

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
8 APRIL 1997
HNC REVISION: 9 June 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 5 November 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range

SITE NUMBER: I04FL0403

LOCATION:

City: Day (Perry)
County: Taylor and Lafayette
State: Florida

PROJECT NUMBER: I04FL040301

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC's:**

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range consists of 12,522.47 acres and is located partially in Lafayette and Taylor Counties about two and one-half miles west, northwest of the town of Day, Florida. The site was developed and named in association with Perry Army Air Field at Perry, Florida. Terrain at and in the vicinity of the site is relatively flat. Surface drainage flow is generally from east to west, with numerous low-lying, shallow ponds. The western portion of the site is the Sand Pedro Bay, a large swamp area. Land use has mainly been for the production of marketable timber. Residential development is virtually non-existent.

4. SITE HISTORY: On 19 February 1943, Headquarters, III Fighter Command requested that an aerial ground gunnery range (12 targets) and a practice dive bombing range be constructed near Perry, Florida. The U.S. Government acquired 12,522.47 acres of land in Taylor and Lafayette Counties, Florida, located about 13 miles northeast of Perry Army Air Field (AAF) in order to construct the Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range. The range needed to accommodate the 140 fighter pilots stationed at Perry AAF. Fighter Pilot Replacement Training Center Units within the III Fighter Command also used this range.

On 24 July 1943, the Third Air Force requested authority for the construction of a demolition bombing target at the Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range. By 4 August 1943, the Jacksonville District Engineer received authorization to build an air-to-ground gunnery range, a practice bombing range, and a 20' by 20' range operations and supply building. Fighter Combat Crew Training Stations located at Dale Mabry Field, Perry AAF, and Thomasville AAF used the Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range.

On 12 May 1944, Headquarters, Army Air Forces authorized the construction of a demolition range, a strafing range, and a skip bombing range at the Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range. The demolition bombing range would be constructed (using white shell or limestone) with three concentric rings five feet wide at 100', 200', and 500' intervals. The impact area would be cleared to a radius of 2,300' with a 10' (later changed to 20') firebreak at 5,000' radius. Also, a 25' standard range control tower would be constructed. The strafing range would be located on the center line of the existing air-to-ground gunnery range and the skip bombing range dimensions would need 1,000' by 4,000' of cleared land.

Modification of all III Fighter Command ground gunnery ranges for use as rocket ranges went into effect by 7 April 1945. Construction of the rocket range at Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range (located 252' from the west marker of the dive bombing range) ended by 26 April 1945. Pilots also used the practice dive bombing range at Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range for rocket firing.

Sometime during 1946, the War Department declared the Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range surplus. Currently the site is privately owned and used for timber harvesting.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA

Size, Acres:	12,522.47	
Former Use:	Bombing and gunnery range	
Present Use:	Timber harvesting	
Probable End Use:	Same	
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed	
Types:	Inert Heads for 2.25" Practice Rocket, MK III, Mod 0; Bomb, Practice Target, 100 Pound, M75; .50 cal Casings	100
Types:	Potential Demolition Bombs	

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report was completed by the St. Louis District in April 1997.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA (RAC 4)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group reviewed this ASR and recommended a RAC 4 EE/CA

Personnel familiar with the site since the late 1940s indicated that the military carried out at least two ordnance sweeps and removal actions over the bomb targets and munitions firing areas after World War II. The exact types and quantities of items recovered are not known.

Subsequent to the ordnance sweeps, the same personnel knew that bombs were found on the north area demolition target, rocket heads were found on the gunnery range, and a practice bomb casing was found in the vicinity of the south area bomb and rocket targets. Plowing of the demolition target area in preparation for tree planting revealed several buried ordnance items.

The only two ordnance items still present in the area are a rusted 100-pound practice bomb casing and a 2.25" practice rocket head. Analysis of the bomb configuration indicated that it was an M75 series practice bomb.

Considering the soft nature of the soils in the former Perry Bombing and Gunnery Range and the presence of numerous swamp areas there, ordnance items could possibly remain on this site. Although neither the 1952 aerial photograph nor the 1996 site inspection revealed any craters at the Demolition Bombing Target area, logging

and tree-planting operations could have obscured these features.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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