

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

**HNC REVISION: 10 JULY 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 29 JULY 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Victorville Precision Bombing Range
(PBR) #6

SITE NUMBER: J09CA069100

LOCATION:

City: Victorville
County: San Bernardino
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA069101

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former PBR #6 consisted of 640 acres located 20 miles east of Victorville and 4 miles north of the town of Lake Lucerne, San Bernardino County, California in sections 22, 23, 26, and 27 of T5N, R1W, S.B.B & M. Access is

via State Route 247 and dirt trails; a four wheel drive vehicle is recommended. The easiest access to the site is via the trail from the north which parallels the power lines. The only current site use is for recreational vehicles, although some power lines and a buried pipeline run through the western corner. The site is owned by the Bureau of Land Management (320 acres) and approximately 15 private owners (320 acres).

Except for gentle foothills with some brush at the western edge of the site, the site is completely flat and almost totally devoid of vegetation. It is on a level, dry lake bed called Lake Lucerne which is 2,848 feet above mean sea level. Lake Lucerne measures 2½ miles east to west and 4 miles northeast to southwest. The target center is located on the western edge of the lake and the 640 acre site is entirely within the lake bed. Within two miles of the target, the Granite Mountains rise to an elevation of 4,500 feet. There is no surface water on the site. Parts of the lake bed may be covered with water after heavy rains, but this water soon evaporates.

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 47° F and the average daily minimum is 30° F. The corresponding temperatures for summer are 77° F with a average daily maximum of 97° F. Temperature extremes have been 3° F in January 1963 and 116° F in July 1972. Total annual precipitation is five inches.

4. **SITE HISTORY:** Victorville Army Air Field (AAF) acquired 640 acres for use as Victorville PBR #6 with the onset of WWII. In May 1943, 320 acres were transferred from the U.S. Department of the Interior to the War Department through Public Land Order 125. Two hundred forty acres were obtained by fee acquisition in a Declaration of Taking from Ted Butzin and Berto Olsen. The other 80 acres were leased from William and Hertha Young.

PBR #6 was one of 23 PBRs and 2 demolition bombing targets Victorville Army Air Field (AAF) acquired for bombardier cadet training during WWII. PBR #6 was used to support this training from about April of 1942 until April of 1945. The military improvements on the site consisted of frame butts and appurtenances, fences and gates, and a bombing target. 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 the asphalt bombing target and a pile of white quartz rock which marks the target center. The only ordnance known to have been

used was 100 lb sand filled practice bombs with a black powder spotting charge.

In March 1946, accountability for 240 acres was assumed by the War Assets Administration. In February 1949, the site was declared deduded and certified to be free and clear of explosives or explosives objects reasonably possible to detect by visual inspection. The transfer of 320 acres became official in February 1952 through Public Land Order 807. In February 1948, the other 80 leased acres were returned to the lessor.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

AREA A

Size, Acres:	472
Former Use:	Impact Zone
Present Use:	Not used
Probable End Use:	Not used
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	M38A2 100 lb practice bomb

AREA B

Size, Acres:	168
Former Use:	Buffer Zone
Present Use:	Not used
Probable End Use:	Not used
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	Not applicable

AREA C

Size, Acres:	168
Former Use:	Additional Impact Zone
Present Use:	Not used
Probable End Use:	Not used
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	M38A2 practice bomb

AREA D

Size, Acres:	682
Former Use:	Additional Buffer Zone
Present Use:	Power lines
Probable End Use:	Power lines
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	Not applicable

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

7. **STRATEGY:**

AREA A: RAC 4;EE/CA

AREA B: RAC 5;NOFA

AREA C: RAC 4;EE/CA (Needs to be added to INPR acreage.)

AREA D: RAC 5;NOFA (Not to be included in INPR acreage.)

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 that the appropriate site strategy is: (1) **RAC 4, EE/CA for Impact Zones, Areas A and C**, where the SI team found practice bomb scrap (also .50 cal spent bullets/cartridge case in Area A), and (2) **RAC 5, NOFA, for Buffer Zones, Areas B and D**, where the SI team saw no evidence of OE. Area D acreage, which was not included in INPR project acreage, will not be included in the scope of this project. **The Geographical District needs to amend the INPR acreage to include the 168 acres in Area C.**

HNC Safety Comments: Concurs with a **strategy of EE/CA, RAC 4 for Areas A and C only**. Does **not** concur with **EE/CA, RAC 4 for Areas B and D** because: (1) The SI team did not find OE scrap in these areas, (2) Possibility of OE in these areas would be very remote since there is a great distance to the target, and (3) Even in those areas where scrap was found, there was very little to be seen. **The TAG agreed with this evaluation—the ASR mentions that those parts of Areas B and D closest to the target are 3,000 feet away.**

ASR Statement: "Suggest that NOFA be considered. All records indicated that only practice bombs with a spotting charge were dropped on this target. There was a surface clearance in 1947, which authorized the site for unrestricted use. The ASR team did not observe any complete practice bombs or spotting charges on the surface, and M38A2 practice bombs generally do not penetrate the earth. The likelihood of an OE hazard remaining on this site is so small that NOFA should be considered." **Additionally: (1) The ground is hard, making it unlikely that there is subsurface OE, and (2) The surface is barren and devoid of vegetation that would make spotting OE difficult.**

Clearances: The Deduinding Report at E-7 of the ASR certainly indicates that a thorough job was done in clearing the site. The

report states in detail how seven bombing ranges, including PBR # 6, were dedudded by five laborers and the 9800th TSU-CE Detachment #14, Bomb and Shell Disposal Team during the period 7 July 1947 through 18 October 1947 with the expenditure of 8200 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 236 tons of scrap on the ranges was determined for removal; immediate target areas were more heavily impacted and a large percentage of the bombs were buried or partially buried necessitating three 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 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. However, the area has not been well-surveyed. 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