

Camp Elliott – East Elliott

Munitions Response Site 01B (Project Number J09CA006705)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Fact Sheet

April 2021

Introduction

This fact sheet has been developed to educate the public about the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) known as Munitions Response Site (MRS) 01B. A FUDS is a property that was formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense (DoD) and transferred from DoD control prior to October 17, 1986.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the governmental organization responsible for environmental remediation of FUDS.

Because hazards from military munitions may remain at the property, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages you to be safe by following the 3Rs: **Recognize, Retreat, Report.**

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Hazards from military munitions may still remain within the former camp. Protect yourself by following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:

Recognize
when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat
do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

Report
call 911 and advise police of what you saw and where you saw it.

Site Overview and History

The MRS 01B is located approximately 12 miles northeast of downtown San Diego, California, and is comprised of approximately 523 acres. It is one of seven sub-areas of a larger FUDS called East Elliott MRS 01, located within the boundaries of the former Camp Elliott.

The former Camp Elliott was used by the military from World War I through the early 1960s, starting with Camp Kearney, an Army training installation commissioned in May 1917 on Kearney Mesa (near present-day Marine Corps Air Station Miramar), home to the National Guard 40th Infantry Division. Troops were trained in live-fire artillery. Camp Kearney was closed in October 1920.

The military returned to the area in 1940, with the establishment of Camp Holcomb by the U. S. Marine Corps (USMC) as a development and training center on 19,000 acres. Camp Holcomb was renamed to Camp Elliott later that year. Camp Elliott, which later expanded to 30,500 acres, housed the Second Marine Division, and later served as home to the USMC Headquarters Command, Fleet

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[HTTPS://WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/FORMERLY-USED-DEFENSE-SITES/](https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/missions/formerly-used-defense-sites/)

Marine Training Center, and Base Depot, among others. Specialty camps were established within or near Camp Elliott for parachutists; scouts, snipers, and officer candidates; replacement troops awaiting overseas posting; and tank training. An Anti-Tank Section was activated at Camp Elliott in 1942.



During World War II the range complex associated with MRS 01 was comprised of nine overlapping ranges, two of which fired into MRS 01B. These include Range U and Range V, which were maneuver, combat, and musketry ranges. The firing points of these ranges were located south of MRS 01B, and the impact areas were within MRS 01B.

Following World War II and up until 1953, Camp Elliott was used as a U.S. Navy Training and Redistribution Center where no live-fire weapons training was conducted. From 1953 to 1960 Camp Elliott assumed a variety of military uses, including the installation for the USMC 1st Tank Battalion. The closure of Camp Elliott in 1960 ended DoD's use of the property.

In 1962, approximately 15,000 acres of the former Camp Elliott, including the property later known as East Elliott MRS 01, were declared surplus land by the DoD and transferred to the General Services Administration for disposition. By 1974, most of the surplus land had been sold, including 3,035.5 acres that compose East Elliott, to real estate developers, private parties, and municipalities.

Previous Investigations and Removal Actions

Clearance and Removal Activities

The Army performed a munitions survey on portions of East Elliott MRS 01 in 1984. Additional ordnance and explosives removal activities were conducted between 1994 and 2007 within portions of East Elliott MRS 01. Military munitions were identified and disposed of during these activities.

Additional studies completed for East Elliott include the following:

- *Inventory Project Report* (1991) establishes East Elliott MRS 01 as a FUDS and documents potential risks.
- *Archives Search Report* (1995) contains historical data, field data, and an assessment of the potential presence of munitions.
- *Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis* (1999) includes an assessment and evaluation of potential risks, and an evaluation of removal action alternatives. Clearance activities are recommended.
- *Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)* (2018) characterizes the nature and extent of munitions and munitions constituents, fills data gaps, and assesses potential explosives safety hazards within East Elliott MRS 01. The seven sub-areas (01A through 01G) of East Elliott MRS 01 are first delineated in this document (**Figure 1**). The purpose of the sub-area delineations was to facilitate the evaluation of the potential hazards to human health posed by the potential presence of munitions and explosives of concern within each area. The sub-

area divisions were based on several factors that included, but not limited to, results of previous investigations, distribution of unexploded ordnance and munitions debris, and current and anticipated future land use. Using information from the remedial investigation, the feasibility study developed, evaluated, and comparatively analyzed seven potential remedial alternatives for sub-areas 01A, 01B, 01C, 01D and 01F.

- **Proposed Plan** (2018) facilitates public involvement in the remedy selection process for sub-areas 01A, 01B, 01C, 01D and 01F. The Proposed Plan presents the seven remedial alternatives and the preferred remedy for each sub-area. The public was invited to review the Proposed Plan and provide comments.
- **Decision Document** (2018) this document was prepared specifically for East Elliott - MRS 01B and documents the selected remedial alternative for the munitions response site. Designed to minimize inadvertent exposure to potential explosive safety hazards potentially remaining at the site, the selected remedy is “Institutional Controls (ICs) to Protect Current and Future Site Users.” Actions for the selected remedy include 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat, Report) Education Awareness Program and Site-Specific Emergency Contact Information.

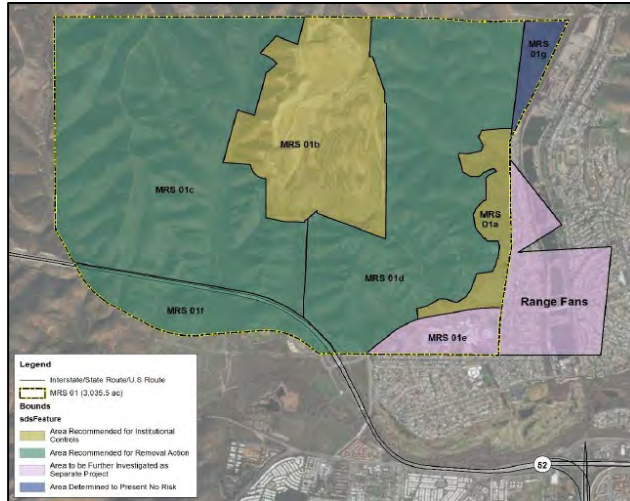


Figure 1 Camp Elliott, East Elliott MRS 01 and Seven Sub-Areas (MRS 01B is located in the center of the image)

Site Development/USACE Support East Elliott – MRS 01B

The 523-acre MRS 01B is currently an active landfill, the Sycamore Landfill. The Sycamore Landfill was opened in 1962 by the County of San Diego and is permitted to remain in operation until 2045. Fencing around the landfill restricts access to the site and “no trespassing” signs are posted.

The USACE provided construction support that resulted in munitions removal operations during the expansion of the Sycamore Landfill in 1998/1999. During that removal operation 24 unexploded ordnance items were located and destroyed. In 2004/2005, 221 acres within MRS 01B were cleared for another expansion; 23 live items and 105 inert items were recovered and disposed of at the time. If any munitions remain within MRS 01B, they are most likely buried under approximately 200 feet of landfill wastes or in areas of inaccessible terrain.

Once the landfill has reached capacity, its surface will be revegetated with native plant species and the area will become part of the Mission Trails Regional Park.



US Army Corps of Engineers.
Los Angeles District

For more information:

Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Public Affairs Office at 213-452-3921

To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil





Formerly Used Defense Site Program

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

January 2020

During the past 200 years, some activities supporting military readiness have resulted in the need for environmental cleanup within the United States and its territories. The Department of Defense (DoD), the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are committed to protecting human health and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these properties.

A Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is a property used by the military to train and support members of the military (fighting forces), as well as to test new weapons and warfare capabilities. To qualify as a FUDS, the property must have been used for this purpose prior to October 1986. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals or federal, state, tribal, or local government entities.

Congress created the FUDS Program during the 1980s. The Army oversees the FUDS Program for DoD using the USACE to identify eligible properties, investigate their condition and manage required cleanup. Teams from USACE districts consult with state environmental and health offices, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, landowners and the public in performing the work.

The USACE responds to DoD-generated contamination and munitions that remained on the property when it was transferred. The USACE is committed to addressing this contamination in as safe, timely, and responsive manner as possible.

The more than 10,000 potential FUDS properties can range from less than an acre to half a million acres and can be found in industrial or residential areas as well as federal or state properties.

As of September 2018, approximately 5,400 FUDS properties have been identified for investigation and cleanup with more added each year. Of these sites, cleanup has been completed at 3,650 sites, leaving 1,776 sites identified where cleanup actions still require a CERCLA response. A single property may have more than one cleanup project.

The type of cleanup required varies from property to property, and can include cleaning up hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste sites; removing munitions and explosives of concern and munitions constituents; and doing building demolition and debris removal.

The FUDS Program employs a risk management approach in accomplishing the cleanup. Work also is prioritized to meet DoD goals, including achieving remedy in place or remedy complete at 100 percent of the hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste sites by the end of fiscal year 2020. Most projects take several years to complete, and each is unique.

Active communication, coordination, consultation and collaboration with property owners, state and federal regulators, tribal and local governments, and local communities are critical in planning and carrying out cleanups. The USACE works hard to keep all interested parties informed and offers opportunities for dialogue throughout all cleanup phases.



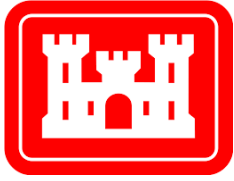
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For More Information:

Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Public Affairs Office at 213-452-3921 or publicaffairs.spl@usace.army.mil.

To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil.





Formerly Used Defense Site Program

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Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to protecting human health and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up environmental contamination at former military properties.

The Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program cleans up, addresses military munitions and removes building/debris safety hazards caused by DoD on properties formerly owned, leased, possessed or used by the military services prior to October 1986. Through the FUDS Program, the Army, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, responds to DoD-generated contamination that occurred before the property was transferred to private owners or to federal, state, tribal or local government entities.

The scope and magnitude of the FUDS Program are significant. There are more than 10,000 potential FUDS projects. FUDS properties range in size from less than one acre to half a million acres, and they are located throughout the United States and its territories.

Active communication, coordination, consultation and collaboration with property owners, state and federal regulators, tribal and local government, and local communities are critical in planning and carrying out cleanups. The USACE works hard to keep all interested parties informed and offers opportunities for dialogue throughout all cleanup phases.

Frequently Asked Questions

Here is a list of questions and answers about the FUDS program that project managers and public affairs specialists may find helpful when meeting with the public. It is not expected that anyone will use all of these Q's and A's or use the answers verbatim. This is just one more tool that can be used to help explain how the program works.

1) What is the FUDS program?

The FUDS Program cleans up environmental contamination at properties formerly owned, leased, possessed, or used by the military services (Army, Navy, Air Force, or other Defense agencies). The Army is the Department of Defense executive agent for FUDS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for carrying out the program.

2) Who runs the FUDS program?

The DoD is responsible for cleaning up DoD-generated contamination on FUDS properties. The Army oversees the program for DoD and the USACE manages the cleanup at these properties. Actual cleanup is accomplished by appropriate USACE geographic district. Cleanup is performed in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state environmental and health offices.

3) How does it differ from the cleanup program on active installations?

Although the FUDS program is part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) and cleans up properties consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) as amended and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP), it differs from the environmental cleanup program at active military installations in several ways. The DoD no longer owns FUDS properties as it does at active installations, nor does it have a long-term presence. There is no installation commander per se at a FUDS property, although the commander of the USACE doing the cleanup work serves as a de factor installation commander. The Defense Department also doesn't control the land use of FUDS properties. The FUDS program cleans up only DoD-generated eligible contamination, which occurred before the transfer of the property to private owners or federal, state or local governments. The FUDS program also does not certify that the property is clean, particularly where contamination may be present as the result of actions of parties other than DoD.

The FUDS program is not part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program, nor is it part of the DoD Installation Restoration Program or the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program. Each program is distinct from the FUDS program.

4) Are these only Army sites?

No, the program covers property that was once used by any military service prior to October 1986, when the program was established.

5) What is the current funding level for FUDS nationwide? And how much do you think it will cost to clean up these properties nationwide?

Under the defense budget continuing resolution, funding for the FUDS Program nationwide for fiscal year 2015 was approximately \$267 million. The current estimate for completing cleanup nationwide is \$17.9 billion.

6) How is FUDS funding set?

The USACE submits a FUDS budget recommendation to the Department of Army, which submits it to the DoD for consideration as part of the Defense Department's annual budget proposal presented by the President to Congress.

7) How many FUDS properties are there nationwide?

There are more than 10,000 potential FUDS properties across the country and its territories. As of September 2018, approximately 5,400 FUDS properties nationwide have been identified for investigation and cleanup with more added each year. Of these sites, cleanup has been completed at 3,650 sites, leaving 1,776 sites identified where cleanup actions still require a CERCLA response.

8) How is FUDS cleanup funding prioritized?

Using a risk management approach with those properties posing the highest prioritizes our cleanup work and most imminent risk to human health, safety and the environment addressed first. The DoD focuses on actions that reduce risks in the short-term and then addresses longer-term risk management actions.

For the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) that deals with hazardous waste sites, sites are categorized as High, Medium, or Low relative risk, based on the degree of contamination, whether the contamination is migrating, and whether a receptor is available.

For the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), DoD developed a Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol (MRSPP) in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and many other stakeholders. Sites are scored based on the types of munitions or their munitions constituents (MC), receptors, and the likelihood that receptors will come in contact with MEC.

As funds become available to clean up IRP and MMRP sites, other factors may affect the sequence in which work is scheduled. Concerns by stakeholders are certainly factors that could influence a decision maker, moving one site ahead of another as DoD employs its risk management approach.

Remember, these properties are no longer controlled by the Department of Defense and range from privately owned businesses and private homes to national parks.

9) How long do you think it will take to clean up these properties?

At current annual funding levels, we expect that cleaning up all these properties could take until 2085 or beyond.

10) Why does it take so long?

The cost to complete the FUDS Program is estimated at about \$17.9 billion excluding inflation. With an annual funding of approximately \$267M, it would take a long time to get all properties cleaned up. Cleaning up these properties is a multi-step process that involves identification, investigation, clean up and in some cases, long-term maintenance, all of which takes time, is labor-intensive, and often costly.

In most cases, some cleanup was done by the military before the property changed hands. However, that work was done according to the cleanup standards, methods and technology available at the time. Throughout the years, our cleanup standards, methods and technology have changed a great deal, and in many cases, what was once considered adequate is no longer fully protective of human health, safety and the environment.

11) Why are tax dollars being spent to clean up private property?

The Department of Defense is committed to and takes responsibility for correcting environmental damage caused by its activities.

12) Does FUDS include BRAC sites?

No, that is a separate program. The FUDS program only encompasses those properties that left DoD control prior to October 1986. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program encompasses military installations identified for closure or realignment in a series of special legislation since 1988.

13) How do you decide which sites get cleaned up first? And who makes that decision?

The USACE does its cleanup work at FUDS properties on a prioritized basis – the highest risk sites are cleaned first. The USACE uses ratings of relative risk to human health, human safety and the

environment for its projects, along with other management factors, such as stakeholder concerns, in prioritizing its projects. The Army makes the decision as to which sites are cleaned up first, considering input from regulators and other stakeholders. All USACE work is based on a Department of the Army-approved work plan developed at the beginning of each fiscal year.

14) How do you protect the public from hazards at sites where you are not currently doing work?

The FUDS program uses a number of methods to protect the public from hazards, including public awareness/education campaigns to warn the public about possible hazards and precautions they should take. The USACE also works with local communities, state, federal and tribal governments to determine how best to keep the public safe. Often there are land-use restrictions that were written into deeds when the property was transferred. The USACE also uses fencing and signage, where appropriate, to warn the public of possible hazards.

15) How can I find out where FUDS properties are located?

You can go to the FUDS Web site:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/FormerlyUsedDefenseSites.aspx>

You can also contact your local USACE district office.

16) How can I find out if property was used or owned by the military?

Previous military ownership is usually identified in a title search. Other sources of information include the local library and government archives. One of the best sources of information are older residents who live in an area. You also can contact the closest USACE district office (Los Angeles District) to give them the location of your property, or you can also check out the USACE FUDS Web site for a listing of FUDS properties in your state and county:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/FormerlyUsedDefenseSites.aspx>

17) Do you know where all the FUDS properties are?

The USACE has made extensive efforts to develop its current FUDS inventory based on historical records, military service, stakeholder and regulator input, and other sources. As additional cleanup projects occur, potential new FUDS properties are often identified. The USACE adds between 50 and 100 new properties each year to the FUDS inventory.

18) When you are finished, can you guarantee that the property is clean?

While tremendous progress in technologies and techniques addressing environmental contamination have been made over the years, there is, as yet, no method which will provide a 100 percent certainty that all environmental concerns are discovered and can be completely addressed.

The USACE does everything it can to ensure that when its work is complete, human health and the environment are protected. Independent regulatory agencies provide oversight to the USACE work, and the community is an important stakeholder in the process. It should be noted that the USACE will return to a site to investigate information which may indicate that its work there is not yet complete.

While there can be no guarantee, the USACE is committed to completing a protective professional response action with the highest confidence level that can reasonably be achieved.

19) Who oversees the USACE in this cleanup effort?

The USACE is responsible for cleaning up the sites under the direction of the Department of the Army and the DoD. There also are lead regulators for each FUDS property, either the state government or the USEPA. The USACE works with all parties, including the affected public, to ensure that the cleanups are being conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

20) What should I do if I find something that I think is ordnance?

If you find any item suspected of being ordnance, notify local law enforcement officials immediately. Note the location of the suspicious item, but DO NOT touch or disturb the suspicious item. Ordnance can be dangerous no matter how old it is or may appear to be. Always report ordnance finds to local law enforcement officials and do not touch it. Practice the “3Rs”: **Recognize** that any suspicious objects found in the area should not be touched under any circumstances, **Retreat**, or carefully leave the area and, **Report** immediately what was found and its approximate location to the police.



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety if you suspect you may have come across a military munition.

Recognize – when you may have come across a munition and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat – do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

Report – call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.

21) I know someone who has ordnance in his garage. How can he get rid of it?



He should notify local law enforcement officials who will make the proper arrangements to dispose of the ordnance quickly and safely.

22) I have information about a site and its former use. Who should I contact?

Contact the nearest USACE district office, which will put you in touch with people in the FUDS program. Any information you may have about a former site will help the USACE in evaluating the site and the need for cleanup.

23) No one has been hurt on the FUDS property near me. Why should the government use my tax dollars to clean it? Why don't they just leave it alone?

The DoD takes seriously its responsibility to ensure that land it once owned, used or leased has been cleaned in such a way that is protective of human health, safety and the environment. The FUDS program is the vehicle to accomplish that mission.

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Corps Facts

Aging and Souvenir Munitions

Background

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) results from our military's use of munitions during live-fire training or testing. UXO are considered the most dangerous category of military munitions. Although the conditions that define military munitions as UXO are specific, the public should consider any munitions or suspect munitions it encounters as UXO and as extremely dangerous. It is important to remember the three Rs of munitions safety when you think you may have come across UXO — **Recognize, Retreat and Report.**



Even very small UXO can be extremely dangerous and should be treated with caution. If you see UXO get away from it and report it to local law enforcement officials.

After decades of activities required to maintain our military's readiness, UXO and other military munitions may be present at many active and former military installations across the country. Although military munitions will most likely be found in areas that the Department of Defense currently uses or used in the past, they could be encountered anywhere.

When military munitions do not function as intended during use, they become UXO. Some people consider these "duds" and think they are safe to handle, but they can be a costly mistake to make. Treat all UXO as live and never handle it.

Key Points

- Remember no matter how old or damaged UXO may look, it can still be just as dangerous, if not more dangerous, than the day it was made. Some UXO have been found dating back to the civil war.
- UXO can be hard to notice now, but they become especially hard to see when they have had years to settle into place. This ultimately makes UXO more dangerous as time goes on. Make sure to be aware of possible UXO in places like deep grass, heavy foliage or thick brush.
- Regardless of how long munitions may have been kept or remained in the same place, they retain their explosive power and remain dangerous.



UXO can be hard to notice, especially when it has had years to settle into place.

The Three R's of Munitions Safety



Recognize – There is no one way to describe UXO. UXO can come in many shapes and sizes. It can be rusty or look like new. It can be out in the open, hidden in bushes or partially buried. The important thing to remember is that if you see what you think is UXO then you should retreat from the area and report it to authorities.

Retreat – Make sure to never touch UXO, as they can be extremely dangerous. If you see UXO, immediately leave the area and do not disturb the item.

Report – If you come across what you think might be UXO, you should leave it be and report it to your local law enforcement by calling 911. They will be able to take care of the item. Do not use your cell phone near the item. Call 911 after retreating from the UXO.

Souvenir Munitions

Military munitions are designed for use in warfare and should never be kept as a souvenir. Regardless of size, type, age, or condition, all military munitions should be considered extremely dangerous. Even Civil War cannon balls can be deadly. In most cases, only specially trained personnel, such as EOD or bomb squad personnel, can determine the dangers associated with military munitions.

Military munitions are most likely present in areas such as training ranges on active or former military installations, but they can be encountered anywhere. Even inside a home as a war souvenir. Regardless of how long they may have been kept, war souvenirs or trophies retain their explosive power and remain dangerous, especially when falsely believed to be safe because they have been handled for years.

If you or your family has a munition that was kept as a war souvenir, even one that has been kept for years, call 911 or local law enforcement to report it. They will arrange for support from DoD Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) or police bomb squad personnel to retrieve the munitions and destroy them safely.

For More Information

For more information contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Public Affairs Office.

Telephone: (213) 452-3921
Email: publicaffairs.spl@usace.army.mil
Web: www.fuds.mil

Emergency Communications Tree for Camp Elliott - East Elliott – MRS01B

