

RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
OCTOBER 1997  
HNC REVISION: 31 AUGUST 1998  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 OCTOBER 1998

1. **SITE NAME:** Rocket Projectile Practice Range

**SITE NUMBER:** D01ME044000

**LOCATION:**

City: Georgetown  
County: Sagadahoc County  
State: Maine

**PROJECT NUMBER:** D01ME044001

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 2

**ASR RAC:** 1

**TAG RAC:** 5

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Rocket Projectile Practice Range consisted of approximately 766 acres of land located west of Georgetown, Sagadahoc County, Maine within the boundary of Reid State Park. The ASR includes all of Reid State Park as the site area due to its use by the military in an exercise in 1972

(The INPR states that the acreage is unknown while a copy of a permit in the ASR indicates the acreage was 481 acres during WW II.) The site can be reached by traveling 14 miles south on Route 127 from Route 1 in Woolwich. Reid State Park is the second most visited seashore park in the state of Maine with 150 to 200 thousand visitors a year. Two beaches, Mile Beach and Half Mile Beach are the largest attractions at the park.

The former range is bordered on the west by a forested area that leads to salt marshes with areas of standing water. A lengthy sand dune separates the forested area from Mile Beach and rocky shoals to the east. Salt water is found in the tidal pool, tidal marsh and the Sheepscot Bay of the Atlantic Ocean which borders the site to the east. Fresh water can be found below the surface. The coastal and marsh areas are subject to frequent flooding as a result of storms and tidal action. The average daily wintertime temperature is 20° F. Summer temperatures are usually cool with temperatures at 90° F ranging from none in some summers to 25 days at the hottest state stations in other years. Total average annual precipitation is 44 inches. Coastal areas are subject to heavy fog with incidences in some eastern portions of the coast being one day out of six.

4. **SITE HISTORY:** A revocable permit, dated 15 May 1944, was completed by the Navy and Sequinland Realty which gave the Navy permission to use 481 acres of land as a rocket projectile practice range for the duration of hostilities plus six months. A historical document stated that the range was to be completed by 1 April 1944. The range, also called Area William and the U.S. Navy Bombing Area, was used for rocket practice by naval pilots from Naval Air Station(NAS), Brunswick who flew primarily Corsair aircraft.

Improvements included two temporary buildings at the opposite ends of Mile Beach. Also, a strip of trees 50 feet wide and ¼ mile long was cut on the west side of the property to help guide planes on their approach to the target from the northwest. The planes fired at canvas stretched between floats anchored off shore from the beach about 200 to 300 yards. A danger area was established beyond the targets 5,700 yards east into the mouth of the Sheepscot River. Ordnance used was 5" and 2.25" practice rockets, and .50 cal. ammunition.

The realty company conveyed the land to the State of Maine in March 1946, subject to the existing lease. It is believed that the lease was terminated sometime after March 1946. NAS Brunswick was placed on inactive status on 1 October 1946, ending the need for the range. Reid State Park was established in 1946.

From 18 to 24 January 1972, Operation Snowy Beach was conducted at Reid State Park in which inert drill mines were dropped and recovered offshore, and a troop landing was made on the beach.

5. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**AREA A**

Size, Acres: 4  
Former Use: Rocket Target Area  
Present Use: State Park  
Probable End Use: State Park  
Ordnance Presence: **None**  
Type: Not Applicable

**AREA B**

Size, Acres: 102  
Former Use: Buffer Zone  
Present Use: State Park  
Probable End Use: State Park  
Ordnance Presence: **None**  
Type: Not Applicable

**AREA C**

Size, Acres: 380.7  
Former Use: Remaining Land, R/P Practice Range  
Present Use: State Park  
Probable End Use: State Park  
Ordnance Presence: **None**  
Type: Not applicable

**AREA D**

Size, Acres: 279.3  
Former Use: Exercise Area, 1972  
Present Use: State Park  
Probable End Use: State Park  
Ordnance Presence: **None**  
Type: Not applicable

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for the Rocket Projectile Practice Range was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in October 1997.

7. **STRATEGY:** **AREA A:** RAC 5;NOFA  
**AREA B:** RAC 5;NOFA  
**AREA C:** RAC 5;NOFA  
**AREA D:** RAC 5;NOFA

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met and discussed this ASR on 27 October 2998 and determined a strategy of RAC 5, NOFA for the entire site based on: (1) The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) completed during November - December 1997, and (2) The results of the last previous clearance earlier in 1997. Only practice rockets with expended rocket motors and inert, metal warheads have been recovered in these clearances, 150 items in the clearance conducted earlier in 1997, and 82 items in the TCRA. No high explosive items were found. These items do not represent a hazard requiring a strategy of EE/CA. Following the TCRA, no items remained on the surface. **In the future, if storm or shore action should result in further items surfacing on the beach, they should be reported through normal channels.**

**TCRA Findings and Results:** A TCRA was completed for a 300 by 200 foot section of beach during November - December 1997 and is documented in publication: DACA87-95-D-0027, Task Order 0016, prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville by Human Factors Applications, Incorporated, dated 21 April 1998, Subject: Final Action Removal Report, Ordnance and Explosives(OE) Time Critical Removal Action, Reid State Park, (Former Navy Bombing Area), Georgetown, Maine (On file in Huntsville). Flagged contacts were removed to a depth of several feet. A total of 82 ordnance items were recovered and **none contained explosives or explosives residue:** 27 5" rocket warheads, 6 3.25" rocket motors, and 49 2.25" rockets with a total of 1,114 pounds of ordnance scrap.

**TCRA Conclusions and Recommendations:** (1) A strategy of NOFA, RAC 5 applies to the 4 acres where removal activity occurred during the TCRA. (2) Mile Beach should be searched for ordnance to extend the boundaries of the cleared area to Todd's Point southward and northward to Griffiths Head. **(The TAG determined that further clearance is not required because any potential ordnance items would not contain explosives or explosive residue.)** (3) The vegetated sand dune and the wetlands should not be searched for ordnance items because these areas are restricted and the evidence of risk from OE is low while danger of harm to the environment from a removal activity would be high. **The TAG decided on a strategy of RAC 5, NOFA for the entire site including Areas A, B, C and D.**

Since the target was canvas stretched between floats 200 to 300 yards beyond the beach in the water, it is very likely that only practice rocket warheads were used, as also evidenced by findings during clearances at the site. Also, propellant in the rockets probably burned during flight so that this is actually a site

where there is no danger of any OE with explosive content. Since rockets were fired at a target off the beach in the water, it is possible that rockets will appear on the beach following storms.

**HNC Safety Comments:** Safety agreed with a strategy RAC 5, NOFA for Areas C and D. Safety recommended a RAC score of 2 for areas A and B instead of the ASR RAC form score of 1 or the downgrade to RAC 3 recommended in the Part IV of the ASR RAC form because there is a known OE presence at the site and no high explosive items have been found. The ASR Support District response supports a strategy of RAC 3 by stating that there is no evidence of high explosive at the site. **The TAG decided on RAC 5, NOFA for this site: a new RAC Form with a score of 5 is attached.**

**Area A, Rocket Target Area, 4.00 acres--NOFA, RAC 5:** Most or all of Area A was the subject of the TCRA completed along the beach. From February to June of 1997, about 150 OE items consisting of inert practice rocket warheads, expended rocket motors, and rocket components, were found in this area where winter storms had washed away sand so that they were on the surface. Most of these items were 2.25 inch sub-caliber practice rockets. Witnesses stated that in 1978, a storm had surfaced a large number of practice rockets which were covered by another storm before the items could be removed. There are also reports that after WW II, truckloads of practice bombs were removed and sold as scrap metal. The Site Inspection (SI) team saw no OE or OE debris in Area A in August, 1997.

**Area B, Buffer Zone, 102.00 acres--NOFA, RAC 5:** This area, adjacent to Area A, included land that pilots would have crossed in their approach to the target from the northwest. There is a report from EOD that rockets have been found in this area. Further reports indicate that local residents have found rockets to the west of the sand dunes adjacent to the beach. There is also an unconfirmed report that when the park was established, park rangers buried practice rockets behind the dunes in Area B in an attempt to clean the beach. This area includes nesting areas for endangered species and access by the public is not permitted. The Site Inspection (SI) team saw no OE or OE debris in Area B in August, 1997

**Area C, Remaining Land, R/P Practice Range, 380.70 acres--NOFA, RAC 5:** This area includes land under the original permit which was not affected by range activities. It includes beach, marshland, and park facilities. The Site Inspection (SI) team saw no OE or OE debris in Area C in August, 1997.

**Area D, Exercise Area, 1972, 279.30 acres--NOFA, RAC 5:** This area is comprised of land that was used by the Department of Navy during Operation Snowy Beach in 1972 and which was not included

in the other areas. A troop landing was made at the beach; only blank ammunition and simulators were used during the exercise. A thorough cleanup was made after the operation. The Site Inspection (SI) team saw no OE or OE debris in Area D in August, 1997.

**Clearances:** The clearances of the beach by EOD occurs after winter storms when sand is removed from the beach exposing rockets. Aside from the TCRA in November - December 1997, the last such clearance occurred earlier in 1997 with 150 items removed. Sand removed by storms in winter is generally deposited back on the beach by tidal action in the spring so that evidence of OE and clearances are more easily conducted in winter. Also, thousands of persons visit the park in the summer, complicating any required removals of OE.

**Natural Resources:** Federally and State threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in ASR Findings, pages 6-7, paragraph 3f and Table 3-2. March is the beginning of nesting season for endangered species in the dunes and wetlands west of Mile Beach. Any removal actions during this time would be greatly restricted or prohibited. 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:** No historical or cultural sites are identified at the site. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office and/or other like organizations.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** NOFA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** N/A NOFA