

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
ORIGINAL DATE: 20 SEPTEMBER 1998  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 APRIL 1999**

1. **SITE NAME:** Camp Van Dorn

**SITE NUMBER:** A04MS0024

**LOCATION:**

City: Centerville,  
County: Wilkinson and Amite  
State: Mississippi

**PROJECT NUMBER:** A04MS002402

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 3

**ASR RAC:** 2

**TAG RAC:** 2

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** Camp Van Dorn consisted of 41,544.02 acres near Centerville, Mississippi located in Wilkinson and Amite Counties. The Army built this site as a training camp for ground force divisions activating it on 20 September 1942.

Ordnance and Explosives (OE) and Chemical Warfare Material (CWM) related features of the former camp included assorted fixed ranges, two impact areas, an igloo area, a moving target range and a training aids area. The training aids area included bayonet courts, obstacle courses, gas chambers and grenade courts. A Booby Trap Training Area was authorized for Camp Van Dorn, but it is unknown if it was ever built.

4. **SITE HISTORY:** Early in 1941, rumors began surfacing about an Army infantry camp being built in the remote Centerville area. By 22 December 1941, the Army started engineering plans and design for the camp. Construction of the roadway systems began during April and May 1942, with buildings following shortly thereafter.

The Army activated the site as **Camp Van Dorn** on 20 September 1942. On 15 November 1942, members of the 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division were activated and started arriving. The 99<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division completed basic and advance training prior to moving on to Louisiana. Over the next three years, various units including: engineers, signal, ordnance, medical, field artillery and quartermaster, trained at Camp Van Dorn. Thus the base had an onslaught of activity and was never without troop activity.

Camp Van Dorn was declared surplus on 1 October 1945, when custody was turned over to the Fourth Service Command. By 1 January 1946, the Mobile District Engineer, assumed command of the site and on 18 March 1946, the entire installation was turned over to the War Assets Administration. The site is currently used for agricultural purposes, timber harvesting and residential areas.

Maps in this ASR identified two impact areas, an igloo storage and a training aids area. The training aids area included bayonet courts, obstacle courses, gas chambers and grenade courts. Each grenade court contained a main court, fire trenches, throwing pits, a crater court and angle court.

Other ordnance activities are discussed in documentation, but are not mapped. Documents signed in December 1943 construction of a "Booby Trap Training Area". If and where construction was completed remains unknown. A request from the Army for a "Danger Area" over this FUDS states **"weapons to be used are .22, .30, .50 caliber, 37mm, 57mm, 105mm, 155mmM2, 60mm and 81mm mortars"**. The firing positions for artillery and the locations of any mortar ranges also remain unknown. The impact areas are shown on a reservation map dated 3 January 1944. These areas are not designated specifically and two general areas are labeled as "Small Arms Impact Area" (west) and "Artillery Impact Area" (east).

Chemical familiarization training was conducted at Camp Van Dorn. During September 1944, a chemical warfare review was conducted and it showed the lack of basic knowledge by the troops stationed there. The Chemical Warfare Storage Branch was serviced by the Atlanta and Indianapolis Chemical Warfare Depots. Between 9-11 January 1944, representatives from these depots examined the chemical warfare stockpile at Camp Van Dorn and found excessive stock levels. They recommended that the excess stocks be disposed of. **The SI Team was not able to determine the types or quantities of overstocked CWM nor the disposition methods.** Buildings T-3004, T3104 and T-3203 were used for chemical training.

5. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Area A:	Size, Acres:	Approximately 40
	Former Use:	Igloo Storage Area
	Present Use:	Agriculture and timber
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	None
Area B:	Size, Acres:	Approximately 42
	Former Use:	Grenade Courts #1, 2, & 3
	Present Use:	Same as Area A
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Potential
	Type:	Grenades
Area C:	Size, Acres:	Approximately 25
	Former Use:	Fixed Ranges for Unknown Weapons
	Present Use:	Same as Area A
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Potential
	Type:	Small Arms, 37-60mm and 2.36 inch Rockets (Bazookas)
Area D:	Size, Acres:	Not Calculated by ASR Author
	Former Use:	Known Distance Pistol and Rifle Ranges
	Present Use:	Same as Area A
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Potential
	Type:	Rifle Grenades
Area E:	Size, Acres;	Approximately 1
	Former Use:	Gas Chambers
	Present Use:	Same as Area A
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	None

Area F:	Size, Acres:	Calculated as a portion Of Area G
	Former Use:	Moving Target Range
	Present Use:	Same as Area A
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
	Type:	37mm AP
		Potential
	Type:	81mm thru 105mm rounds
Area G:	Size, Acres:	Approximately 1,414
	Former Use:	Western Impact Area for Rockets and Artillery
	Present Use;	Same as Area A
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
	Type:	2.36 inch Rockets
		Potential
		37mm thru 155mm rounds
Area H:	Size, Acres:	Approximately 1,065
	Former Use:	Eastern Impact Area for Artillery
	Present Use:	Same as Area A
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
	Type:	105mm - 155mm HE Rounds
Area I:	Size, Acres:	Approximately 38,955
	Former Use:	All other lands
	Present Use:	Private residences, Agricultue and timber
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	None

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Camp Van Dorn 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
Area C:	EE/CA
Area D:	EE/CA
Area E:	NDAI
Area F:	EE/CA
Area G:	EE/CA
Area H:	EE/CA
Area I:	NDAI

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met and discussed this ASR on 27 April 1999 and determined an EE/CA for Area B, Area C, Area D, Area F, Area G and Area H as there were confirmed/potential debris from a variety of items encountered by the SI Team during their inspection of these areas. The TAG determined NDAI for Area A, Area E, and Area I.

This FUDS had a **Chemical Warfare Supply Branch**, however the stocks this branch managed are unknown. Training in chemical warfare would include gas chamber exercises to establish the proficiency of gas masks. The use of gas identification (sniff) sets, detonation gas identification kits or toxic gas kits has not been confirmed.

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.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

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