

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 1996
HNC REVISION: 9 APRIL 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 6 May 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** El Centro Rocket Target Range No. 2(#93)

SITE NUMBER: J09CA014700

LOCATION:

City: El Centro
County: Imperial
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA014701

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 3(Low priority)

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former El Centro Rocket Target Range No. 2(#93), consisting of 400 acres, is located in the east 1/2 and the north 1/2 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 13, Township 14 South, Range 12 East, approximately 5.9 miles west of California Highway 86 and north of the city of El Centro, Imperial County,

California. Directions from Imperial Avenue and Main Street in El Centro are: proceed north 8.4 miles, turn left on Keystone(3 miles), right on Forrester(0.9 miles), left on Imler(3.1 miles), north on access road(1.16 miles) to the southeast corner of Section 13. An active Navy target area borders the site to the west. Agricultural land is located one to two miles east of the site and a powerline service road transects the northwest and southwest corners of the site. Shifting of sand caused by winds could cover ordnance at the site. The former site is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and remains uncultivated, undeveloped, rough desert land.

The site is located in the Imperial Valley which has a desert climate and records a higher percentage of sunshine than any other place in the United States. Specifically, the site is in the Salton Trough section of the Basin and Range physiographic province which is characterized by desert alluvial slopes and deltaic plains. The site area is in a relatively flat terrain. Vegetation is sparse and low lying. The topography of the area rises gently to the southwest. The elevation ranges from a high of 60 feet above sea level to a low of 60 feet below sea level. Drainage is east into Fillaree Canal and Thistle Canal, both of which drain into the New River. It flows to the south into the All American Canal which flows east along the Mexican border and empties into the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. The Colorado River flows south and empties into the Gulf of California.

4. SITE HISTORY: In December, 1944, the Eleventh Naval District requested acquisition of this 400-acre site from the Department of Interior for use as a practice rocket, bombing, and strafing target site for fleet training. No further information concerning acquisition of the site was found. In addition, ASR researchers failed to find specific documentation pertaining to the type of ordnance used on the site.

El Centro Naval Air Facility and other Naval installations in the area probably used this site for training. On April 23, 1945, the Commander of the 11th Naval District changed the numbering system of all El Centro targets. El Centro Target #2 became El Centro Target #93. The Navy discontinued use of Target #93 on October 24, 1946. Reportedly, steps were being initiated at that time to return the property to its prior state.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres:	400.00
Former Use:	Target Area for practice bombs and low-level rocket training
Present Use:	Undeveloped BLM property
Probable End Use:	Same as present

Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
Type: Parachute flares; Blasting caps
/fuses; .50-caliber clips/casings; 25-
lb bomb (observed offsite); 5" rocket
warhead, MK 1 series (practice
version); 3.25" rocket motor; 20mm
projectile, TP-T; 20mm, TP; 2.2" rocket
motor; 2.25" target rocket; 3 lb.
miniature practice bomb; electrical
cable for 2.25" and 3.25" rockets.

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for El Centro Rocket Target Range No. 2 (#93) was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1996.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA; (RAC 3)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The recommended strategy is EE/CA with a RAC 3. Generally speaking, findings of OE and OE debris were located in the northern area of the site. Although the ASR research did not locate a document which identified a target ring at the site, an aerial photograph dated 1949 shows a circular shaped feature at the central northern boundary of the site which could have been the target circle. This possibility was verified by the ASR site survey inspection team which did find many OE and OE related items in that particular area.

HNC Safety Comments: (1) One safety comment concerning the ASR, which has not been corrected, is an observation that there is an inconsistency in describing the site: sometimes it is referred to as a practice rocket, bombing and strafing range and in other descriptions it is referred to as a rocket, bombing and strafing range. The ASR would read better if all references were the same, i.e., practice. (2) Another comment is that a more appropriate RAC score for the site would be 4 rather than 3 based on the use of practice **rockets** and bombs at the site. Since the RAC form does not have a separate value for practice rockets, the value given was for explosive rockets which equates to a value high enough to make this a RAC 3 site rather than a RAC 4. **Therefore, as a RAC 3 site, it should be ranked lower in priority than other RAC 3 sites.**

Use of CWM: The ASR turned up no evidence that CWM was used at the site.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally-listed species which may occur within the site area. Listings are provided in the ASR Findings, page 3-6, paragraph 3.5. 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 cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

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

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