

Former Hereford Army Air Field

Department of Defense (DoD)

Formerly Used Defense Site ([FUDS](#))

Boundaries:

The former Hereford Army Airfield (HAAF), Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) project number J09AZ039101, is in the south west corner of Cochise County, Arizona. The former airfield, which is part of the site, is south of East Hereford Road, west of South Palominas Road, east of Mellak Road and north of State Route 92.

Site Status Update:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' [Military Munitions Response Program](#) (MMRP) began the Site Inspection (SI) process in 2010. There is only one munitions response site (MRS) currently associated with the HAAF FUDS. A document titled "Acquisition of Hereford Army Air Field,"

dated November 18, 1943, stated that HAAF had no target ranges. However, a 1942 Field Progress Report included figures that depicted a skeet range and ordnance facilities located southeast of the runways. It is likely that the ordnance facilities refer to the ammunition and pyrotechnics storage identified in the 1994 Inventory Project Report (INPR). It is unknown if the skeet range identified on the construction progress map was constructed. Aerial photographs from 1942 and 1956 do not clearly depict any structures in the area identified on the construction map. For the purpose of this SI, one MRS has been proposed to identify the location of the skeet range as depicted on the construction progress maps included with Field Progress Reports.



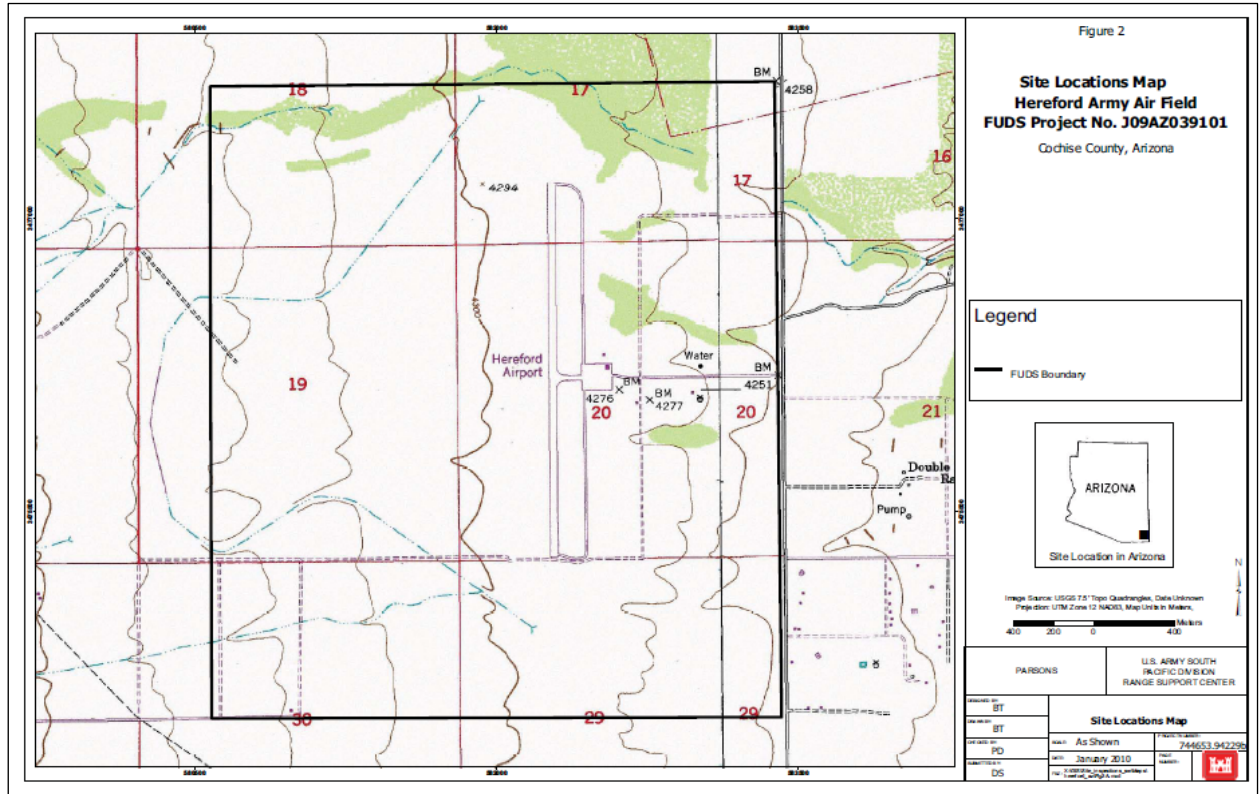
1942 Areal Photo of Hereford Army Air Field

Community Involvement Activities:

No community involvement activities are planned at this time.

Site History:

The War Department acquired 2,548-acres for the HAAF beginning in August 1942 from a cattle company and several private landowners. Construction program documents indicate that the base was scheduled for occupancy in December 1942. HAAF, also known as Douglas AAF Auxiliary Field No. 5, was used as an auxiliary field for Douglas AAF. Improvements included three runways, taxiways, a concrete parking apron, 38 buildings, 18 miscellaneous structures, and a skeet range. The runways were constructed in a triangular configuration and ranged in length from 7,000-feet to 9,200-feet. The base offered specialized night training in B-25 and B-26 bombers. Historical



Hereford Army Air Field Project Site Locations

documents also indicate that UC-78 aircraft were also flown out of Hereford AAF. Four ordnance related structures were also identified, as well as two ammunition storage facilities. The Hereford AAF had a housing capacity for 598 troops.

The site was declared surplus in October 1945, and custody was assumed by the War Assets Administration in October 1946. The War Assets Administration terminated the leases and sold the purchased property to private owners that apparently accepted ownership of some of the improvements in lieu of any restoration that might have been required. Currently, all of the property is privately owned and contains residences, ranchland and irrigated cropland. The site has been used for ranching operations which included removal of almost all DoD improvements so that grasses could be planted. The remaining evidence of DoD improvements are the deteriorating concrete parking apron and the runways and taxiways, including a pile of concrete tower bases.

As the INPR Supplement did not include a layout for the MRS, it is assumed that a shooting field for the range would have been laid out in a semi-circle with a 63-foot radius. The safety fan would have consisted of a semi-circle with a 900-foot radius that utilized the same apex as the shooting field. This range would have been oriented to the south. As a result, a 29-acre Skeet Range MRS is proposed for investigation at the former HAAF. Munitions used at the site were small arms, 12 gauge shot guns.



B-25

There are no records or certificates of clearance, decontamination, or dedudding of the site. The 1993 INPR site visit team did not observe any munitions debris related to the former HAAF. According to the INPR there have been no reports of ordnance on the site.

2010: The initial Technical Project Planning (TPP) meeting was held for the project at the offices of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in Phoenix on October 21. From this meeting a TPP Memorandum was drafted. The TPP Memorandum outlines the basis upon which the field investigation is carried out. The field effort will be spelled out in the Site Specific Work Plan (SSWP) Addendum to the Programmatic Work Plan which is scheduled to be issued in 2011.

Contaminants:

No contaminants have yet to be identified at the project site. Potential contaminants that will be investigated include: [Munitions and Explosives of Concern](#) (MEC), selected metals ([antimony](#), [copper](#), and [lead](#)) and [Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons](#) (PAHs). This partial list may change as new data becomes available.

Site Hydrogeology:

The HAAF lies on the east side of the San Pedro River Valley Basin. The basin is formed by northwest-trending mountain blocks, and bounded to the west by the Huachuca Mountains. [Alluvial](#) deposits from the basin are derived from the adjacent mountains and are generally composed of a mixture of conglomerate, sandstone, gravel, sand, silt, and clay. The basin fill has a thickness up to 350 feet, subdivided into upper and lower units, and overlies the Pantano Formation. The Pantano Formation is comprised of well cemented gravel, conglomerate, sandstone and siltstone and has a very low permeability.

The regional aquifer is reported by the [United States Geological Survey](#) and the [Arizona Department of Water Resources](#) to be approximately 300-500 feet below the land surface. The general direction of regional groundwater flow is to the west towards the San Pedro River.

Contacts:

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*In Arizona, but outside the Phoenix area, call toll-free at (800) 234-5677

Information Repository:

Site files are located at the ADEQ Main Office located at 1110 W. Washington Street, Phoenix. Please contact (602) 771-4380 or (800) 234-5677 to schedule an appointment with 24-hour notice to review these documents. Once all documents requested have been collected, you will be contacted for a review Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the ADEQ Records Management Center, 1110 W. Washington Street in Phoenix, AZ.