

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 APRIL 1999**

1. **SITE NAME:** Siskiyou County Airport

SITE NUMBER: J09CA095003

LOCATION:

City: Montague
County: Siskiyou County
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA095003

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC's:**

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICT: GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION:

Name: Mike Metro	Name: Anthony L. Mei
Office: CESPCK-PM-M	Office: CESPDP-PM-R
Phone: (916)557-7803	Phone: (415) 977-8247

ASR/INPR TEAM:

Name: Richard L. Pike
Office: CEHNC-OE-DC
Phone: (256) 895-1559

HEADQUARTERS:

Name: Sara Goodwin
Office: CEMP-RF
Phone: (202) 761-5223

ASR SUPPORT DISTRICT:

Name: Randal Curtis
Office: CEMVS-ED-P
Phone: (314) 331-8786

ASR TECHNICAL REVIEWER:

Name: C. Fredrick Girard
Office: SIOAC-ESL
Phone: (919) 420-8849

3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The Siskiyou County Airport included 985.44 acres and is approximately 4 miles northwest of Montague, California located in Siskiyou County.

4. **SITE HISTORY:**

The U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force used the Siskiyou County Airport over two separate periods, from 1942 to 1945 and from 1962 to 1972. The site first served as an auxiliary field and later as a dispersal base.

The U.S. Army Air Corps first leased the Siskiyou County Airport on 18 November 1942. The airport was constructed with funds from the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA). The Army upgraded and extended the original 6,500 foot runways to 7,300 feet to handle bombardment aircraft. The Army also added taxiways, a night lighting system, a power control building and enclosed the field with a barbed wire fence. By fall of 1943, the airfield was a sub-base of Hamilton Field, California, in the Fourth Air Force. With administration provided by Hamilton Field and without housing facilities, Siskiyou County Airport did not become a key installation.

On 1 May 1944, the Air Corps reassigned the airfield to the Chico Army Air Field (AAF). It remained an unmanned auxiliary field and primarily functioned as an emergency landing field for disabled aircraft or "itinerant army planes". Use of the airport in 1944 seems modest, as inspections found mud from cattle on the field at various times. On 15 October that year, Chico AAF transferred jurisdiction of the Siskiyou County Airport to the Air Technical Service Command (ATSC). On 3 November 1944, the Interdepartmental Air Traffic Control Board approved use of field by Siskiyou County as an alternate airport for commercial scheduled air carrier operations. On 30 December 1944, the ATSC declared the Army Air Forces no longer needed the airport and recommended it for disposal. On 23 January 1945, the ATSC placed the airport on inactive status and subleased portions of the site for agricultural purposes.

Following the initial military use, commercial operations of the airport continued. These included fire fighting operations by the U.S. Forest Service and flying small private aircraft.

Military use resumed on 13 September 1962, when the U.S. Air Force met with the Siskiyou County, Board of Supervisors. The Siskiyou County Airport seemed "ideally suited for use as a dispersal site because it was well outside of any targeted or fallout area." The U.S. Air Force subsequently leased and acquired joint use of the runways and exclusive use of other portions of the airport on 22 October 1962. A few weeks later, aircraft from the 83rd and 84th Interceptor Squadrons from Hamilton Air Force Base (AFB), California moved in as part of the Cuban Crisis dispersal operation. No regular training missions were scheduled for the airport during this period.

By 15 January 1964, these squadrons were replaced by the 82nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron from Travis AFB, California. In December of that year the Air

Force began improvements to the site including runway maintenance and the construction of a Mobile Control Tower, along with support facilities for radar. Other facilities included a runway overrun, operations apron, approach lighting, four aircraft shelters, a maintenance dock, utilities, an ammunition storage magazine and roadways. These facilities were considered complete on 17 December 1965.

The aircraft dispersal program at Siskiyou County Airport was transferred to the 28th Air Division, Hamilton AFB on 1 October 1965. The Air Force ended their dispersal program at Siskiyou County Airport by 19 July 1971, reporting the land owned in fee excess to the General Services Administration (GSA). The Air Force terminated the lease with the county on 15 May 1972, coinciding with GSA conveying the remaining parcels and easements to the county. The Siskiyou County Airport currently continues in use by commercial air operations.

The archive search uncovered no information relating to ordnance use or storage at the airport during World War II. Historical documentation does not mention any firing ranges, storage magazines or other ordnance structures at the airport during this time period.

Between 1962 and 1971, the U.S. Air Force maintained facilities at the Siskiyou County Airport as part of their Fighter Interceptor base dispersal program. Although a detachment of personnel maintained these facilities, historical documentation does not reveal the presence of any type of shooting range at the field. Weapons qualification and aviation ordnance training for detachment and transient personnel would have occurred at other ranges in the area.

The Air Force built a 19 bay ordnance storage magazine at the airport on the abandoned northeast/southwest runway. Reviewed records do not indicate the specific types of ammunition stored in this bunker. Assumably it encompassed typical ordnance for the interceptors of the time, which included gun ammunition (20mm), air-to-air missiles and possibly bombs and rockets. Stores would have been downloaded from aircraft during maintenance or ready ordnance stored at the facility for use by the dispersed aircraft during a potential crisis. The magazine would have also held a variety of Cartridge Actuated Devices (CADs) and Propellant Actuated Devices (PADs) used in aircraft subsystems for activating fire extinguishers, canopy releases, ejection seats and other functions.

Off the end of the abandoned runway, real estate maps denote an area as "Exclusive Use Ammo Disposal Area". Documentation did not reveal any other specifics regarding the use of this area. Analysis of the aerial photography distinguished a circular area about 400 foot in diameter with a center discoloring. The site inspection located a slight depression at this location with magnetometer "hits" at depth. They also found a piece of fragmentation from OE at this location. A farmer confirmed the presence of a pit used by the Air Force to destroy munitions. He has since filled it in to ease cultivation.

The archive search uncovered no documentation relating to CWM at Siskiyou County Airport. The archive search team found no indication that Siskiyou County Airport conducted CWM training, storage or disposal.

5. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Area A: Size, Acres: Approximately 1
Former Use: Ordnance Storage Area
Present Use: Evidence Storage for local
Law Enforcement Officials
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

Area B: Size, Acres: Approximately 3
Former Use: Ammunition Disposal Area
Present Use: Cultivated farmlands
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: Potential
Type: 20mm, Air-to-Air Missiles,
Bombs, Cads and Pads

Area C: Size, Acres: Approximately 981
Former Use: All other lands
Present Use: County Airport
Probable End Use: Same as above
Ordnance Presence: None

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Siskiyou County Airport was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1998.

7. **STRATEGY:** Area A: No DoD Action Indicated (NDAI)
Area B: EE/CA (RAC 4)
Area C: NDAI

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met and discussed this ASR on 27 April 1999 and determined EE/CA for Area B as numerous "hits" occurred while sampling this area with a magnetometer. The SI Team also found fragments of unknown origin in this area. The TAG determined DNAI for Area A and Area C.

There are known Federally-and State-listed species occurring in the site area. 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.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only

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