



Overview

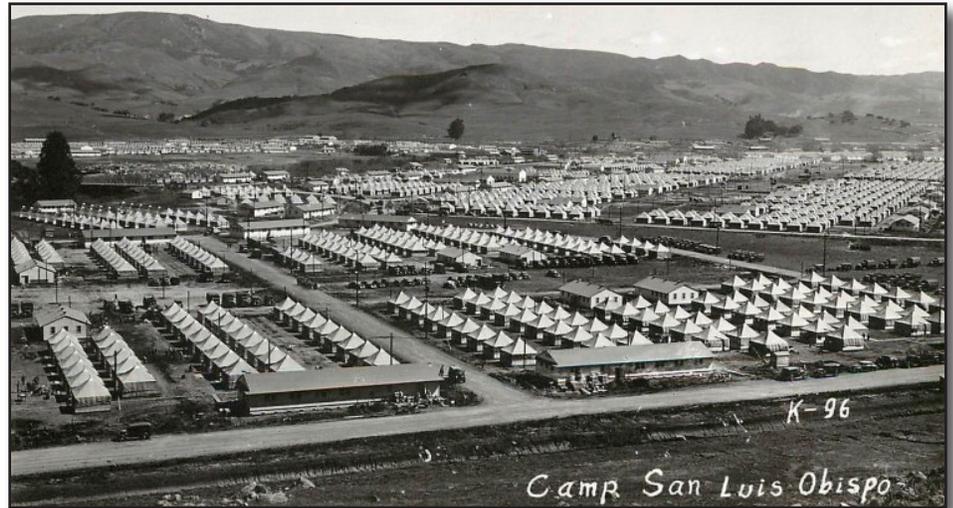
The former Camp San Luis Obispo is located approximately 5 miles northwest of the city of San Luis Obispo, California, and neighbors the California National Guard Range. Currently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is investigating two Munitions Response Sites (MRS): Multi-use Range Complex (2,626 acres) and Grenade Courts 25 and 26 (53 acres). Today, the land is managed by various private and public entities.

Formerly Used Defense Sites are 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. The Army Corps of Engineers is the organization responsible for environmental remediation of these properties.

Since hazards from military munitions may remain at the sites, the 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



Camp San Luis Obispo in 1941

Source: California Military Museum

In 1928, the California National Guard established Camp Merriam on 5,800 acres in San Luis Obispo County. The U.S. Army acquired use of the camp in 1940, and it was renamed Camp San Luis Obispo. Additional lands were annexed in the early 1940s, and the camp grew to 14,959 acres.

Camp San Luis Obispo was used from 1943 to 1946 for infantry division training. Historical records indicate there were a total of 27 ranges and 13 other training areas. These ranges supported small arms, artillery, grenade, mortar and rocket training.

Following World War II, the government returned a portion of the property to prior owners. The Army was planning to relinquish

the rest of the property when the conflict in Korea began in 1950 and the camp was reactivated.

From 1951 to 1953, the Southwest Signal Corps Training Center was the chief occupant of the camp. In 1952, the camp supported small arms, hand grenade, rifle grenade and anti-tank rocket training.

In 1964, the U.S. Army conducted a munitions clearance of the range impact areas.

After the war, Camp San Luis Obispo was maintained in inactive status until 1965. The California National Guard retained 5,800 acres while the remaining property was transferred to private entities, Cuesta College and California Polytechnic State University.

Site Investigation

Between 1986 and 1993, the Army Corps of Engineers prepared multiple Preliminary Assessments, which documented the site history and the munitions that were used at Camp San Luis Obispo.

In 1992, a Time-Critical Removal Action was conducted on 95 acres, which included portions of the Multi-use Range Complex and Grenade Courts 25 and 26.

The 1994 Archives Search Report records the findings of a historical records search and site visit. During the site visit, munitions debris and target vehicles were identified. Five MRSs associated with the camp are delineated in the subsequent Archives Search Report Supplement.

During the 2007 Site Inspection, the Army Corps of Engineers identified munitions debris and small arms debris in the Multi-use Range Complex. A portion of the Multi-use Range Complex was recommended for a Time-Critical Removal Action.

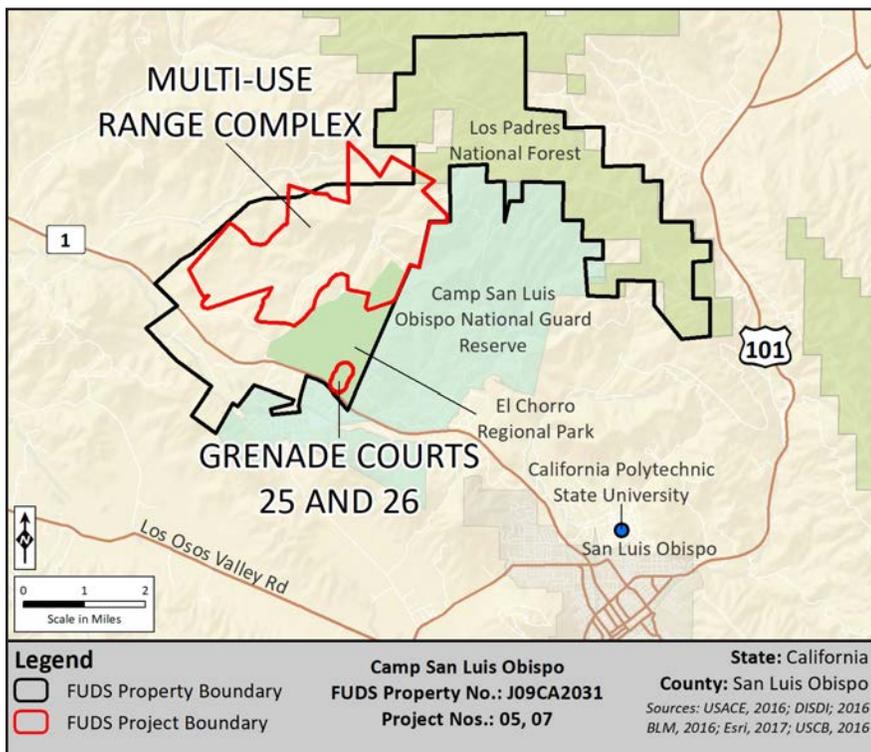
In 2009, an unexploded ordnance classification pilot study identified 26 unexploded ordnance items on the Multi-use Range Complex.

In 2010, a Time-Critical Removal Action, which identified 5,500 pounds of munitions debris and 23 munitions and explosives of concern, was conducted on 170 acres of the Multi-use Range Complex. In addition, nine warning signs were posted.

In 2011, a Remedial Investigation was conducted on the two MRSs. Unexploded ordnance, munitions debris and small arms debris were identified. A Feasibility Study was conducted to identify and evaluate potential remedial alternatives.

Based on the previous finding the Army Corps of Engineers divided Grenade Courts 25 and 26 into two MRS sub-areas and the Multi-use Range Complex into three MRS sub-areas. In May 2019, a Proposed Plan with recommended Remedial Alternatives for each MRS sub-area was released for public review and comment. The Proposed Plan is available at the San Luis Obispo Library and on the Army Corps of Engineers website listed below.

Map of Camp San Luis Obispo



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.



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. To learn more about Camp San Luis Obispo, visit www.spl.usace.army.mil.

