

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: 28 APRIL 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 29 JULY 1998**

1. SITE NAME: Yucca Air to Air Gunnery Range

SITE NUMBER: J09AZ073600

LOCATION:

City: Kingman

County: Mohave

State: Arizona

PROJECT NUMBER: J09AZ073601

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 2

TAG RAC: 5

2. POC's:

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICT:

Name: Debbie Castens

Office: CESPL-PM

Phone: (213) 452-3990

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION:

Name: Anthony Mei

Office: CESPDM-PM-R

Phone: (415) 977-8247

ASR/INPR TEAM LEADER:

Name: Richard L. Pike

Office: CEHNC-OE-DC

Phone: (256) 895-1559

HEADQUARTERS:

Name: Mohinder K. Siani

Office: CEMP-RF

Phone: (202) 761-1594

SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:

Name: Gerald V. Schwalbe

Office: CEMVS-PM-M

Phone: (314) 331-8788

ASR TECHNICAL REVIEWER:

Name: C. Fredrick Girard

Office: SIOAC-ESL

Phone: (815) 273-8849

3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The northern boundary of the former Yucca Air to Air Gunnery Range is near the Town of Yucca, Mohave County, Arizona, which is approximately 23 miles south-southwest of the City of Kingman. Although a small segment of the former air-to-air practice range lies north of Yucca, the largest segment extends approximately 37 miles to the south. The

southwestern side of the former gunnery range is bordered by the Colorado River, with the primary development being Lake Havasu City, a popular resort area. The Mohave Mountains lie in the western segment of the former range and the Hualapai Mountains border the range to the Northwest. The property is located all within Townships 12 through 18 North, Ranges 14 through 20 West.

The land consists of 559,629.35 acres of desert that was primarily undeveloped prior to use by the Army Air Forces during WW II. The area was used for livestock grazing.

The entire site remains primarily undeveloped. There are numerous dirt roads and a few ranch houses and private residences. The area supports cattle and sheep grazing.

4. SITE HISTORY: In 1943, approximately 560,000 acres of land (285,803 owned and 260,586 leased) were acquired for use as an aerial gunnery range. This became known as the Yucca Air to Air Gunnery Range and was part of the Kingman Aerial Gunnery School.

A 1944 Range Data Report indicates that the range was broken into a 140,000 acre air-to-ground range and a 425,000 acre air-to-air range. The center of the air-to-ground range was approximately 15 miles from the base. This practice area was supported by three auxiliary landing sites (Sites 5, 6, and 7). On 15 November 1945, this property was declared surplus, and from 1946 to 1950, disposed of and the various leases were canceled.

This range originally had five flight lines for aerial gunnery. Aircraft towing trailing aerial targets flew along the flight lines with the gunnery students firing from aircraft flying parallel to these lines. Flight lines 1 and 5 were near the borders of the range and firing was restricted to firing toward the center of the range only. In the later part of 1943, training was expanded to include strafing of ground targets. Both the aerial and ground firing for students were limited to .30 and .50 caliber weapons.

In 1944, training was conducted using P-39 and P-63 aircraft as targets, with the students either firing frangible bullets or using gun cameras instead of live ammunition. The P-39 and P-63 aircraft were armed with a 37mm cannon. Uncovered information indicated that these cannons were fired on the Kingman Air to Air Gunnery Range. Since the subject range is part of the same school, it could be assumed that the pilots of these aircraft were allowed to fire their cannons occasionally as part of their proficiency training on the aircraft. Historic maps identify "Artillery Range Markers" on Yucca Air to Air Gunnery Range. These "markers" appear as rectangular areas graded into the desert floor. Since archives research did not collect evidence of the use of artillery on this range, it is believed that these

markers were used to mark flight lines. They may have also been used as ground strafing targets.

One collected map identified an abandoned bomb target just south of the Franconia Siding near the edge of the range. No other information has been recovered to indicate that bombs were used on this range. However, this target is not far from the edge of the California-Arizona Maneuver Area C and may have been set up for use by this activity. **(Evidence of weapons usage, other than .30 and .50 caliber machine guns, was not observed during the site visit.)**

In 1964, the area of this gunnery range was part of an area used in exercise DESERT STRIKE. No live ammunition was to be used in this exercise. However, training ammunition such as blanks, simulators, etc. may have been used.

No information on CWM activities on Yucca Army Airfield or the Yucca Air to Air Gunnery Range has been located. As a subpost and training area assigned to Kingman AAF, it can be assumed that all chemical training took place on Kingman AAF.

No formal documentation relating to the decontamination of Yucca Air to Air Gunnery Range site was located during the archives search.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Entire Site:	Size, Acres:	Approximately 560,000
	Former Use:	Cattle & Sheep Grazing
	Present Use:	Primarily Undeveloped, Dirt Roads and a few Private Residences
	Probable End Use:	Same as above
	Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
	Type:	.30 & .50 caliber debris

6. CURRENT STATUS:

The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Yucca Air to Air Gunnery Range was completed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in December 1997.

7. STRATEGY: Entire Site: NOFA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group met and discussed this ASR on 29 July 1998 and determined NOFA for this entire site. A revised Risk Assessment Code form with a score of 5 is

attached. The author states that **"Evidence of weapons usage, other than .30 and .50 caliber machine guns, was not observed during the site visit."** His general statement that **"P-39 and P-63 were armed with a 37mm cannon"** were used at Kingman Air-to-Air Gunnery does not imply that 37mm rounds were used on this site and after his discussion with HNC Safety, Kingman A-T-A Gunnery range became a RAC 5/NOFA (See attached F-7 for Kingman).

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: NOFA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: N/A NOFA