

Precision Bombing Range No. 2

Location

- The PBR No. 2, FUDS property number F10ID0113, is located approximately 4 miles south of Marsing and 14 miles southwest of the city of Nampa, Idaho in the County of Owyhee. The PBR is located in Range 4 West, Township 2 North Section 28, 29, 32, 33, and Range 4 West, Township 1 North Section 5. The PBR No. 2 is also known as the Gowen PBR No. 2

History

- The Department of the Army, Gowen Army Airbase, built and utilized the bombing range for heavy bombers high altitude bombardment training from December 1943 to November 1946.
- The Department of the Army, Gowen Army Airbase, built the bombing range for heavy bombers high altitude bombardment training. Normal training of bombardment groups at Gowen Army Airfield use 100 pound (lb) practice bombs on the range. The range utilized an overlapping day and night bombing target.
- Precision Bombing Range No. 2 was used as a “bulls eye range” scored by photo. Two overlapping bombing targets are identified; (1) a daytime bombing target and, (2) nighttime bombing target. The daytime bombing target, which consists of 5 circular rings with a maximum diameter of 1,000 ft, was constructed first since it is the only target identified on the 1943 photos. The nighttime target, consisting of two rings and a cross hair, was constructed by 1946 based on aerial photographs.
- Practice bombing missions would have typically used practice bombs, such as the M38A2 practice bombs. These bombs were stored in the ordnance area at Gowen field. Bombing altitudes were varied to give experience in high, medium and low altitude bombing.
- A typical bombing run was made on Bombing Target No. 2 and 3 (day and night targets) in the same mission. Bombers would enter at magnetic heading 240° after crossing the southeast tip of the Deer Flat Reservoir for the initial approach to Bombing Target No. 2. After a bomb impact on Bombing Target No. 2, they would turn left on a heading of 150° to Bombing Target No. 3. After bombing No. 3, they would turn again to heading 330° for another run to Bombing Target No. 2. Numerous runs would continue this pattern of bombing.
- There were no documented permanent constructed facilities on the range. However, a concrete observation bunker was found during the 2003 site inspection visit. After Army

Air corps usage, the land remained unimproved and a part of lands of the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

- USACE Site Surveys on September 1, 1987 and April 21, 2003 found evidence of large numbers of bomb fragments, numerous bomb craters and an observation bunker. The observation bunker was a three sided, open topped, reinforced concrete structure with dimensions of 8 feet wide by 8 feet long and 5 to 6 feet high.

Project History

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 1990. *DERP-FUDS, Inventory Project Report for Site No. F10ID0113, Precision Bombing Range No. 2 (Marsing), Owyhee County, Idaho. August 1990.*
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2002. *Amended DERP-FUDS, Inventory Project Report for Site No. F10ID0113, Precision Bombing Range No. 2 (Marsing), Owyhee County, Idaho. September 2002.*
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2003. *Archives Search Report, Precision Bombing Range No. 2 (Marsing), Owyhee County, Idaho. September 2003.*
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2004. *INPR Supplement, Precision Bombing RGE NO2, FUDS Property Number F10ID0113. November 26, 2004.*