

RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
September 1995
HNC REVISION: 27 MAY 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 3 JUNE 1998

1. **SITE NAME:** Montauk Torpedo Testing Range, Area 'B'
SITE NUMBER: C02NY076600
LOCATION:
CITY: Montauk
COUNTY: Suffolk
STATE: Long Island, New York
PROJECT NUMBER: C02NY076602
CATEGORY: OE
INPR RAC: 3
ASR RAC: 2
TAG RAC: 3

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The former Montauk Torpedo Testing Range, Area 'B', was

located on the southern shore of Fort Pond Bay, Long Island, New York which is approximately 135 miles east from New York City and about six miles west of Montauk Point, the southeastern end of Long Island. This ASR and fact sheet focuses on one area of five areas that made up the U.S. Naval Torpedo Testing Range at Montauk, Long Island, New York. The five areas totaled approximately 165 acres, in which the Torpedo Testing Range, Area 'B', the subject of this project, was approximately 45 acres of the total. The area is bordered by a flat to a slowly inclining sand beach with the inclination occurring from north to northwest, with small sand hills to the northeast and southwest. The remaining area from southeast to southwest is flat with a gradual rise in terrain towards the southwest.

Today, the Torpedo Testing Range, Area 'B' has been developed into condominiums that are within 150 to 200 feet from the beach area. Some of the residents are seasonal. A few stay through the winter months. The southern side of the former site is occupied by residential apartments. Other areas surrounding the former site are dotted with small houses/cabins that are occupied seasonal or year-around. The two remaining buildings that were left after the demolition was complete in 1984 are: building B-10 (former torpedo store house) now the Montauk Shell Fish Hatchery and B-15 (former contractor's shop) now residential apartments.

4. SITE HISTORY:

The construction of the Montauk Torpedo Testing Range was started in January 1943 and completed in March 1943. The areas that the fishing village occupied were acquired from the Long Island Railroad and the Montauk Beach Company through condemnation, fee simple and lease. After the construction was complete, the Torpedo Testing Range, Area 'B' was comprised of approximately 45 acres.

The sole mission of the torpedo testing range was to test commercially manufactured torpedo delivery vehicles. The two torpedoes tested were the Mark 13 (air launched) and the Mark 15 (surface launched). These torpedoes had two counter rotating propellers driven by steam propulsion, with the warhead section filled with sand for ballast. After the torpedoes spent their ethyl alcohol fuel, they would bob in the water for easy pick-up. The torpedoes that passed the ballistic test were refitted with internal components and sent off to an ammunition plant so the warhead could be up loaded with high explosives. The torpedoes that failed were scrapped or reworked and tested again.

Months before the end of World War II the Navy issued a

notice that the testing range would be disestablished on 1 March 1945. Along with the disestablishment of the test range, came a mission change and a new name, U. S. Naval Magazine. This Naval Magazine stored inert material for the Navy and Army. After several complex real estate problems during the Navy's downsizing of the torpedo testing range, the final site amounted to approximately 35 acres. On 15 November 1949, the Navy sold this acreage to Goble Aircraft Specialties, Incorporated, ending the Navy's presence at the testing range.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

NOTE: The subject site of this report is **Area 'B'** (bold and in quotation) which is not to be confused with one of its subsites, Area B. The ASR makes this distinction and this fact sheet will follow the ASR designation.

Area A:	Industrial Area
Size, Acres:	40
Former Use:	Storage/Test Range Area
Present Use:	Residential, Condominiums
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	None

Area B: Sewage Disposal Area

This area is NOT included in the original INPR

Size, Acres:	2.18
Former Use:	Navy's septic/leeching field
Present Use:	Undeveloped
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	None

Area C:	Beach Area
Size, Acres:	2.82
Former Use:	Testing Range Beach Area
Present Use:	Beach area for condominiums
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Small Arms Ammunition (SAA)

Area D: Fort Pond Bay-Recovery Area

This area is NOT included in the original INPR.

Size, Acres:	438
Former Use:	Test range (Fort Pond Bay)

Present Use: Recreational scuba diving, Shell Fish
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed
Type: SAA

Area E: Block Island Sound

This area is NOT included in the original INPR.

Size, Acres: 20,100
Former Use: Test Range (Block Island Sound)
Present Use: Commercial Boat Traffic/Commercial
Probable End Use: Same
Ordnance Presence: None

6. CURRENT STATUS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, completed this Archives Search Report (ASR) in September 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

Area A: NOFA
Area B: Add acreage to INPR and NOFA
Area C: RAC 3 EE/CA
Area D: Add acreage to INPR and RAC 3 EE/CA
Area E: NOFA

7. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) reviewed and discussed this ASR on 3 June 1998 and decided that Areas A, B and E should be RAC 5 NOFA and Areas C and D should be RAC 3 EE/CA. It was also decided that the geographic district should add the acreage of Areas B and D to the INPR. Area E does not need to be added because no OE hazard has ever been found to exist in this area (See attached revised RAC forms for Area E and the entire site). Justification for these decisions are as follows:

Area A: The TAG concurs with the ASR recommendation for RAC 5 NOFA for the Industrial Area. Pyrotechnic igniters are not likely to be found here since all explosives were stored in Montauk Torpedo Testing Range, **Area 'A'** (another site entirely, not subsite Area A). Due to both the site mission and the extensive earthwork done in this area to build homes and condominiums, with no reported OE finds, this area is considered with no OE presence.

Area B: The TAG concurs with the ASR recommendation for RAC 5 NOFA for OE in the Sewage Disposal Area. District should revise

the INPR and add this acreage for a potential HTW project.

Area C: The TAG decided RAC 3 EE/CA for this area due to SAA (.30 and .45 caliber) frequently washing up or being uncovered after storms. While this site's history and mission indicate that the SAA did not originate from Montauk Torpedo Testing Range, **Area 'B'**, it is likely these items are the result of other DOD activity on Long Island and may have come from surrounding FUDS.

Area D: The TAG decided RAC 3 EE/CA for this area due to the SAA presence. District should revise the INPR to add this acreage. Divers in this area have reported SAA scattered all over the bottom of the bay. Like Area C, these items did not originate from Montauk Torpedo Testing Range, **Area 'B'**.

Area E: The TAG decided RAC 5 NOFA for this area. The fact that the torpedoes launched from the Montauk Torpedo Testing Range, **Area 'B'** had to expend their pyrotechnic igniters and fuel to get to this area, indicates no explosive hazard. The ASR does not indicate any OE item, other than dummy torpedoes, being found in this area.

The ASR reports that local fishermen are reluctant to report finding OE. In an incident that occurred on the south shore of Long Island (**NOT PART OF THIS SITE**), a fisherman named Danny Hand netted a live (HE) torpedo and brought it aboard his vessel. The Navy EOD determined it to be too hazardous to move, so the Navy sank Mr. Hand's boat and destroyed the torpedo underwater. Local fishermen took note of this and are reportedly "throwing back" any OE items they inadvertently "catch".

The INPR reports the acreage for the former Montauk Torpedo Testing Range as 75.4 acres. Additional historical documents were discovered during the archives search that clearly indicate the acreage for the Montauk Torpedo Testing Range, **Area 'B'** was actually confirmed as approximately 45 acres.

There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area (See Table 3-3 in the 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.

The New York State Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau maintains a map of the Montauk area that shows the subject site located in an archeological sensitive area. Any actions taken within subject area will require oversight by the New York

Historic Preservation Bureau.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only