

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
AUGUST 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 12 DECEMBER 1996**

1. **SITE NAME:** McCook Precision Bombing Range No. 1

SITE NUMBER: B07NE006100

LOCATION:

City: Wallace
County: Lincoln County
State: Nebraska

PROJECT NUMBER: B07NE006101

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** McCook Precision Bombing Range No. 1 was located about 39 miles southwest of North Platte and eight miles north of the town of Wallace, in Lincoln County, Nebraska. Encompassing approximately 2,474 acres of rolling terrain and high grass, it was used as a bombing range by the Second Air Force in

conjunction with McCook AAF. The site is currently being used for ranching, farming, and railroad right of way. The site was used for ranching before and after government ownership. Currently, three landowners hold title to the site.

Terrain is irregular with sinkholes up to 30 feet in depth present in the area. Surface drainage is irregular. Vegetation consists mainly of grass. The land is used for agriculture with some being used as range for cattle and horses. The center of the site is readily accessible via a county section road running east/west.

4. SITE HISTORY: The U. S. Army acquired 2,474 acres of land for use as McCook Precision Bombing Range No. 1 through three leases and one condemnation from three owners on 22 September 1943. McCook AAF, in Red Willow County, Nebraska, about 12 miles northwest of the City of McCook, used it for a Radar Pin Point Bombing Range and for precision practice bombing training. The Army used M38-series 100 pound practice bombs with a M3 or M4 spotting charge during training. Facilities at the range consisted of a generator house, a small shack, lighted targets, and fencing.

Heavy bombardment aircraft crews frequently flew over this range to practice their combat skills. Practice bombs with black powder charges were dropped on the target. Historical research has not indicated the use of any other types of munitions. Archival research and interviews revealed no evidence of CWM activity or contamination on the subject site. Although McCook AAF proper maintained Gas Identification and Detonating Sets for training, there is no evidence that the sets were used on, or in anyway applied to, the bombing and gunnery ranges.

The War Department declared the range surplus on 15 January 1947. The three leases were terminated on 31 March 1947 and the one condemnation on 30 June 1947. The Headquarters, Bomb and Shell Disposal Team issued a decontamination statement dated 10 February 1947, stating that the area had been cleared of scrap metal, was free of dud bombs and explosives and was declared safe for all purposes.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A:

Size, Acres:	2,474 Acres
Former Use:	Radar Pin Point Bombing Range/ precision practice bombing training
Present Use:	Ranching, farming and railroad right of way
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Practice bomb: 100 lb.

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for McCook Precision Bombing Range No. 1 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in August 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

Area A: EE/CA(See Issues and Concerns below)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Recommend a very low-priority RAC 4 EE/CA due to the potential of spotting charges. Reasons are:

(1) ASR comments: "Based on the results of the Site Survey conducted on Tuesday, 23 May 1995, there is no evidence of conventional OE contamination. The only ordnance and explosive metal debris encountered was from the M38-series 100 pound practice bombs. Only a small number of dilapidated bomb pieces, none potentially hazardous to the public, remain on the surface."

(2) "The ASR shows where this site was surface cleared in June 1946, with nothing found, and again in February 1947 with only one spotting charge found. The 1946 clearance indicates that a previous clearance had been done. No OE was discovered during the INPR investigation nor during the ASR visit. There are no records of OE-related incidents after closure of the PBR. The property is currently used as range land with no anticipated changes in use."

Concur with RAC 4 for the site based on confirmed finding of spotting charge in 1947, historical documents that state that practice bomb remnants were found at site during cleanup after the war, and the physical evidence of practice bomb debris found at the site by the site survey team. However, historical clearance documents indicate that a good job of cleanup at the site was done while being actively used and the range was cleaned twice after the war with the strong statement that the land could be used for all purposes.

Interview: One of the ASR Team members recorded an interview in which he was able to have someone verify that practice bombs and flour sacks were the only bombs used.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally-listed species occurring in the site area. A listing is provided on page 3-4, para 3.5 of the ASR Findings. 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.

Climate: Temperatures in the summer and winter can be extreme with a high of 112 degrees and a low of -34 degrees on record for July of 1954 and December of 1989, respectively.

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