



Overview

The former Deming Precision Bombing Range No. 24 is located in Sierra County, New Mexico, approximately 50 miles northeast of the city of Deming and 25 miles southwest of Truth or Consequences. The site encompasses 1,012 acres and is used for cattle grazing, mining and recreational activities. Today, the property is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the State of New Mexico.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the organization responsible for environmental remediation of properties that were formerly owned by, leased to or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense and transferred from DOD control prior to 17 October 1986. These properties are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites.

Since hazards from military munitions may remain at the site, the Corps of Engineers encourages you to make safety a priority by following the **3Rs of Explosives Safety**: (1) **Recognize** when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous; (2) **Retreat**, do not approach, touch, move or disturb a suspect munition, but carefully leave the area; and (3) **Report** immediately what was found to local law enforcement — **call 911**.

History



A Beechcraft AT-11 bombing training plane similar to the aircraft used at the Deming Army Air Field. Source: U. S. Air Force

In 1942, the War Department officially acquired 960 acres from the public domain for Deming PBR No. 24. The site was used until 1944 as a daytime precision bombing target by pilots and bombardiers stationed at Deming Army Air Field.

The practice bombing target consisted of a bull's-eye with four concentric circles at intervals of 100, 200, 300 and 500 feet from the target center. The target was surrounded by a large oval track that served as a firebreak. A night target was located west of the day target.

The site was declared surplus in October 1945 and transferred to the Department of the Interior in 1946.



Aerial photo of the concentric circles of the daytime bomb target. Source: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers



Example of a 100-lb. practice bomb remnant. Source: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Site Investigation

In 1991, the Corps of Engineers performed a field visit and limited records review of Deming PBR No. 24, and documented the findings in an Inventory Project Report. Based on their findings, the site was established as a Formerly Used Defense Site with potential military munitions risks.

The May 1995 Archives Search Report documents a field visit; a historical records review; interviews with local citizens; and an analysis of historical aerial photographs, and site maps. During the visit, the field team identified the concentric circles surrounding the bomb target as well as practice bomb debris scattered throughout the site. A search for previously

unknown training areas was also conducted. No evidence of high-explosive bombs or unexploded spotting charges was discovered at either location.

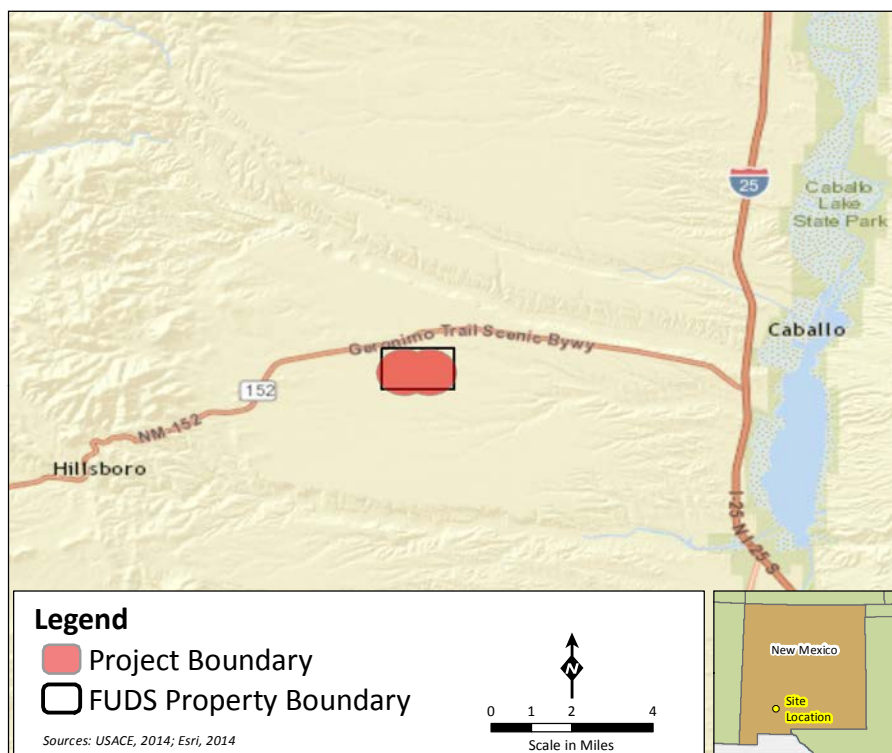
In 2004, the Corps of Engineers completed a supplement to the Archives Search Report. Based on previously obtained information, the Corps of Engineers applied standard bombing target configurations to the site. A review of historical photographs identified a night target located west of the day target.

Another site visit consisting of a visual inspection of the ground surface was conducted in October 2009 in support of the 2010 Site Inspection Report.

The investigation focused on the daytime bombing target and the suspected nighttime bombing target. Debris from spotting charges, practice bombs and high-explosive bombs were discovered; however, there was no evidence of munitions constituents in the soil samples.

In 2016, a Remedial Investigation was conducted to collect data on the nature and extent of munitions that may remain on the property. Only munitions debris was identified during the investigation. An analysis of the investigation findings will be presented in the 2017 Remedial Investigation Report.

Map of Deming PBR No. 24



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Hazards from military munitions may still remain within the former camp. Protect yourself by following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:

- R**ecognize
when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous;
- R**etreat
do not approach, touch, move or disturb a suspect munition, but carefully leave the area;
- R**eport
immediately what was found to local law enforcement — **call 911**.



US Army Corps of Engineers

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District Public Affairs Office at 505-342-3106 or cespa-pa@usace.army.mil. To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil.

