

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: 15 SEPTEMBER 1994
TAG REVIEW DATE: 26 AUGUST 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** McCook Army Airfield

SITE NUMBER: BO7NE044100

LOCATION:

CITY: McCook
COUNTY: Red Willow
STATE: Nebraska

PROJECT NUMBER: BO7NE044101

CATEGORY: CWM

INPR RAC: 1

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 3

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former McCook Army Airfield (AAF) consisted of approximately 4,266.78 acres of relatively flat Nebraska range and farm land. The AAF was located approximately nine miles northwest of present day McCook, Nebraska, in Red Willow County. The site was divided almost equally into two sections. The northern half consisted of almost 2,000 acres of small arms ranges designated as the "Poorman Flexible Gunnery

Trainer and Small Arms Range". The southern half of the site consisted of a triangular pattern of runways for WWII heavy bombers and the troop administrative/operations support buildings. The entire site is located in an area that is primarily agricultural interspersed with areas for livestock grazing.

4. SITE HISTORY: Between the years 1943 and 1944, the site was obtained by the War Department through easement, fee, and lease, for use as a training facility for heavy bomber crews. McCook AAF was where pilots, flight engineers, and gunners who trained at separate installations were brought together and formed up as crews for advance training before assignments overseas. Ordnance at the site included small arms ammunition fired at the training ranges, storage of black powder spotting charges for practice bombs, and storage of some pyrotechnics and security small arms ammunition. There was also an active chemical warfare training unit at the AAF which was known to have utilized some forms of distilled mustard gas in training quantities to include Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS). In May of 1947, the AAF was placed in a surplus status by the War Department with accountability transferring to the State of Nebraska and private ownership over the next few years. Today the land is owned primarily by farmers and the Nebraska Bureau of Land Management.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A:

Size, Acres: Approximately 2,296
Former Use: McCook Small Arms Training Range
Present Use: Agriculture and Livestock Grazing
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

AREA B:

Size, Acres: Approximately 1,905
Former Use: Administrative and Operational Support Area
Present Use: Agriculture and Livestock Grazing
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

AREA C:

Size, Acres: 32
Former Use: Underground Gasoline Pipeline and Storage Area
Present Use: Agriculture (Storage/Residential)
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

AREA D:

Size, Acres: 11
Former Use: Ordnance Storage Area and Shotgun
Skeet Range
Present Use: Agriculture
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

AREA E:

Size, Acres: Approximately 1.6
Former Use: Storage Building for Small Arms
Ammo and Pyrotechnics
Present Use: Agriculture
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

AREA F:

Size, Acres: Approximately .08
Former Use: Gas Chamber Building for Troop Training
Present Use: Agriculture
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

AREA G:

Size, Acres: Approximately .04
Former Use: Chemical Warfare Training
Materials Storage
Present Use: Agriculture and Livestock Grazing
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

AREA H:

Size, Acres: Approximately 19.3
Former Use: Suspected Chemical Warfare Training
Area and Adjacent Army Dump Site
Present Use: Agriculture and Livestock Grazing
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for McCook AAF was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in September 1994.

7. **STRATEGY:** Entire Site: No Further Action (NOFA) (RAC 3)

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

a. The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group recommended NOFA for the entire FUDS as small arms ammunition was the only conventional ordnance and explosives item used there. Chemical warfare materials (CWM), including CAIS and Mustard Agent, training did occur in Area H. Although land burial was

not an authorized method of demilitarization for (CWM), there is a potential for burial, considering the close proximity to the dump site. There is no visible evidence of surficial CWM presence in the dump site area. There is a remote possibility for subsurface CWM presence within the known dump site. In addition, the only potential for public exposure would be through excavation. No further action is recommended for the dump site until such time as technology advances to where glass vials can be detected. If future excavation is considered, RCWM support would be required for the unlikely event that CWM may be encountered. Therefore, a revised Risk Assessment Code (RAC) form for the entire site is attached. This RAC reflects a score of 3 because of the potential for CWM in Area H.

b. Area H is infested with rattlesnakes in summer months.

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: NOFA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: N/A