

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 1994**

**HNC REVISION: 17 MARCH 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 20 MAY 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Camp San Luis Obispo

SITE NUMBER: J09CA203100

LOCATION:

City: San Luis Obispo
County: San Luis Obispo
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA203105

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 1

ASR RAC: 2

TAG RAC: 2

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Camp San Luis Obispo consists of 14,959.16 acres, of which 5800 acres is an active National Guard Site, located near the coast in central California, along State Highway 1, five miles west of San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo County. The land is presently owned by 12 different

individuals/entities. Use of the land varies with much of it devoted to agricultural purposes. Other facilities include a school, colleges, a prison, industry, parks, ammunition ranges and an impact area, and forest land. Owners include the city of San Luis Obispo, the State of California, private individuals, U.S. Government agencies, and Madonna Construction.

The majority of the site consists of mountains and canyons that are classified as grassland, wooded grassland, woodland, or brush. A majority of the site is grassland and used predominately for grazing. The area in the north-northeastern portion of the site is classified as woodland (National Forest). Areas of brush land occur throughout the site; this becomes a critical fire hazard during the hot and dry summer and fall months. Drainage is generally to the west mainly via Chorro Creek. This creek and its tributaries flow intermittently when local precipitation is sufficient.

The climate is generally that of an oceanic (Mediterranean) type. Within the foothills of the site, the summers are warmer and dryer while the winters become cooler and wetter. The sun shines about 60 percent of the time in the winter and 80 percent in the summer. Rainfall averages 16 inches a year. The average winter temperature is 48° F with average daily minimums of 34° F. In summer, the average is 70° F, with the average daily maximum being 91° F

4. **SITE HISTORY:** Camp San Luis Obispo was established in 1928 as a California Army National Guard (CARNG) training camp. It originally totaled 5,800 acres and was known as Camp Merriam. The U.S. Government acquired approximately 9,159 more acres in the early 1940s and used the Camp as an infantry division training center during WW II, and as a signal corps training center during the Korean Conflict.

Acquisition of parcels occurred over a period of time. A parcel of 125.21 acres was transferred from the Department of the Interior with a Public Land Order dated 4 August 1946. A parcel of 4,010.74 acres was transferred from the Department of Agriculture with a Use Permit dated 9 January 1943 to the War Department. One parcel of 112.5 acres was acquired from John Hubbard and Christine Theirs Hollister by a Declaration of Taking (the date of the taking was not found). Four parcels were acquired through direct purchase; including 507 acres from Lucy Turri to the United States of America (the Agency and the date of the deed were not found), 2,495.92 acres from Mary Walter, et. al to the United States of America (deed dated 30 January 1943, but the agency is not known), 593.49 acres from Henry and Teresa Gilardi to the United States of America (deed dated January 1943, but the agency is not known), and 976.21 acres from John and

Josephine Guidetti to the United States of America (deed dated 7 January 1943, but the agency is not known). A parcel of 178 acres was leased from Ernest and Marquerite Vollmer. A parcel of 80 acres was leased from the Southern Pacific Company. Four parcels totaling 5,880.09 acres were leased from the State of California. The dates of the leases with Vollmer, Southern Pacific Company, and the State were not determined. The departments to whom the property was transferred were not specified on the deeds. Total acreage consisted of 14,959.16 acres.

Camp San Luis Obispo (CSLO) was used by the U.S. Army from 1943-1946 as an infantry division training center during WW II, with 20,000 soldiers at peak training; and as a signal corps training center during the Korean conflict from 1951-1953. Uses of the base included artillery, small arms, mortar, rocket, and grenade ranges. Construction at the base included the typical dwellings, garages, latrines, target houses, repair shops, and miscellaneous range structures.

The Camp was inactivated in 1946 and some properties were released back to the owners. In 1951, the Camp was reactivated with the establishment of the Signal Corps training center. Following the Korean Conflict, the U.S. Army maintained the camp in an inactive status. In 1965, the Camp was declared excess and turned over to the GSA. The land was relinquished as follows: 80 acres to the Southern Pacific Railway in December, 1946; 178 acres to Ernest and Marguerite Vollmer in December, 1946; 4,685.12 acres excessed to GSA in 1965; 5,880.09 acres to the State of California in December 1965; 125.21 acres to the Department of Interior in July 1965; and 4,010.74 to the Department of Agriculture in June 1966. The GSA transferred its excess property to other agencies and individuals in the 1960's - 1980's. Most of this property was transferred for educational purposes with Cuesta College and Cal Poly University being examples.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A

Size, Acres:	3,842.15
Former Use:	Ammunition Ranges/Impact Area
Present Use:	Park; agriculture; school; cattle grazing
Probable End Use:	Park; agriculture; school; cattle grazing
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Hand grenades; artillery; mortar; rocket

AREA B

Size, Acres: 4,185.43
Former Use: Down Range and Buffer Area
Present Use: Forest; cattle grazing
Probable End Use: Forest; cattle grazing
Ordnance Presence: Potential
Type: Artillery

AREA C

Size, Acres: 400.00
Former Use: Hospital
Present Use: California Men's Colony Prison
Probable End Use: California Men's Colony Prison
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: Not Applicable

AREA D

Size, Acres: 716.58
Former Use: Administrative
Present Use: Industrial; college; agriculture
Probable End Use: Industrial; college; agriculture
Ordnance Presence: None
Type: Not Applicable

AREA E

Size, Acres: 5
Former Use: Grenade Court
Present Use: College
Probable End Use: College
Ordnance Presence: Potential
Type: Grenades

AREA F

Size, Acres: 10
Former Use: Grenade Courts
Present Use: Park
Probable End Use: Park
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed
Type: Grenades

AREA G (Active California Army National Guard - PRP Site)

Size, Acres: 5,800
Former Use: Ammunition Ranges; Impact Areas;
Administrative Areas
Present Use: Ammunition Ranges; Impact Areas;
Administrative Areas
Probable End Use: Ammunition Ranges; Impact Areas;
Administrative Areas
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed
Type: 3" Mortars, HE/WP, MK I; 2.36" Rockets,
HE/WP, M6, M10; 3.5" Rockets, HE/WP,

M28, M30; 60m Mortar, HE/WP, M49, M302;
81mm Mortar, HE/WP, M43/45, M57; 40mm
Grenade, HE/CS, MK II; Anti-tank Mine,
HE, M1; 75mm, HE/WP/Smoke, M48, M64,
M89; 37mm, HE, M54; 20mm, HE, MK I

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

7. **STRATEGY:**

AREA A: RAC 2;EE/CA
AREA B: RAC 4;EE/CA
AREA C: RAC 5;NOFA
AREA D: RAC 5;NOFA
AREA E: RAC 3;EE/CA
AREA F: RAC 3;EE/CA
AREA G: PRP Site, geographic district must investigate

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) reviewed this ASR on 20 May 98 and determined that an overall strategy for the site is RAC 2, EE/CA with site areas strategy as listed in paragraph 7. EE/CA is the strategy for Areas A and F because of confirmed OE and for Areas B and E because of potential OE. Strategy for Areas C and D is NOFA because there is no evidence of OE. Area G is currently the active CARNG installation Camp San Luis Obispo. This site was under lease to, and contaminated by, DOD during WW II and the Korean Conflist. The site was contaminated by the CARNG prior to, in between and after DOD control. Area G today has an active artillery range for the CARNG. Previously, active State controlled National Guard sites were treated the same as active DOD installations and therefore determined not eligible under DERP-FUDS (and not assessed in this ASR), but recent clarification of the policy from HQUSACE states that a State controlled National Guard site (active or inactive) (**NOT DOD CONTROLLED**) that was at anytime owned by or under the control of DOD is eligible under DERP-FUDS. **It has been determined that this site was contaminated by both DOD and CARNG, therefore, the TAG recommends Area G be investigated by the geographic district as a PRP site.**

OE Discovered during the Site Survey Team Inspection: During the site visit, the site survey team found an expended hand grenade fuze at a former hand grenade range on the El Chorro Park property (Area F). The team also saw a small collection of artillery fragments unearthed over the years during tractor disking by students and staff of property owned by Cal Poly

University in Area A. No other OE items were seen during the inspection.

HNC Safety Comments: Safety concurs with the recommendations and conclusions of the ASR. An updated RAC Form with a RAC score of 2 is attached for an overall assessment of the project (Minus Area G).

Area A, Range/Impact Area, 3,842.15 acres: Strategy of EE/CA is based on confirmed findings of OE: (1) El Chorro Park personnel stated they found OE (rockets) on their property. (2) The site team saw a collection of artillery fragments collected over the years on the Cal Poly University property. (3) A grenade was found on San Luis Obispo County School property. (4) The 1986 INPR for the Vollmer property mentions the discovery of artillery items. (5) Interviews with employees of Cuesta College revealed the discovery of OE in 1983. (6) Mr. Lidberg of California Fish and Game, disclosed that there were past discoveries of small arms casings and fin assemblies.

Area B, Down Range and Buffer Area, 4,185.43 acres: Strategy of EE/CA is based on the potential for OE: (1) The area is on the outer fringes of known Korean Conflict era small arms firing fans. (2) It is also on the outer fringes of the ranges belonging to the 5,800 acre CSLO ranges which have been used since well before WW II. (3) An interview with Harold Gill disclosed that artillery training was conducted at the site during WW II with a potential for OE in this area because of its proximity to the actively used ranges on the adjacent CSLO.

Area C, Hospital Area, 400.00 acres: NOFA applies since there is no record that OE is present. This area is now the California Men's Colony Prison.

Area D, Administrative Area, 716.58 acres: NOFA applies to this area since it is located south and west of State Highway 1 in what used to be an administrative area of the former CSLO. Records indicate that almost all training occurred north and east of State Highway 1.

Area E, Grenade Court, 5 acres: Based on historical documents, this area, located on property south and west of State Highway 1 now belonging to Cuesta College, was the site of a grenade court. However, there is no indication of OE in Area E and even during construction of the college, no OE was found. **While the ASR originally recommended a strategy of NOFA, the TAG decided on EE/CA because of the prior history as a grenade court and the limited acreage involved.**

Area F, Grenade Courts, 10 acres: Based on findings of OE, the strategy for these two 5 acre grenade courts located at El Chorro Park is EE/CA. A private contractor, hired by USACE in the late 1980s, discovered expended grenade fuzes and grenade fragments during an ordnance sweep. The OE team also discovered an expended grenade fuze during its survey of the area.

Area G, Range/Impact Area/Administrative, 5,800 acres: This area, the current Camp San Luis Obispo owned by the CARNG, is recommended for geographic district PRP action.

Other Projects: There are four HTRW projects for this site: Project Numbers J09CA203101, J09CA203102, J09CA203103, and J09CA203104 for landfills on National Guard property (first two projects), County property and Cal Poly University property, respectively.

Proposed Project: The author of the ASR states that an HTRW (lead) project should be considered for 173.20 acres identified on ASR plates as Area H to the north of the Vollmer and Cal Poly University properties in Area A and outside the boundaries of the site. The stated hazard is potential lead contamination from Korea Conflict era small arms firing fans which went beyond the former CSLO boundary.

Other Issues and Concerns: (1) There is much rain in the winter. (2) Some of the terrain is very steep and rocky so that public access is limited, (3) Property owner Vollmer (Areas A and B) opposes any remediation efforts.

CWM: There were no historical records located and no interviews conducted that would indicate that CWM is at this site.

Natural Resources: Federally-and State- listed threatened species occur within the site area. They are listed in ASR Findings, para 3f and Table 3-2, pages 8-9. 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: The ASR did not indicate if historical/cultural resources were found to be present at the site. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only