

Collection #  
M 0440  
OM 0127

**JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND  
RECORDS, 1951-1993**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 3 manuscript boxes, 1 oversized manuscript folder, 1 photograph 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

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

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

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1993.0668

**NOTES:**

## 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.

## CONTENTS

### BOX 1: Historical; Operations; 1989 Briefings

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Historical	Box 1, Folder 1
M. M. Flint, paper on JPG 12-1-1991	Box 1, Folder 2
Larry Jones, paper on JPG, ca 1993	Box 1, Folder 3
Cemeteries removed from JPG; correspondence re pictures	Box 1, Folder 4
Interviews by Mike Moore with former residents	Box 1, Folder 5
Booklet, JPG 1991	Box 1, Folder 6
Photocopies of illustrations from brochure	Box 1, Folder 7
Information booklets, 1971, 1975	Box 1, Folder 8
Management figures 1989	Box 1, Folder 9
Personnel	Box 1, Folder 10
Christmas party 1951	Box 1, Folder 11
Management agreement 4-19-1990	Box 1, Folder 12
Staff meetings	Box 1, Folder 13
Telephone directory	Box 1, Folder 14
Programs	Box 1, Folder 15
Commander's conference-- 3-28-1989	Box 1, Folder 16
Commander's conference-- 3-29-1989	Box 1, Folder 17
By Col. O'Brien 4-5-1989	Box 1, Folder 18
Royal Netherlands visitors 4-14-1989	Box 1, Folder 19
GAO Audit Team 17-21 April 1989	Box 1, Folder 20

Tecom Program Review 6-15-1989	Box 1, Folder 21
Taiwanese delegation 6-29-1989	Box 1, Folder 22
By Col. O'Brien updated 7-12-1989	Box 1, Folder 23
By Col. Weekly 8-2-1989	Box 1, Folder 24
Eric Thiennes, aide to Senator Coats, 8-14-1989	Box 1, Folder 25
By Deborah Burton 12-14-[1989]	Box 1, Folder 26

**BOX 2: Briefings, 1990-992, n.d.; Position Papers**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Major General Akin 2-13-1990	Box 2, Folder 1
120 MM Capacity 4-31-1990	Box 2, Folder 2
By Col. Weekly 5-22-1990	Box 2, Folder 3
Materiel testing ca 1990	Box 2, Folder 4
FASCAM-- 8-14-1990	Box 2, Folder 5
FASCAM-- 1991	Box 2, Folder 6
Environmental status 5-3-1991	Box 2, Folder 7
Operation Desert Storm 1991	Box 2, Folder 8
n.d.	Box 2, Folder 9
Zero-based resourcing n.d.	Box 2, Folder 10
Assembly operations n.d.	Box 2, Folder 11
Mission briefing n.d.	Box 2, Folder 12
Odd sheets from briefings	Box 2, Folder 13
Cost of transferring from JPG to Yuma 6-9-1989	Box 2, Folder 14
Memo on base realignment ca 1989	Box 2, Folder 15

Projection: workload transfers to Yuma 8-8-1989	Box 2, Folder 16
Environmental Impact Statement-- Vol. I	Box 2, Folder 17
Environmental Impact Statement-- Vol. II	Box 2, Folder 18
Cleanup and re-use options 6-2-1992	Box 2, Folder 19

**BOX 3: Survival Committee**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Fact sheets, background material	Box 3, Folder 1
Correspondence	Box 3, Folder 2
Correspondence with Governor Bayh	Box 3, Folder 3
Correspondence not Michael Moore	Box 3, Folder 4
General comments for environmental impact statement 6-8-1989	Box 3, Folder 5
Draft environmental impact statement 6-24-1991	Box 3, Folder 6
Briefing to Military Toxics Project 9-16-1993	Box 3, Folder 7
General information on Committee	Box 3, Folder 8
"Base Closure Update 3"	Box 3, Folder 9
Press releases	Box 3, Folder 10
Clippings	Box 3, Folder 11
Chapter "Minefield in the Heartland"-- Seth Shulman	Box 3, Folder 12
RECON Publications 1991	Box 3, Folder 13
Maps of JPG	OM 0127, Folder 1
Black and White Photographs	Visual Collection: Photographs, Folder 1

Color Photographs - Equipment

Visual Collection: Color  
Photographs, Folder 1

Color Photographs – Grounds and Buildings

Visual Collection: Color  
Photographs, Folder 2

Color Photographs - Individuals

Visual Collection: Color  
Photographs, Folder 3

Color Photographs – Weapons Descriptions

Visual Collection: Color  
Photographs, Folder 4