

Camp San Luis Obispo

The Camp San Luis Obispo Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is located approximately 5 miles northwest of the city of San Luis Obispo, California. Today, the land is managed by multiple public and private entities, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Munitions Response Site (MRS) 09 Rifle Grenade Range (1952) has been identified as having potential explosive hazards. MRS 09 comprises 26 acres in the northwest corner of the FUDS.

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 Oct. 17, 1986. These properties are known as FUDS.



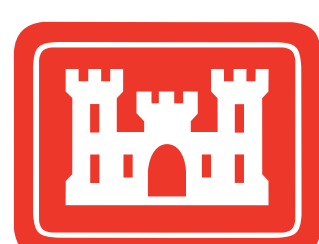
World War II Camp San Luis Obispo Postcard
Source: California Military Museum

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 renamed the area 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 by the Army from 1943 to 1946 for infantry division training. Historical records indicate there were a total of 27 ranges and 13 other training areas at the camp during World War II. These ranges supported small arms, artillery, grenade, mortar and rocket training.

Following the end of World War II, the government returned a portion of the property to former 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. In 1952, the camp supported small arms, hand grenade, rifle grenade and anti-tank rocket training.

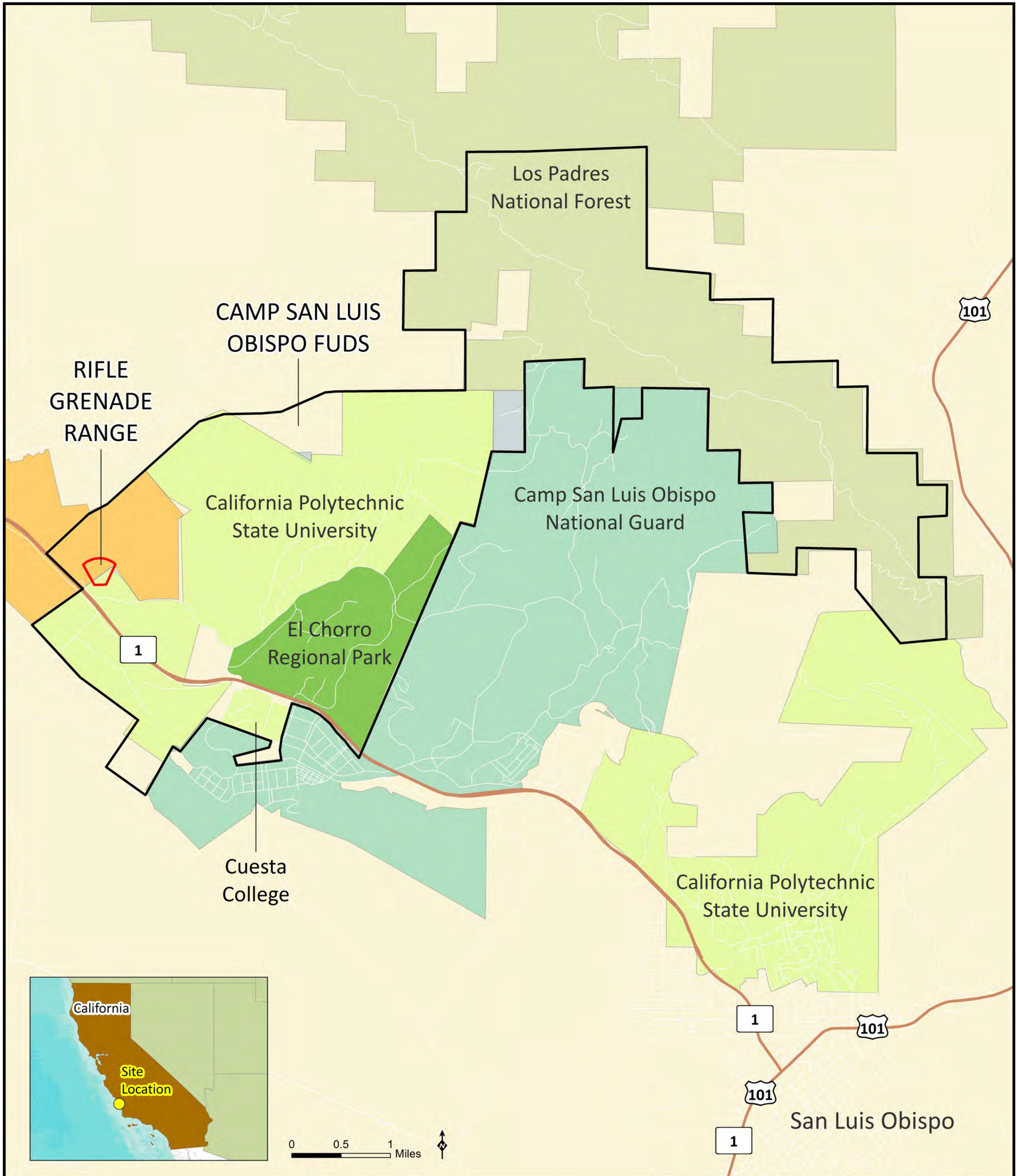
In 1964, the U.S. Army conducted a munitions clearance of the range impact areas. After the war, Camp San Luis Obispo was maintained in inactive status until 1965. The California National Guard retained 5,800 acres.



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MRS 09 Map



Legend

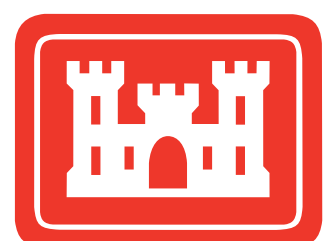
- FUDS Property Boundary
- FUDS Project Boundary
- Department of Defense

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Regional Park
- School Land
- U.S. Forest Service



CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO
 Rifle Grenade Range
 FUDS Property No.: J09CA2031
 Project No.: 09

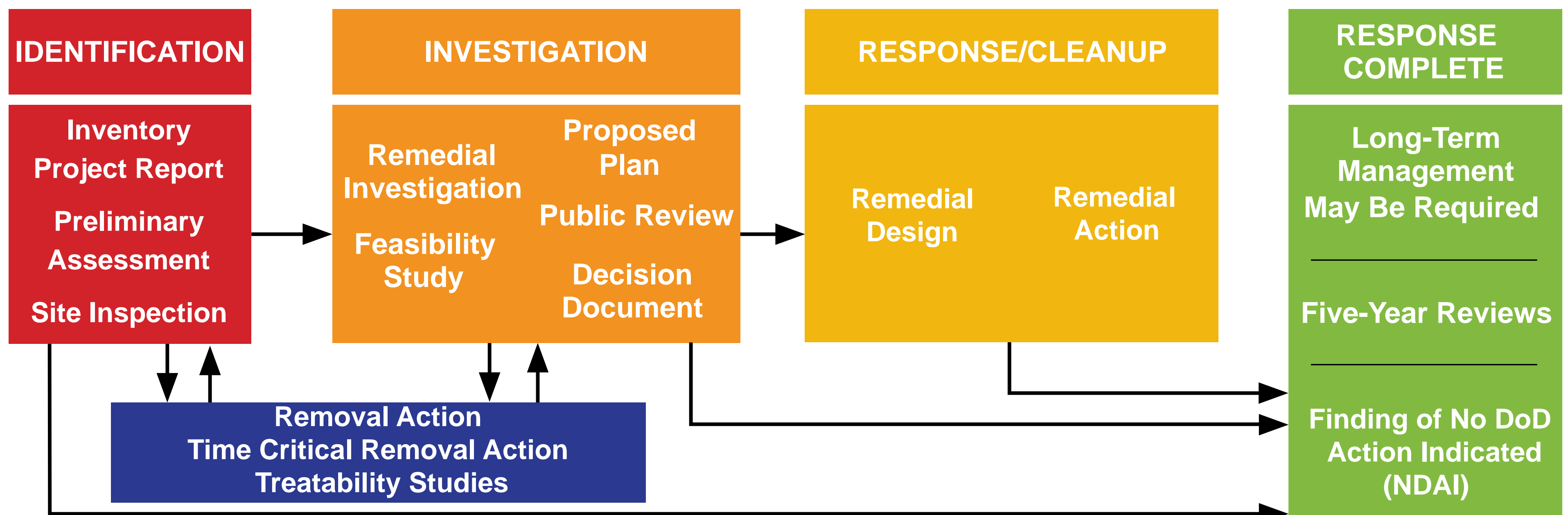
Sources: USACE, 2020; DISDI, 2018; BLM, 2019; Esri, 2019; USCB, 2019; CDFW, 2020



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Military Munitions Response Program Process



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Regulation 200-3-1, FUDS Program Policy, May 2004)

Formerly Used Defense Sites Military Munitions Response Program Process

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as CERCLA, provides the framework for the response process at Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) and involves four phases that are described below. If at any time in the response process the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identifies an imminent threat to the human health or the environment, a removal action may be conducted. Alternatively, if no threat has been identified, the FUDS will be moved to the Response Complete phase.

Identification

In the Identification phase, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducts historical research to determine if a property is eligible for the FUDS Program. Once a property is determined eligible, readily available information on the property is collected and a visit is made to identify areas of the property that may have impacts from past military activities and that require further investigation. Areas that require further investigation are referred to as "projects." The findings of the historical research and descriptions of projects are documented in a Preliminary Assessment Report. After this report is completed, a Site Inspection is conducted to identify the current uses of the property and determine whether the project areas pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Investigation

The Investigation phase includes conducting a Remedial Investigation to characterize the nature and extent of the environmental contamination or military munitions at a project area. A Feasibility Study is prepared that identifies and evaluates alternative approaches to remediate the project area. A Proposed Plan is developed that summarizes the remedial alternatives and is made available for public review during a 30-day comment period. Based on input from the public, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers selects a remedy and records it in a Decision Document.

Response/Cleanup

The Response/Cleanup phase consists of developing the design documents and implementing the remedy identified in the Decision Document.

Response Complete

Once a remedy has been completed, the project moves to the Response Complete phase. For some projects, additional Long Term Management activities and Five-Year Reviews may be conducted to ensure the remedy continues to protect human health and the environment.

Site Investigations

1986 & 1993 Preliminary Assessments

In 1986, multiple Preliminary Assessments were prepared for individual portions of the former Camp San Luis Obispo. Those documents were superseded by a comprehensive Preliminary Assessment conducted in 1993.

In the assessments, the Army Corps of Engineers documented the site history and the munitions that were used.



Bantam BRC-40 Reconnaissance Car at Camp San Luis Obispo in 1941
Source: Camp San Luis Obispo Museum

2006 Historical Records Review

Although investigations and clearance activities were conducted on the Camp San Luis Obispo FUDS in the 1990s, Rifle Grenade Range (1952) was not identified as a potential project area until the 2006 Historical Records Review.

The purpose of the review was to identify areas of munitions use and fill historical data gaps for Camp San Luis Obispo and Baywood Park Training Area. During the review of records, Rifle Grenade Range (1952) was identified as an area of concern.



Postcard of Camp San Luis Obispo main gate
Source: Camp San Luis Obispo Museum

2007 Site Inspection

The Army Corps of Engineers completed 35 line miles of reconnaissance and collected 12 soil samples. During the investigation, approximately one mile of reconnaissance and one soil sample were collected in Rifle Grenade Range (1952). In addition, one munitions and explosives of concern item, a target area and munitions debris were identified in the area of concern.

Based on the findings, the Army Corps of Engineers recommended the area be retained for further evaluation and be classified as a Munitions Response Site (MRS).

2013 Project Realignment

The Project Realignment and Delineation document designates Rifle Grenade Range (1952) as MRS 09 consisting of 26 acres.



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Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study

Remedial Investigation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct a Remedial Investigation on Munitions Response Site (MRS) 09. The objective of this investigation is to characterize the nature and extent of potential munitions hazards and/or munitions-related contaminants.

The overall approach to the Remedial Investigation is to use sampling methods, such as soil sampling and visual and geophysical investigations, to collect data that locates and identifies areas of concern associated with the MRS. During the Remedial Investigation, the Army Corps of Engineers reviews historic maps, aerial photographs and documents pertaining to previous site visits.

Next, the Army Corps of Engineers will use the investigation results to evaluate potential explosive hazards that remain and/or potential risks to human health and the environment from munitions-related chemical constituents.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Army Corps of Engineers project team will develop Remedial Investigation Report that documents the results of the investigation.

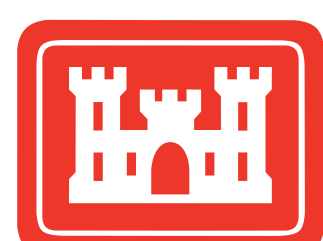


Example of geophysical investigation activities

Feasibility Study

Based on the finding of the Remedial Investigation, a Feasibility Study may be conducted to ensure that appropriate remedial alternatives are developed. During the Feasibility Study, the identified potential remedial alternatives are evaluated and compared.

The Feasibility Study Report identifies the proposed remedial alternatives. Additionally, the report will describe the analysis process for the potential remedial alternatives, risk management alternatives or no Department of Defense action indicated alternatives recommendations for the MRS.



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Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Debris from military use, such as unexploded munitions, may be present at the former Camp San Luis Obispo. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that all landowners and visitors, learn and follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat, and Report.

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

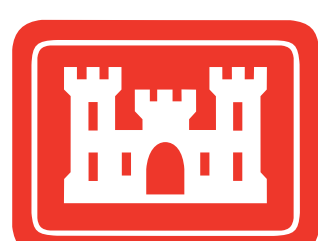
call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.



*Piece of Rifle Grenade identified at
MRS 09, May 2007
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



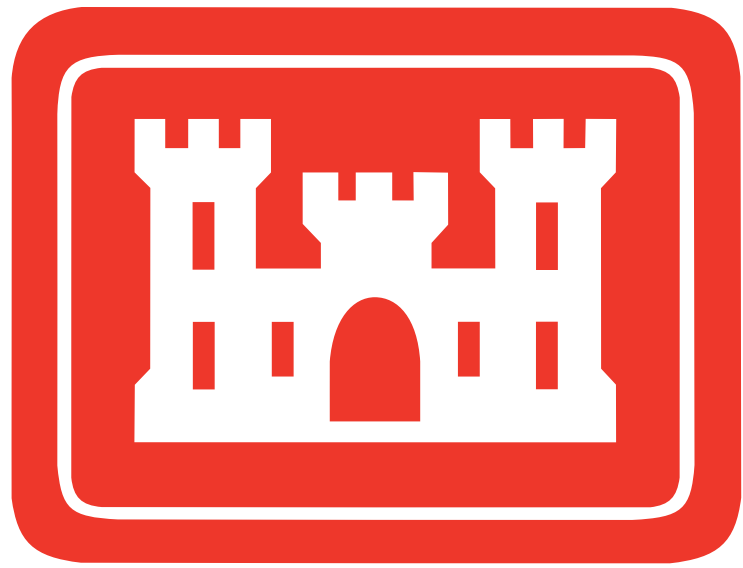
*Piece of a Rocket identified at MRS 09
May 2007
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



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More Information



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