

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

HNC REVISION: 16 JULY 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 29 JULY 1998

1. **SITE NAME:** Victorville Precision Bombing Range
(PBR) #5

SITE NUMBER: J09CA069000

LOCATION:

City: Victorville
County: San Bernardino
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA069001

CATEGOR+Y: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 3

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Victorville PBR #5 consisted of 691.96 acres located 10 miles north of Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County, California, centered on section 4 of T6N, R1W, S.B.B & M. The vast majority of the site is comprised of

undeveloped desert land. The SI team did find a mobile home 175 yards north to northeast of the outer bomb target circle which was evidently occupied as there were numerous dogs present. The majority of the site is under the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with the exception of forty-six 2½ acre parcels of land, which are privately owned.

Topography of the site is nearly level with an average elevation of 3,200 feet. 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 150 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 691.96 acres, designated as Victorville Precision Bombing Range (PBR) #5, 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 #5 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 bombs, M38A2, were utilized at the site.

In November 1948, PBR No. 5 was informally returned to the U.S. Department of Interior by a Letter of Transfer. The Letter of Transfer 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 was removed.

The transfer became official in March 1954 by PLO 948. Now, forty-six 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/Residential
Probable End Use: Undeveloped Desert Land/Residential
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
Type: 100 lb practice bombs, M38A2

AREA B

Size, Acres: 200
Former Use: Buffer Zone
Present Use: Undeveloped Desert Land
Probable End Use: Undeveloped Desert Land
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: 100 lb practice bombs, M38A2

AREA C

Size, Acres: 291.96
Former Use: Remaining Land
Present Use: Undeveloped Desert Land
Probable End Use: Undeveloped Desert Land
Ordnance Presence: **None**
Type: Not Applicable

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Victorville Precision Bombing Range (PBR) #5 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in May 1998.

7. **STRATEGY:**

AREA A: RAC 3;EE/CA
AREA B: RAC 4;EE/CA
AREA C: RAC 5;NOFA

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group met and discussed this ASR on 29 July 1998 and concurred with USAESCH Safety Comments and the ASR that the appropriate overall site strategy is **EE/CA, RAC 3** with **RAC 3, 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 100 lb practice bombs only was found by the SI team in **Area A, the Target**, within one-quarter of a mile from target center. **Area B** has a potential for OE since it is the area which surrounds Area A. NOFA is the strategy for **Area C**, which is 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 no additional dedudding was required to it render safe for public use. **The ASR stated that a strategy of NOFA for the entire site was a consideration.**

HNC Safety Comments: Concurs with the RAC scores for each of the different areas (3 for Area A, 4 for Area B and 5 for Area C) and an overall RAC score of 3. Because of the remoteness of the site and its present use, he states that NOFA would normally be considered. However, because of the presence of the small trailer home on the site, he recommends continuance of the EE/CA process with RAC 3 for the site.

Clearances: A report in the ASR at F-16 by the 9200th TSU-CE Detachment #15, Bomb and Shell Disposal Team dated 17 June 1948 states: "All lands within the practice bombing ranges (Satellite to Victorville Army Airfield, California) in the Lucerne Valley, designated targets #2, #4, #5, and #18 have been given a careful visual inspection and have been cleared of all dangerous and/or explosive materials. To the best of my knowledge and belief these areas will not require additional dedudding to render safe for public use."

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

Other Projects: None

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: 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