

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
JUNE 1994
TAG REVIEW DATE:**

1. **SITE NAME:** Walker Army Air Field

SITE NUMBER: B07KS028600

LOCATION:

City: Walker
County: Ellis
State: Kansas

PROJECT NUMBER: B07KS028600

CATEGORY: OE/CWM (test kits)

INPR RAC: NA

ASR RAC: 5 (RCWM Safety: 4)

2. **POC's:**

TECHNICAL MANAGER:

Name: Richard L. Pike
Office: CEHNC-OE-DC
Phone: 205-895-1559

GEO DISTRICT POC:

Name: John Vento
Office: CEMRK-MD-HB
Phone: 816-426-2671

GEO DIVISION POC:

Name: David Nusz
Office: CEMRD-PM-H
Phone: 402-697-2523

HEADQUARTERS POC:

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

SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:

Name: Thomas R. Freeman
Office: CELMS-PM-M
Phone: 314-331-8785

ASR REVIEW POC:

Name: Sally Parsons
Office: CEHNC-ED-SY-T
Phone: 205-895-1887

3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Walker Army Air Field (AAF) is located in Ellis County, Kansas, near the towns of Victoria and Walker. Before acquisition by the U.S. military, the approximately 1,888 acres of land which became Walker AAF were used for agricultural purposes. The site is presently used for agricultural purposes (grain crops) and cattle grazing. The INPR reports that there is an oil exploration well on the site

4. SITE HISTORY:

Between 1942 and 1944, the DOD acquired approximately 1888 acres for an air field for the training of crews and support groups for heavy bombers. Improvements at Walker AAF included operational buildings, troop housing, ammunition storage, field maintenance hangars, concrete runways and taxiways, and a gasoline storage and dispensing system.

Walker AAF was declared surplus in September 1946. The War Assets Administration (WAA) was unable to dispose of the installation as airport property so the newly renamed Department of Air Force withdrew the installation from the category of surplus in February 1948. The WAA retained accountability of 13.19 acres lease and 6.29 acres license and returned the rest of Walker AAF to the Department of Air Force in 1949. Then, on May 27, 1957, the Air Force reported the field as excess to the General Services Administration (GSA). The site was known as Victoria Air Force Auxiliary Field. According to the ASR, apparently no Air Force personnel were ever assigned there.

The former Walker AAF is currently owned by Wilfric and Alfreda Karlin of Hays, Kansas.

Many of the original improvements remain. The AShooting-in-Butt@ target range area at the north end of the site is intact and the INPR Site Visit Team found expended .30 and .50 caliber projectiles in and around the mound portion of the target range. No complete rounds have been found in this area.

The base had a gas chamber and demonstration area for the chemical warfare instruction of the crew training there. Both of these buildings have been razed. They were located in the operations area of Walker AAF. The land is currently being used as pasture.

Approximately one-half mile south of the north-south runway is the ordnance storage area with four underground igloos. The ASR mentions storage of Abombs@, Aammunition@, and Achemical bombs@ (incendiary). Many of the structures in this area remain partially or completely intact but unused. Directly west of the ordnance area is a former DOD landfill. The present owner's son found the landfill accidentally when trying to plant hay. According to the son, John Karlin, landfill materials were discovered approximately 2 feet below the ground surface. The INPR Site Visit Team observed pharmacy bottles, syringes, mortars and pestles, canteens, gasoline refueling nozzles, mess hall plates, .50 caliber shells, bricks, metal, and spark plugs in four 3-foot by 4-foot excavations John Karlin had made.

During the ASR Site Team's visit to the former Walker AAF, they found a roadway, not shown on the original base plans, which ran from the operations area to the landfill where they photographed an expended flare. (See Photos #9 and 10 in Appendix G) According to a report of controlled and other critical items of equipment dated 28 February 1945, Walker AAF had ten (10) M1 CW agent identification sets on hand. Final disposition of these items is unknown. It is possible that OE and, perhaps, the chemical ID test kits are buried there.

In 1971, the Air Force leased the northeast/southwest runway of Walker AAF for a study dealing with explosive cratering. However, during the ASR site visit, the current owner told the team that he had been told that the study had been done shortly after World War II. The craters are still visible and vegetation and trees have voluntarily grown in the crater holes. It is not known if the craters were formed from aerial bombing or from placed charges.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres:	Approximately 1888
Former Use:	Army Air Field
Present Use:	Grain crops, cattle grazing, oil drilling
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordinance Presence:	Confirmed: Expended Small Arms in A Shooting-in- Butt Range@; One Expended flare in landfill Potential: CWM ID Test Kits in landfill and Other Items at Closure
ASR Recommends:	RAC 5 NOFA
HNC Safety:	RAC 4 EE/CA

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** A draft Archive Search Report was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in June 1994.

7. STRATEGY:

- a. Retain RAC 4 but consider NOFA citing WRITTEN policy on landfills.
- b. Require UXO avoidance should intrusive activities occur in the area of the landfill. (i.e., more oil exploration wells)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

RAC for Conventional OE ONLY: In Part II of the HNC RCWM Safety RAC worksheet dated 9 AUG 1994, the hazard probability is 7 or **AIMPROBABLE.**@ If we assume worst-case* and score every type of conventional OE mentioned in the ASR for Walker AAF as potentially buried on-site, the score for Part I is 16 or **ACRITICAL.**@ The overall conventional OE RAC score would be RAC 5 NOFA even using the March 17, 1995 RAC worksheet.

*In this worst-case scenario, the **Abombs**@ referred to in the ASR are assumed to be HE. Incendiary bombs are also marked on the worksheet, which supersedes the score for flares. There is no evidence that bombs are on site today.

There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. See page 4-4 in the ASR for a listing of affected species. 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:

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:

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