

RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
HNC REVISION 1: 19 APRIL 1995  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 26 JULY 1995  
SECOND TAG REVIEW DATE: 11 APRIL 1996  
HNC REVISION 2: 29 September 1997  
THIRD TAG REVIEW DATE: 5 NOVEMBER 1997  
HNC REVISION 3: 31 AUGUST 1998  
FOURTH TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 OCTOBER 1998

1. SITE NAME: Meehan Range

SITE NUMBER: A04MS000200

**LOCATION:**

City: Meridian  
County: Lauderdale  
State: Mississippi

PROJECT NUMBER: A04MS000201

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. POC'S:

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**3. SITE DESCRIPTION:** Meehan Range consists of 11,130 acres, of which 894 acres cannot be physically accounted for, located 9 miles northwest of Key Field and due west of Meridian, Mississippi. The general area may be characterized as sparsely populated, hilly, dense woodland, with occasional tracts of clear-cut property utilized for pasture, cultivation and residences. Timber harvesting is an important activity within the site, with much of the property owned by the lumber industry.

A small percentage of the site is suitable for tillage and pasture, to include the target area itself. The target area consists of 70 acres and is currently utilized as pasture. The target area lies on a gently sloped plain between hills. The predominance of steeply sloped, hilly terrain and occasional to frequent flooding of much of the level land, precludes wide scale urbanization of this site. The target area itself lacks subsurface properties that would allow installation of septic facilities.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** The Army Air Corps stated a requirement for a bombing range in the Meehan area of Lauderdale County in October of 1941. Lease negotiations were initiated shortly thereafter, and beginning in January 1942, elements of the Third Air Force used a small portion of this 11,130 acre site as an air-to-ground, small arms target and bombing range. The Army Air Corps and the owners subsequently failed to come to terms over mineral and timber harvesting rights, and valid leases were never obtained. Failing this, the Army Air Corps declared its intention to abandon Meehan Range in June 1942. Lacking alternate facilities, the Army Air Corps continued utilizing the range until the Pachuta Bombing Range became available later in that year. All properties reverted back to their original owners after termination of Army Air Corps activities. Official records describing type of ordnance dropped or fired at impact areas, specifying type of aircraft, bombing altitudes, direction of aircraft approach, or type of target have been lost or destroyed. The ordnance types listed are those known to have been in general use at the time the range was active.

**5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

<b>AREA "A":</b>	Target Area
Size, Acres:	70 acres
Former Use:	Small arms target, bomb target, air-to-ground target
Present Use:	Pastures, cultivation, residential
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Practice Bombs

**AREA "B":** Safety Zone  
Size, Acres: 614 acres  
Former Use: Safety Zone  
Present Use: Pastures, cultivation, residential  
Probable End Use: Same  
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated

**AREA "C":** Remaining Land  
Size, Acres: 9,552. (8,658 acres physically accounted for and 894 acres unaccounted for)  
Former Use: Remaining land  
Present Use: Pastures, cultivation, residential  
Probable End Use: Same  
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) was completed in March 1995. This site underwent Technical Advisory Group (TAG) review on 26 July 1995. The TAG reviewed this fact sheet again on 11 April 1996 to ensure that the recommended strategy complied with current guidelines. That TAG recommended an Expanded Site Investigation (ESI).

This ASR was given further review and the reviewer presented it to the TAG again on 5 November 1997 with a recommendation of No Further Action (NOFA) because of the 50 years of continuous cultivation with no ordnance and explosives (OE) presence in recent years. The TAG tabled this ASR until an ESI could be performed to possibly change this site to a NOFA.

**7. STRATEGY:** EE/CA (RAC 4)

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The TAG met and discussed this ASR again on 27 October 1998 and determined a strategy of RAC 4; EE/CA. Discussion revealed that a potential still exists for subsurface OE presence in the wooded areas.

An ESI was conducted by the Huntsville Center on 27-28 August 1998 (See attached Trip Report). Messrs. Karl Blankinship, Project Manager, and Mike Slovak, Safety Specialist, visited the site. They used a magnetometer to survey the open field and the wooded areas which were identified as the target area. No intrusive activities were conducted. During this check of the former target area, no significant anomalies were detected. In addition to this subsurface check, there were no signs of OE or OE related material on the surface. Based on the findings during this ESI and the information contained in the ASR, recommend that this site remain a RAC 4 but that no further action be planned.

Interviews with local residents indicate that unknown quantities of practice bombs of various weights, and small arms ammunition in strafing operations, were expended into the Meehan Range. Although no records exist to indicate types and quantities of ordnance expended, interviews with local residents who participated in clearance operations, and historical data relative to the type of armament and payloads of the aircraft utilizing the range provides a fairly clear indication of the types of OE presence. One area, 70 acres, was designated as the target area, and 614 acres were set aside as a safety zone. Interviews with local residents who witnessed the bombing practice indicate that the bombing runs were conducted at about 500 feet. Bomb runs at this level provide very little opportunity for ordnance to land outside the target area. Interviews with local residents indicate that no ordnance was ever found outside the target area. Clearance activities were undertaken immediately upon release of the property back to the original owners. Debris removed from the site indicated that practice bombs (4 foot long light steel bomb casings, sand) and small arms ammunition (cartridge cases, caliber uncertain) were the only ordnance dropped or expended during strafing runs. Witnesses described a lack of the detonation of high explosives during the practice missions, and the timber harvested off the impact area has not revealed shrapnel.

The P-39D/K/N Fighter Bomber, an aircraft known to exist within the complement utilizing the range, was equipped with a 37mm cannon. However, no evidence of 37mm expended rounds exists to indicate that this armament was utilized in strafing operations.

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

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