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ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A PROPOSED RECORD
FIRE RANGE, FORT JACKSON MILITARY RESERVATION,
RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

by

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INTRODUCTION

On April 20, 1976 an archeological field inspection was made of a proposed 70 acre record fire range on the Fort Jackson Military Reservation, Richland County, South Carolina for the purpose of locating and evaluating cultural resources within this project. This range is located between Wildcat and Sixth Division Roads, adjacent to the south side of Dixie Road. The proposed range is situated in the Sandhills physiographic region of the upper coastal plain. These sand hills are composed of Upper Cretaceous marine deposits of the Tuscaloosa formation. The record fire range is situated on the crest and southern slope of one of these sand hills. Elevation of this hill crest is 388 feet above mean sea level and slopes south to an elevation of 300 feet were the creek bottom of Rose Creek is encountered. This creek heads approximately 0.7 miles east of the proposed rifle range location and flows west into Bynum Creek which in turn flows through a network of manmade ponds and interconnecting streams, draining south into Mill Creek which then flows into the Congaree River south of Columbia.

THE SURVEY

Vegetation encountered at the project site consisted primarily of pine and scrub oak although a small oak-hickory "hammock" was found along the north slope of the hill crest. A dense planted pine tract was noted along the edge of Dixie Road and sweet gum and hickory were encountered along the fringes of the creek bottom at the south project boundary. The major portion of the site contained open pine and scattered scrub oak. Evidence of logging and previous clearing activities, presumably
in connection with past military operations, were very apparent. Two
dirt roads transected the project area and a borrow area was noticed just
south of the hill crest.

The project area had been conveniently surveyed and gridded into
marked 100 foot square units. This allowed the exact location within
the project area at all times and provided for a more efficient and
systematic survey since the survey lines could be used avoiding recrossing
already inspected areas and to maintain comprehensive coverage of all
areas within the project area. Ground visibility was for the most part
very good, with numerous areas of bare soil exposed. In addition, two
dirt roads transected the proposed range and were closely inspected for
the occurrence of cultural material. Particular attention was directed
to the hill crest and the creek terrace since these areas are known to
have a high probability of containing sites.

RESULTS

No archeological sites or cultural resources of archeological sig­
nificance were located during the survey. A drainage ditch which probably
is associated with nineteenth century agricultural activity in the area
was located at the eastern project boundary at Station FF, 15+40. Two
large circular depressions were also located, one just northwest of
Station Z, 13+00, and one adjacent to Station Y, 9+00. The former con­
tained empty ammunition crates, cement drainage pipe fragments, and a
set of three tiered wooden steps, while the latter was empty. These
depressions are interpreted as shell craters. None of the features are
of archeological significance and, based on the results of the survey,
the project area should be cleared of any adverse impact to cultural resources.