



Mississippi Van Dorn Army Training Camp

Facility and Location

Van Dorn Army Training Camp consisted of 41,544 acres near Centreville. The Army activated the camp as a basic and advanced divisional infantry training camp on September 20, 1942. Ground forces required proficiency in weaponry, including mines, booby traps, bazookas, grenades, rifles, machine guns, and field artillery. The Archive Search Report identified two impact areas, an igloo storage area, and training aids area. The camp was declared surplus on October 1, 1945 and deactivated on December 31, 1945.

At Van Dorn Army Training Camp two impact areas are shown onsite plans as 'restricted to grazing' with the western impact area 'Impact Area, 155mm-105mm-37mm high explosive (HE) shells, and bazooka weapon (M1) HE rockets' and the eastern impact area 'Impact Area, 155mm-105mm HE shells.' The rocket refers to the M1 that fired the 2.36 inch rocket. The firing positions for artillery and the location of any mortar ranges were not located onsite plans, though aerial photography clearly shows three known distance rifle ranges, nine fixed ranges, and a moving target range. Site plans denote 25,300 acres as being searched for ordnance and explosives, now called munitions and explosives of concern. This relates to the authorized decontamination of the camp completed on December 11, 1946. The Certificate of Dedudding stated all artillery and bombing ranges "have been given a careful visual inspection and have been cleared of all danger and/or explosive materials reasonably possible to detect..." In 1950, a Certificate of Clearance included the whole camp. The training aids area included bayonet courts, obstacle courses, gas chambers, and grenade courts. Each grenade court complex contained a main court, fire trenches, throwing pits, a crater court, and angle court. The camp also planned to have a 'booby trap training area' but, if constructed, the location is unknown.

Media Sampled and Findings

Surface Water — In 2007, one of two samples detected perchlorate at 0.01 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Not Applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.