

Collection #
M 0440
OM 0127

JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND RECORDS, 1951-1993

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Processed by:
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize folder

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive 1951-1993: bulk 1989-1992

PROVENANCE: Michael S. Moore, TD-M, Jefferson Proving Ground IN 47250-5100, 15 September 1993

RESTRICTIONS : None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in

writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: SC 0870 Jefferson Proving Ground Historical Collection M 0332 Jefferson Proving Ground Survival Committee

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1993.0668

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Jefferson Proving Ground was opened in preparation for World War II, to provide live fire testing of ammunition. About 55,000 acres of land, stretching over parts of Ripley, Jennings, and Jefferson Counties in southern Indiana, was purchased in 1939-1940, and the base opened in May 1941. Over the next five decades about 23 million rounds were fired there, of which about 1.4 million did not explode.

As early as 1976, defense budget cuts began to threaten the proving ground's existence. In 1989 it was targeted as one of fifteen bases to be closed during a general cutback on expenditures, Operations at the base were to be transferred to facilities not yet built at Yuma, Arizona. Under this ruling, closure was to commence in 1991 and be completed by 1995.

The conclusions of the Congressional Committee on Base Realignment and Closure were generally accepted. However, Senators Richard Lugar and Dan Coats and Congressman Lee Hamilton complained that the decision to close JPG had been based on faulty data, particularly about the cost of decontaminating land which was loaded with unexploded ammunition. It was urged that the base not be abandoned without a complete and expensive environmental cleanup, the costs of which would far outweigh any contemplated savings.

The proving ground itself fought closure, and its personnel gave repeated briefings on the efficiency of its operations and on the cost of transferring to Yuma. A Jefferson Proving Ground Survival Committee, an employee-driven lobbying group, was set up to give information to the press and public and to urge on its legislative advocates. Its principal spokesman was Michael S. Moore of Madison, who had worked at JPG since 1974, first as a mathematician and then as operations research analyst.

Despite these efforts, the base was scheduled for closing in 1995.

Source: Materials in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling three manuscript boxes, contains correspondence, historical and briefing papers, photographs, and maps, from the period 1951-1993. It is arranged by category, and chronologically within category.

In **Box 1, Folders 1-5** contain historical material; two papers about JPG, and material about cemeteries moved from the grounds in 1941, and about former residents of the area. Materials in **Folders 6-15** concern regular operation of the base: information booklets, personnel and management information, and some minutes of staff meetings.

A major part of the collection is material for briefings given by proving ground personnel, about both the operation of the base and the desirability of keeping it open. Briefings from 1989 are in **Folders 16-26** of **Box 1**; later and undated briefings are in **Folders 1-13** of **Box 2**.

The base spent a good deal of time studying the cost and environmental impact of moving operations from Jefferson to Yuma. Papers and statements are in **Box 2 Folders 14-19** and in **Box 3 Folder 1**.

Box 3 mainly contains material about the work of the JPG Survival Committee and its spokesman, Michael S. Moore. This material is in **Folders 2-13**. In **Folder 14** (OM 0127) are two large maps of the proving ground. **Folders 15-19** contain photographs of the base and its equipment; these photographs were used both in briefings and in information booklets.

A box and folder listing follows.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Historical; operations; 1989 briefings

FOLDER

Historical

- 1 Historical
- 2 M. M. Flint, paper on JPG 12-1-1991
- 3 Larry Jones, paper on JPG, ca 1993
- 4 Cemeteries removed from JPG; correspondence re pictures
- 5 Interviews by Mike Moore with former residents

Operations

- 6 Booklet, JPG 1991
- 7 Photocopies of illustrations from brochure
- 8 Information booklets, 1971, 1975
- 9 Management figures 1989
- 10 Personnel
- 11 Christmas party 1951
- 12 Management agreement 4-19-1990
- 13 Staff meetings
- 14 Telephone directory
- 15 Programs

Briefings

- 16 Commander's conference-- 3-28-1989

17 -- 3-29-1989

18 By Col. O'Brien 4-5-1989

19 Royal Netherlands visitors 4-14-1989

20 GAO Audit Team 17-21 April 1989

21 Tecom Program Review 6-15-1989

22 Taiwanese delegation 6-29-1989

23 By Col. O'Brien updated 7-12-1989

24 By Col. Weekly 8-2-1989

25 Eric Thiennes, aide to Senator Coats, 8-14-1989

26 By Deborah Burton 12-14-[1989]

BOX 2: Briefings 1990-1992, n.d.; position papers

FOLDER

1 Major General Akin 2-13-1990

2 120 MM Capacity 4-31-1990

3 By Col. Weekly 5-22-1990

4 Materiel testing ca 1990

5 FASCAM-- 8-14-1990

6 -- 1991

7 Environmental status 5-3-1991

8 Operation Desert Storm 1991

9 n.d.

10 Zero-based resourcing n.d.

11 Assembly operations n.d.

12 Mission briefing n.d.

13 Odd sheets from briefings

Statements and position papers

14 Cost of transferring from JPG to Yuma 6-9-1989

15 Memo on base realignment ca 1989

16 Projection: workload transfers to Yuma 8-8-1989

17 Environmental Impact Statement-- Vol. I

18 -- Vol. II

19 Cleanup and re-use options 6-2-1992

BOX 3: Survival Committee; Maps; Photographs

FOLDER

1 Fact sheets, background material

Michael Moore

2 Correspondence

3 Correspondence with Governor Bayh

4 Correspondence not Michael Moore

5 General comments for environmental impact statement 6-8-1989

6 Draft environmental impact statement 6-24-1991

7 Briefing to Military Toxics Project 9-16-1993

JPG Survival Committee

8 General information on Committee

9 "Base Closure Update 3"

10 Press releases

11 Clippings

12 Chapter "Minefield in the Heartland"-- Seth Shulman

13 RECON Publications 1991

14 OM 0127 Maps of JPG

15-19 VC Photographs

15 Black and white

16 Color-- equipment

17 -- grounds and buildings

18 -- individuals

19 -- weapons descriptions

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0440).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.