



Arizona

Yuma Proving Ground Formerly Used Defense Site

Facility and Location

The 5,249 acre Yuma Proving Ground Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) was part of a larger 13,494 acre tract, known as Yuma Test Branch. The Yuma Test Branch was activated in 1943 and operated as an engineer facility responsible for testing boats, bridges, vehicles, and well drilling equipment in a desert environment. During World War II, the site was used to train Army personnel in water crossing and to test mobile bridges. This included aerial strafing of various forms of bridges in order to determine bridge vulnerability and the proper means of bridge protection during enemy fire. A practice mine field (MRS 01) was also constructed and was used to develop a method of attacking mine fields through engineering means. The Yuma Test Branch was deactivated in 1949, but was reactivated as the Yuma Test Station in 1951. The new mission of the Yuma Test Station was desert testing of combat and transport vehicles, and climatic and engineering testing of weapons and ammunition. During the 1950s, the Yuma Test Station was assigned the mission of research and development, engineering, and acceptance testing of artillery ammunition, small arms, recoilless rifles, mortars, grenades, mines, anti-aircraft weapons, ammunition, and fuzes. In 1962, Yuma Test Station was assigned to the Army Test and Evaluation Command. At this time it was designated as the Yuma Proving Ground.

There are three Munitions Response Sites (MRSs) at the Yuma Proving Ground: MRS 01 (a practice minefield) consists of 1,153.93 acres and is situated on the northern portion of Yuma Proving Ground. The MRS was used to develop a method of attacking minefields through engineering means. MRS 02 (Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range No. 1) consists of 640 acres and is situated on the northern portion of Yuma Proving Ground. It overlaps MRS 01 and was used to conduct aerial strafing tests. MRS 03 (Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range No. 2) consists of 640 acres and is situated on the southern portion of Yuma Proving Ground. The MRS was used to conduct aerial strafing tests.

Media Sampled and Findings

Surface Water — In 2009, six of seven samples detected perchlorate from 0.05 to 1 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb. MRS 01 has been recommended for Remedial Investigation for munitions and explosives of concern with no further munitions constituent (MC) evaluation. The exclusion of further MC sampling was based upon the results of the media sampling conducted during the Site Investigation phase. MRS 02 and MRS 03 have both been recommended for No DoD Action Indicated.