

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

**HNC REVISION: 25 SEPTEMBER 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 27 OCTOBER 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Victorville Precision Bombing Range
(PBR) #10

SITE NUMBER: JO9CA067600

LOCATION:

City: Victorville
County: San Bernardino
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: JO9CA067601

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Victorville PBR #10 consisted of 649.54 acres located 10 miles east of Lucerne Valley and 34 miles east of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California, in T4N, R2E, sections 1 and 12, and T4N, R3E, sections 6 and 7,

S.B.B. & M. The site is comprised of remote undeveloped desert land. The majority of the site is under the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). There are nine parcels of privately owned land, two and one-half acres each, near or bordering the western boundary of the site.

Topography of the site is nearly level with an average elevation of 2,850 feet and about 24 feet of relief. It lies within the Mojave River Area where elevation ranges from 2,800 feet to 3,300 feet. The natural vegetation is mainly desert shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Depth to groundwater is 135 feet. The ASR does not address the presence of any surface water or surface drainage patterns at the site although the Mojave River is mentioned.

The region has an arid desert climate characterized by long hot summers, warm winters, little rainfall, sunshine, and low humidity. In winter, the average daily temperature is 45° F. The average summer temperature is 77° F. Total annual precipitation is five inches at Victorville.

4. SITE HISTORY: In May 1943, the War Department acquired 649.54 acres, designated as Victorville Precision Bombing Range (PBR) #10, by transfer from the U.S. Department of Interior through Public Land Order (PLO) 125. The site was used as a practice bombing area by the Army Air Forces based at the former Victorville Air Field.

PBR #10 was one of 23 PBRs and 2 demolition bombing targets used by Victorville Army Air Field (AAF) for bombardier cadet training during WWII. The military improvements on the site consisted of frame butts and appurtenances, fences and gates, and a bombing target located in the center of the site as depicted on ASR maps. The target was composed of asphalt strips five feet wide configured as three concentric circles with radii of 100, 200, and 300 feet. In addition, there were two strips of asphalt which transected the concentric circles at right angles to each other. The only DOD improvements still on the site are the weathered remains of three concentric target rings of the asphalt bombing target. Practice 100 lb. bombs, M38A2, and M85, were utilized at the site.

A letter dated 1 November 1948 from the Assistant Chief of Engineers for Real Estate to the Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, requested cancellation of Public Land Order 125. This letter declared the bombing target to have been dedudded and certified to be free and clear of explosives or explosive objects reasonably possible to detect by visual inspection. All removable improvements such as fencing

and gates were removed. The transfer became official in March 1954 by PLO 948. Now, nine 2 ½ acre parcels are owned by private landowners while the remainder of the acreage remains under BLM control.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

AREA A

Size, Acres: 200
Former Use: Target Area
Present Use: Undeveloped Desert Land: (1)Privately owned zoned residential and (2)owned by BLM
Probable End Use: Undeveloped Desert Land: (1)Privately owned zoned residential and (2)owned by BLM
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
Type: 100 lb practice bombs: M38A2 and M85

AREA B

Size, Acres: 200
Former Use: Buffer Zone
Present Use: Undeveloped Desert Land: (1)Privately owned zoned residential and (2)owned by BLM
Probable End Use: Undeveloped Desert Land: (1)Privately owned zoned residential and (2)owned by BLM
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: 100 lb practice bombs: M38A2 and M85

AREA C

Size, Acres: 249.54
Former Use: Remaining Land
Present Use: Undeveloped Desert Land: (1)Privately owned zoned residential and (2)owned by BLM
Probable End Use: Undeveloped Desert Land: (1)Privately owned zoned residential and (2)owned by BLM
Ordnance Presence: **None**
Type: Not Applicable

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Victorville Precision Bombing Range (PBR) #10 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in June 1998.

7. **STRATEGY:**

AREA A: RAC 4;EE/CA
AREA B: RAC 4;EE/CA
AREA C: RAC 5;NOFA

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) determined an overall site strategy of **EE/CA, RAC 4,** with **RAC 4, EE/CA** for **Area A, RAC 4, EE/CA** for **Area B,** and **RAC 5, NOFA** for **Area C.** No energetic OE was discovered by the SI team. Debris from M38A2 and M85 100lb practice bombs was only found by the SI team in **Area A, the Target Area,** within one-quarter of a mile from target center. **Area B** has a potential for OE since it is the area which surrounds Areas A. NOFA is the strategy for **Area C,** that area at the perimeter of the site furthest away from the target center.

No incidents involving OE have been reported to local authorities concerning this site. There is a record of clearance for this site which states that it was cleared of all dangerous and/or explosive materials and was safe for the purpose of grazing, mining or other agricultural purposes

HNC Safety Comments: Safety Comments and ASR Support District replies are as follows: **(1)** Rewrite the ASR and include a new RAC. **Reply:** ASR is correct as written. **(2)** Does not agree with RAC scores for Areas A, B, C and D and ASR Findings. **Reply:** States that the RAC's for Areas A, B, and D are consistent with past and current practices with a score of 4; however, **recommends** that USAESCH downgrade these RAC's to a score of 5 and a strategy of NOFA. He also indicates that a RAC score of 5 for Area C is correct as written. **(3)** States that RAC recommendations do not agree with Findings; i.e., scrap is on the surface but NOFA is recommended. Also, the ASR states that there are residential properties but this is not mentioned anywhere except in Part II, Item D of the Area D RAC and there the information is incomplete. **Reply:** He explains that although zoned residential, there are no buildings on these lots and that the correct value for Part II, Item D of the Attachment D RAC is zero instead of 5; also the Total Hazard Probability on page 7 of this RAC should be 11 instead of 20. Refers to item 2 above in response to RAC scores. **(4)** States that the purpose and use of each target changed with leadership and training requirements. **Reply:** He states that there is no indication that PBR #10 was used for anything other than practice bombing practice. **The ASR has enough information for the TAG to make an informed decision regarding the site strategy. Although the TAG considered NOFA for this site as recommended in the ASR, it recommended RAC 4, EE/CA for Areas A**

and B, which is consistent with TAG decisions for other Victorville PBR sites. The only change the ASR author must make is a correction to the RAC form for Attachment D.

Clearances: The Deduidding Report at F-4 of the ASR indicates that a thorough clearance of the site was conducted. The report states in detail how eleven bombing ranges, including PBR # 10, were deduidded by six laborers and the 9800th TSU-CE Detachment #14, Bomb and Shell Disposal Team during the period 20 October 1947 through 24 January 1948 with the expenditure of 7176 hours of labor. The area to be searched was surveyed and marked; a Project Engineer and Detachment Sergeant controlled the search crew; a total of 840 tons of scrap were noted on the ranges; immediate target areas were more heavily impacted and a large percentage of the bombs were buried or partially buried necessitating several passes of the crew and considerable excavating; bombs were exploded or completely demolished using a sufficient charge of Composition C-3; and after detonations, the surrounding area was checked to insure that there was total destruction of the OE. The report ended by saying that the land is free from explosive material for the purpose of grazing, mining and/or agricultural purposes.

CWM: The ASR does not address presence of Chemical Warfare Materials at the site.

Other Projects: None

Site/Project Acreage: The INPR states that the site acreage is 640 acres. The ASR acreage is 649.54 acres based on two historical documents copies of which are included in the ASR.

Precautions for Weather: Extremely high temperatures prevail most of the year. Optimum time for strenuous activity would be in the winter.

Natural Resources: The threatened desert tortoise occurs in the vicinity of the site. 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: Other than one lithic scatter, no historical/cultural resources are recorded for 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