



FACT SHEET

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Study of Former Camp Ibis Site Scheduled

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has contracted with Parsons, a consulting firm, to perform a study of the former Camp Ibis. This study will help determine what types and how much ordnance is on the site, and where they are located. This information will help officials determine if there are any hazards or potential problems posed by the presence of ordnance and explosives that would affect the use of the site.

Risk management alternatives will be also be evaluated.

When suspected ordnance is found, the area will be marked. Experts trained in ordnance removal will then carefully uncover any metal objects within a foot of the surface, and determine if detonation is needed. Any suspected live ordnance will be connected to a small charge, covered with wet sandbags, and detonated.

The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2003. The public will be given an opportunity to review the information and make comments on the findings before a final decision on how to proceed is reached.

For more information on the study, visit the Camp Ibis website at www.projecthost.com.



This plaque was placed on the site of the former Camp Ibis.

Public Meeting on Study to be Held

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites the public to attend a meeting to learn the details of the study of the former Camp Ibis.

TUESDAY, JAN. 6 AT 6 P.M.
NEEDLES CITY HALL
817 THIRD STREET

What to do if you find an ordnance

If you should find ordnance, **DO NOT TOUCH OR REMOVE IT.** While some ordnance may not contain explosive materials, others probably contain black powder or other explosives. Over time, these explosive materials can become unstable and may detonate. If you have any of these items, please contact your local police or sheriff's department so the item can be evaluated. As tempting as it might be, you should never take ordnance as souvenirs.

The Three A's

AWARENESS

Be aware that the object is dangerous and should not be moved.

AVOIDANCE

Do not touch the object.

ADVISE

Call 911 or your local police or sheriff's department at 000-000-0000 to report the location of the ordnance.

Learning the History of the Former Camp Ibis site

Camp Ibis, a former U.S. Army installation, is located 21 miles northwest of Needles in San Bernardino County, California. The former installation consisted of approximately 13,398 acres of training area. Camp Ibis, which was established in 1942, was active until 1944.

In March 1942 the War Department tasked General George S. Patton Jr. with finding a desert training site that matched the conditions of North Africa. After three days of surveying the area by plane and on foot, General Patton decided that the Southern California area was the ideal

location for the new Desert Training Center. The total Desert Training Center, which was renamed the California-Arizona Maneuver Area (CAMA) in 1943, encompassed approximately 12 million acres covering three states.

Construction on Camp Ibis, which was one of 10 major camps in the Desert Training Center, was started in late fall of 1942 and completed around March 1943.

The main mission of Camp Ibis and the others that comprised the Desert Training Center was to train troops for desert warfare. During the time that Camp Ibis was in operation, various armor divisions were

trained there. The other priority of the former Camp Ibis was testing equipment, ammunition, weapon systems and supplies. Because the commanders of the Desert Training Center wanted realism in the training and maneuvers both practice and ‘live’ ammunition was used to give the troops a sense of what combat was really like. The War Department closed Camp Ibis on May 1, 1944.

Today, the former Camp Ibis is part of an area managed by the Bureau of Land Management. To learn more about the history of the Desert Training Center/CAMA and the former Camp Ibis, visit the project website at www.projecthost.com.

Questions? Need more info? Call Project Manger Tawny Tran at 213-452-3991

For more information, visit our website at: www.projecthost.com

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