



Texas

Matagorda Peninsula Bombing Range

Facility and Location

Former Matagorda Bombing and Gunnery Range is located approximately 13 miles southwest of the city of Matagorda in Matagorda County. The U.S. acquired 94 fee acres and leased 13,606 acres between 1940 and 1942 for use as a sub base of Foster Field in Victoria. The range was utilized for the training of pilots and bombardiers. It was used for aerial gunnery and bombing, both practice and high explosive.

An airfield was also constructed on the site. Historical records indicate that the range originally consisted of 26,226 acres. There were four aerial gunnery targets aligned along the bay side of the peninsula and one bombing target. Ordnance related features on the airfield proper included a firing-in-butt and a skeet range. Reportedly, a small arms range was also constructed and subsequently relocated. Historical documents indicate the presence of an open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) area. Documentation states that the AT6, P-51, P-38, P-47, and P-61 type aircraft were used to fire machine guns and rockets and to drop practice bombs on ground targets on Matagorda Peninsula. Eight air-to-ground gunnery and six bombing targets were originally constructed. Prior to 1945, bombing occurred at several unknown locations. Documentation states ordnance of all types, including chemical munitions, were found throughout the site and either destroyed, buried, or dumped at sea. There are currently over 300 property owners at the site.

Media Sampled and Findings

Groundwater — In 2007, two samples reported no detection.

Appropriate Actions

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