

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
MAY 1998**

**HNC REVISION: 13 OCTOBER 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 OCTOBER 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** San Felipe Bombing Target #67

SITE NUMBER: J09CA014300

LOCATION:

City: Kane Springs
County: Imperial
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA014301

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former San Felipe Bombing Target #67 consisted of 640 acres in Section 16, Township 13 South, Range 10 East, S.B.M., located eight miles southwest of Kane Springs, Imperial County, California. The site is near the intersection of California State highways 78 and 86 southeast of Salton Sea.

El Centro is about twenty miles to the southeast. The ASR site inspection team traveled seven miles west on highway 78 from the point where highways 78 and 86 intersect. They then turned left and headed south six miles on an unimproved Bureau of Land Management (BLM) power line access road which separates Range 9 East and Range 10 East. They then hiked two miles to the target location arriving at the target from the west. The site is owned by Michael and Daniel Burke of Irvine and consists of undeveloped desert land.

Topography of the site ranges from a low of 50 feet below sea level at the northern boundary to a high of zero feet (sea level), west. Surface water drainage is north through the Carrizo Wash and other tributaries of San Felipe Creek. San Felipe Creek drains into the New Canal which flows north and empties into the Salton Sea. Carrizo Wash and its tributaries in the site area are normally dry and only carry water during time of precipitation. Numerous dry washes cross the site from the Superstition Hills to the east and the Fish Creek Mountains to the south. A few unimproved trails cross the area surrounding the target. Photographs in the ASR show that the site is covered with sand and very little vegetation, mostly desert shrubs.

The region has an arid desert climate characterized by long hot summers, warm winters, little rainfall, sunshine, and low humidity. In January, the average minimum and maximum daily temperature is 44° F and 69° F. The averages for July are 80° F and 107° F. Average annual precipitation is three inches.

4. SITE HISTORY: On 1 November 1944, the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Eleventh Naval District, leased this property from the State of California for use as a dive bombing target site. The site was originally named the San Felipe Bombing Target, but was later designated by the Eleventh Naval District as Bombing Target #67 on 23 April 1945.

The controlling installation for San Felipe Bombing Target #67 could not be determined. However, NAAS Salton Sea and MCAS El Centro were the closest. While one installation may have controlled this site, it is possible that any of the many Naval or Marine Corps Bases in the Eleventh Naval District may have used the site. The ASR site inspection team found ordnance debris at this bomb target for the following: caliber .50 small arms ammunition, 20mm ammunition, and practice bombs.

On 9 November 1945, the Navy approved the disposal of the site. The lease with the State of California, Noy(R)-36994, was cancelled on 15 December 1945. Besides OE debris found at the site, the only other indications of military use found by the ASR

site inspection team were 100, 200 and 300 feet diameter concentric circles defined by piles of broken concrete/cinder blocks centered around coordinates N 33° 02.408', W 117° 56.389'.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA

Size, Acres:	640
Former Use:	Bombing Target
Present Use:	Undeveloped Desert Land
Probable End Use:	Undeveloped Desert Land
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	100 lb practice bomb, MK VII or XV; 3 lb miniature practice bombs, AN-MK 23; spent .50 caliber small arms and 20 mm ammunition

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report (ASR) for San Felipe Bombing Target #67 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in May 1998.

7. STRATEGY: RAC 4;EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) determined a strategy of RAC 4, EE/CA for this site based on ASR Recommendations and the ASR Support District response to HNC Safety Comments. The ASR site inspection team found the following OE debris concentrated at the location of the target in the northeast quarter of the site: 3 lb practice bomb AN-MK 23 (iron parts); 100 lb practice bombs, MK VII or XV; caliber .50 cartridge cases, links and projectiles; and 20 mm links and projectiles. No complete rounds or visual evidence implying the use of HE was found at the site. The ASR did not uncover any direct evidence of a current OE hazard at the site. The emphasis for the EE/CA should be in the northeast part of the site where the target was located and where OE debris is present.

HNC Safety Comments: He stated that he did not concur with a RAC score of 3 because the site is an isolated site with no structures or roads nearby; the SI team hiked 2 miles to the site. An updated RAC form with a score of 5 was attached in which the only difference was changing the Part II, Section E value from 5 to 1. In the ASR Support District response, the ASR author maintains that RAC 4 best represents the hazards represented by the site. He explains that the ASR RAC was 4 and not 3 as stated, they walked two miles because they did not want to damage their rental sedan, and the site is accessible to 4WD

vehicles as the team noted vehicle tracks in the area. **Given this additional information, which was not provided in the ASR, the TAG agrees with a RAC 4 for the site; if there are 4WD tracks at the site, it would not necessarily be the best strategy to classify the site as isolated even if there are no structures or roads nearby. The RAC form in the ASR with a score of 4 applies.**

Clearances: The archives search did not reveal any certificates of ordnance clearance, decontamination or dedudding associated with San Felipe Bombing Target #67. A document dated 15 November 1945 from the Eleventh Naval District states that the ground would be leveled and target markers removed; no reference is made to clearance.

CWM: The ASR states that it did not uncover evidence that any Chemical Warfare Materials remain on the former San Felipe Bombing Target #67.

Other Projects: None

Weather: Summer temperatures can be very high, sometimes reaching 100 degrees plus. Removal activities should be restricted to the winter months to reduce heat related problems.

Right of Entry: Right of entry permission will be required from owners prior to any work.

Natural Resources: Federally and State threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in the ASR Findings, page 3-4, paragraph 3.5. 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 does not address the presence of historical/cultural resources at this site. Any intrusive measures taken at the site 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