

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
APRIL 1997
HNC REVISION: 21 AUGUST 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 4 NOVEMBER 1997**

1. SITE NAME: Williams Field Bomb Target Range #22

SITE NUMBER: J09AZ072200

LOCATION:

City: Oracle
County: Pinal County
State: Arizona

PROJECT NUMBER: J09AZ072201

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. POC'S:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Williams Field Bomb Target Range #22, also known as Oracle, consisted of 1,373.72 acres located approximately 3 miles northwest of Oracle, Arizona in Pinal County, in the eastern half of Section 13, Township 9 South, Range 14 East and all of Section 18 and the western 3/8 of Section 17, Township 9 South, Range 15 East; Gila and Salt River

Base and Meridian. The site is accessed by traveling north of Tucson on Highway 77 toward Oracle. Turn north on Willow Springs Road for about 8 miles then turn southeast on a pipeline access road for about 4 miles to the well on the north side of Section 18. The site is undeveloped brush covered desert land used for cattle grazing. The State of Arizona owns 1,350.40 acres which is leased to second parties. Harry F. Hillman III owns 23.32 acres in section 18.

The climate is characterized by a long hot season from April to October with prevailing temperatures above 90° F from May through September. Topography slopes to the northwest with an elevation change of 160 feet. The highest elevation at the site is 3,920 feet above mean sea level. Terrain is relatively flat, covered with low lying vegetation, and is also covered with many washes and scattered water wells. Big Wash River and three unnamed washes, or wet weather creeks, run through the site and eventually drain into the Camp Grant Wash to the northwest.

4. SITE HISTORY: No U.S. Army acquisition information was available for this site. The initial site information was obtained from a map of Bombing Ranges, Bombardier Training Department, Official History of Williams Field, at the Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. The site was established as a practice bombing range in support of Williams Field in Higley, Arizona. Selection and construction of ranges originally assigned to Williams Field started in December 1941. Planned improvements consisted of a road, oiled rings, a target structure (believed to be a wooden pyramid), and fencing. Known improvements consisted of an aiming circle with a diameter of 1200 feet.

The site was used in conjunction with bombardier classes which trained at Williams Field between commencement of the first class on 13 June 1942 and the completion of the last class on 13 February 1943. A total of 666 Bombardier Cadets were trained and dropped 200 practice bombs each. The date of disposal is also unknown. The State of Arizona now owns all site acreage except for Lot 1, 23.32 acres, in Section 18, Township 9 South, Range 15 East, which it disposed of by Partial Patent #4252 on 15 February 1949 for ranch property.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Size, Acres:	1,373.72
Former Use:	Practice Bombing Range
Present Use:	State and privately owned undeveloped desert land used for cattle grazing
Probable End Use:	Same
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed

Type: Bomb, Practice, 100 lb., M38A2

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report (ASR) for Williams Field Bomb Target Range #22 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in April 1997.

7. STRATEGY: RAC 4;EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group reviewed this ASR and a strategy of EE/CA, RAC 4 applies to the 1,373.72 acres described in the INPR even though some other historical documents indicate that the site acreage was 1200 or 640 acres. During the site inspection, the site survey team found wood debris at the center of the 1200 foot diameter aiming circle, a moderate amount of practice bomb debris within the aiming circle, and practice bomb debris widely scattered outside the aiming circle. No evidence of the aiming circle evident on historical photos was found during the site inspection. Some intact practice bombs bodies were also found. No spotting charges were found.

The ASR writer states that it is likely that bomb debris is scattered over the entire site with the largest concentration within the aiming circle which encloses an area of 26 acres. A trail leads directly to the aiming circle, which is on State of Arizona land near the center of the site. The site is fenced, but the public has access to the site.

HNC Safety Comments: He agreed with the strategy of EE/CA, RAC 4, pointing out that M38A2 practice bombs were found at the site. He also noted that there was conflicting information regarding the size of the site. The INPR figure is 1,373.72 and the ASR states that historical documents were found indicating 640 acres.

Clearance at the Site: The ASR describes, but does not include a copy of a deduinding report dated 21 April 1947, 9800 TSU Detachment, which states: (1)On 10 March 1947, a deduinding operation began on the six Williams Bombing Targets, each consisting of one section of land and with one target near the center of each. (2)Each target was swept a minimum of two times. (3)A total of 69 M38A2 practice bombs containing all or portions of the spotting charge were found on the six ranges.

Chemical Warfare Materiel: No documentation was found that indicates that chemical warfare activities occurred at the site.

Acreage at the Site: There is some confusion regarding the acreage of this site. (1)The FDE states that the site consisted of 1,373.72 acres. (2)Para 5.1 of the ASR Findings states that historical documents indicate the site consisted of 640 acres, citing Plate 2, which is not a historical document but a map

dated October 1996 showing the 640 acre area as well as the project boundary delineated in the INPR. The larger INPR area includes the smaller area of 640 acres. The ASR does not provide a copy of the historical documents showing an area of 640 acres.

(3) Several copies of historical documents are included in Appendix F of the ASR Findings, and although one document indicates the site is "1 sq. mi., more or less", it is definitely more in this case, with all but one describing the property as is indicated in the site description above. Adding the acres in this description results in a figure of 1200 acres. The ASR does state that "although there is a discrepancy regarding the size of the site, the aiming circles are well within both described areas (see Plate 2)".

Natural Resources: Federally and State threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in ASR Findings, pages 3-3 through 3-4, para 3.5. 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: The ASR did not indicate if historical/cultural resources were found to be present at the site. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office and/or other like organizations.