



# UCSD (Camp Matthews)

Project Number: J09CA111001

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

2017

## Overview

The University of California at San Diego (UCSD) (Camp Matthews) Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is located in La Jolla, California. This FUDS includes the Range Complex No. 1 Munitions Response Site (MRS), which consists of 5,056 acres. The area is heavily developed and encompasses portions of the UCSD campus and the surrounding communities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the organization responsible for environmental remediation of properties that were formerly owned by, leased to or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense and transferred from DOD control prior to 17 October 1986. These properties are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites.

Since hazards from military munitions may remain at the site, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages you to make safety a priority 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 the police of what you saw and where you saw it.

## History

In 1918, the U.S. Marine Corps leased land from the city of San Diego to build an eight target, 600-yard rifle range. Historical records indicate that by the following year the Marine Corps had developed a campsite and parade ground, and was conducting field instruction. By 1924, support buildings had been erected, including a cookhouse, mess hall, police shed and armory.

In 1941, the camp encompassed 577 acres. The area was officially designated as Camp Matthews on 23 March 1942. By 1949, Camp Matthews had grown to 15 active gunnery ranges. The active gunnery ranges measured up to 1,000 yards in length and were used for training in small arms, rifles, machine guns, mortars and rockets, as well as launching hand grenades.

In 1962, Congress passed legislation directing the Navy to transfer the Camp Matthews property to UCSD. The last shots were fired at Camp Matthews in 1964. Since the transfer, munitions debris and munitions and explosives of concern have been identified on portions of the former camp.



*Rifleman at former Camp Matthews*  
Source: University of California at San Diego

Numerous munitions items have been found at the former Camp Matthews since its closure. Based on these findings and the site history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is investigating UCSD (Camp Matthews) for munitions hazards through the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program.



*Marine rifle range at Camp Matthews*  
Source: Camp La Jolla Military Park  
<http://camplajolla.org>

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# Site Investigation

In January 1995 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designated UCSD (Camp Matthews) as a FUDS. The 2005 Preliminary Assessment Report documents the site's military history along with the findings of historical records research, munitions discoveries and site visits. Five accounts of munitions discoveries between 1988 and 2003 as well as the discovery of munitions items during the site visit are recorded in the Preliminary Assessment.

In 2005, munitions debris and inert rockets were discovered during construction support activities for a student housing complex on the

UCSD campus. The munitions debris was identified as being from mortars, rifle grenades, hand grenades and practice rockets.

In September 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection Report, which detailed the findings of munitions debris and munitions-related contaminants within UCSD (Camp Matthews) Range Complex No. 1.

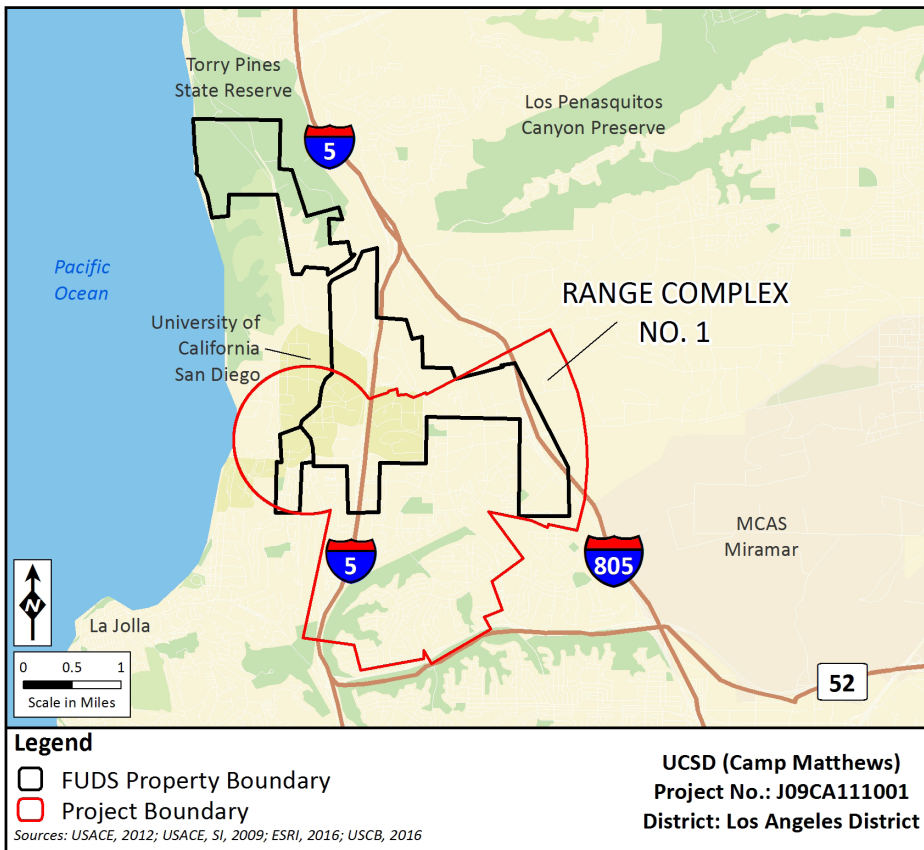
Based on these findings, the project was recommended for further investigation.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planning a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study within portions of Range Complex No. 1. The purpose is to identify the nature and extent of munitions that may remain on the property and to evaluate remedial alternatives.



*Inert 3.5-inch rocket at UCSD (Camp Matthews) FUDS  
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

## Map of Range Complex No. 1



## Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

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

### **R**ecognize

when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous;

### **R**etreat

do not approach, touch, move or disturb a suspect munition, but carefully leave the area;

### **R**eport

immediately what was found to local law enforcement — call 911.



US Army Corps of Engineers

## 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](mailto:publicaffairs.spl@usace.army.mil). To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).

