



# Mission Trails Regional Park - VOLUNTEER FACT SHEET -

## What You Should Know

Some areas of the **Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP)** once were a part of the former **Camp Elliott**, a tank, anti-tank and artillery training/practice range for U.S. military forces from World War I to the Korean War. Camp Elliott closed in 1960, and at that time, some of the property was transferred to the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy reported 13,277 acres as excess to the General Services Administration for disposal. Later, the excess property was acquired by the City of San Diego, the San Diego Unified School District, developers and private parties. The Mission Trails Regional Park was conveyed to the City of San Diego by quitclaim deed on 10 January 1964.

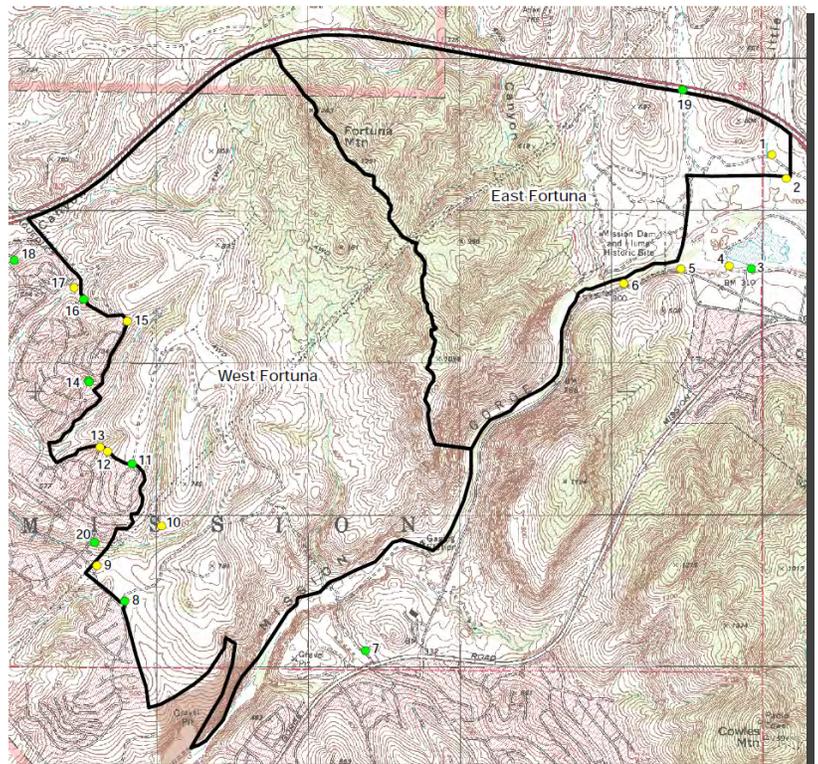
There have been several surface and subsurface unexploded ordnance (UXO)/munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) clearance operations in the area to minimize the potential for UXO/MEC hazards. The last UXO/MEC clearance in the MTRP area was completed in 1993.

While the chances of encountering UXO or MEC items are slim, the risk does exist. As a Volunteer in the Mission Trails Regional Park, you should be informed of the former military use of the area and **be particularly cautious of any metal items found while digging.**

***If you find an item that you suspect to be a UXO or MEC item, DO NOT touch it. Mark the area near its location, move slowly and carefully to a safer area, and then call 911 to report location of the suspect item(s).***



*Mission Trails UXO/MEC Warning Sign.*



*Mission Trails Regional Park that was once part of Camp Elliott Training Grounds*



Examples of UXO and their approximate lengths (in inches)



105 mm  
~15" long



75 mm  
~8" long



37 mm  
~5" long

Suspicious items can be encountered while:

- Installing posts for fencing projects
- Digging foundations
- Excavating and installing utilities (cables, piping, etc.)

Suspicious items can look like :

- A baseball
- Rusted car mufflers
- Old pipes
- Oversized bullets

Suspicious items can be found:

- Inches below the surfaces
- Underneath parking lots or roads
- Partially unearthed due to weather and erosion
- On land or in water

***No matter what they look like, how old they are, or where they are found, UXO/MEC items should ALWAYS be considered a safety hazard!***

In 1993, more than 150 high explosive tank shells were unearthed and properly disposed of because an alert construction worker reported suspicious metal objects that were being unearthed when they were digging a trench in a former training area. Protect yourself, your employees and your colleagues by following the 3 Rs of UXO Safety:

### Recognize

Recognize when you may have encountered a munition. Do not touch or pick up suspicious items, whether they are whole or in fragments.

### Retreat

Mark a location near the item and carefully move away on the same path you entered on—do not run .

### Report

**Call 911!** Notify local law enforcement that you have found a suspect ordnance item. Tell them what you saw and where you saw it.

*This fact sheet has been developed to assist you in meeting the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (Right to Know). Inform your workers about these hazards before digging in the Mission Trails Regional Park. We also recommend that you clearly post on your jobsite the UXO Safety information provided with your construction permit. If you find any suspicious metal items, immediately stop digging, remove workers from the immediate area and call 911 to report the findings to local authorities.*

Additional information regarding the former Camp Elliott can be found at:  
[www.spl.usace.army.mil](http://www.spl.usace.army.mil)

For more safety information visit the UXO Safety Education Website at:  
<https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety>

and the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program Website at:  
[https://environment.usace.army.mil/what\\_we\\_do/fuds](https://environment.usace.army.mil/what_we_do/fuds)



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Los Angeles District