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Nellis Area II (Lake Mead Base)

Although there may be many useful links here, this page is not actively maintained (after 1997). For new links see our [new Area II page](#).

Nellis Air Force Base Area II, once known as Lake Mead Base, is a separate facility about a mile northeast of the main Nellis air base on the northern outskirts of Las Vegas. Area II is munitions storage facility for both conventional bombs and "non-conventional" munitions which reportedly include 200 nuclear warheads. Area II is dominated by a high-security triple-fenced compound encompassing several dozen earthen bunkers. Because the fence is well-lit at night, it can be easily seen from Interstate 15 and by passenger jets approaching Las Vegas. A lower security area outside this compound includes support buildings and a federal minimum security prison. Conventional weapons used in military exercises are stored in a separate area from the nuclear compound and are transported to the main Nellis air base via a secured roadway. During the years of nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site, Lake Mead Base was a storage and transfer area for atomic devices to be detonated at the Test Site. [GC 8/96]

Local Documents

Stored on this server. For documents on other servers see [External Links](#) below.

- **Maps**
 - [General location map](#) from [10/2/91 article](#) in Las Vegas Review-Journal.
 - [Map of Area II](#) (95k), distilled from the FUDS database [[See Below](#)]. *Nellis AFB is on the left. The road across the map in the south is Lake Mead Blvd. The "OEW Area Disposed" is now a public BLM off-road recreation area, mostly sand dunes inaccessible to ordinary vehicles. The diagonal road running through it is impassible in the middle. Best access by 4WD is from the east, near Gypsum cave [36°13.387N, 114°53.978W].*
- **Photos**
 - [Wide angle](#) (34k) of bunkers and fence of high-security compound, from the NE. *Sunrise mountain is in the background.*
 - Close-up of [The monster fence](#) (39k). *The central fence appears to be electrified. Radar dishes are aligned parallel to the fence.*
 - Close-up of [Bunkers](#) (39k)
 - [Main buildings](#) (31k). *Dorms in the front house the prison camp.*
- **Facilities.** Area II contains at least the following...
 - **Nellis Federal Prison Camp**, a federal minimum security prison occupying former Air Force dorms. Prisoners can mix freely with Air Force personnel and could easily leave the facility through the main gate.
 - **A conventional munitions facility** storing bombs and other munitions for Nellis air exercises. Bombs are transported to the base over a secure roadway within Nellis property.
 - A separate and much larger "**non-conventional**" **munitions facility** presumably housing nuclear weapons. Facility appears as several dozen bunkers on a hillside, surrounded by a massive triple-fence reminiscent of the border that once existed between East and West Germany. The fence is well-lit at night and is easily visible from I-15.
 - A depot of the **820th Red Horse engineering squadron**.
 - Various support buildings and dorms. In addition to the prison, a resident "non-conventional" munitions squadron is apparently housed there.
- **Adjoining Facilities**
 - [Nellis Air Force Base](#)
- **References**
 -
 - **10/2/91:** [Nuclear Bombs Stored at Nellis](#) -- Experts believe the site will be used to store old nuclear weapons that are waiting to be dismantled. *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Confirms that nuclear weapons are stored at Area II.

External Links

All stored on other servers

- [Official Nellis AFB Web Site](#). (Does not mention Area II.)
- **General Information**
 - [Nuclear Weapon Nations and Arsenals](#) (128k) from the [High Energy Weapons Archive](#) says that Nellis AFB (presumably Area II) has 200 nuclear warheads. The source of this data is not made clear, however.
 - [Nearby waste cleanup site](#) reviewed by Army Corps of Engineers. *Lots of interesting info including maps.*
- **Maps**
 - [Aerial Photo of Las Vegas](#) (296k) shows Nellis and Nellis Area II in upper right corner.
 - [Crude map of base](#) showing roads and boundaries, from [Army Corps of Engineers FUDS pages](#) (248k Tiff)
- **Web Searches**
 - Searching for "Lake Mead Base": [Metacrawler](#)

For additional links see our [New Area II page](#).

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