low level radiation shipped to Kentucky when the base was closed

and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District seem to be taking care of possible problems in this regard(See Final Report for Confirmation Study at F-10). This report mentions that a radiation survey was already conducted and that levels were within normal background levels.

Chemical Warfare Materiel: The same witness that observed the rocket motor propellant being buried also stated that they encapsulated a 20 lb. cylinder of phosgene gas and a 20 lb. cylinder of mustard gas in 55 gallon drums, filled the drums with cement, welded the tops on the drums, loaded them on a helicopter and dropped them in Lake Superior at a depth of 900 feet. **Agree with safety comments that this was the extent of the problem and inventory at the base and that this action resulted in removal of all CWM from the site.** This should not be a CWM site.

Natural Resources: No mention is made regarding the presence of Federally and State threatened species at the site. 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.

Historical Resources: No mention is made regarding the presence of historical/archeological/paleontological sites. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

Filename: MI002505.DOC
Directory: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat
4.0\Acrobat\plug_ins\OpenAll\Transform\temp
Template: D:\Program Files\Templates\Normal.dot
Title: RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
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Author: US Army Engineering and Support Center
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