



# Goffs Campsite

## Goffs Butte OE Disposal Area & Rifle and Pistol Ranges

Project Numbers: J09CA037901 and J09CA037902

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

2018

## Overview

The former Goffs Campsite is located in San Bernardino County, California, approximately 30 miles northwest of Needles. There are two munitions response sites (MRSs) within the property: the 622-acre Goffs Butte Ordnance and Explosives (OE) Disposal Area (MRS01) and the 52-acre Rifle and Pistol Ranges (MRS02). Both sites are located in undeveloped desert that is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

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 Formerly Used Defense Sites.

Since 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 of Explosives Safety**: (1) **Recognize** – when you may have encountered a munition, and that munitions are dangerous; (2) **Retreat** – do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and (3) **Report** – call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.

## History

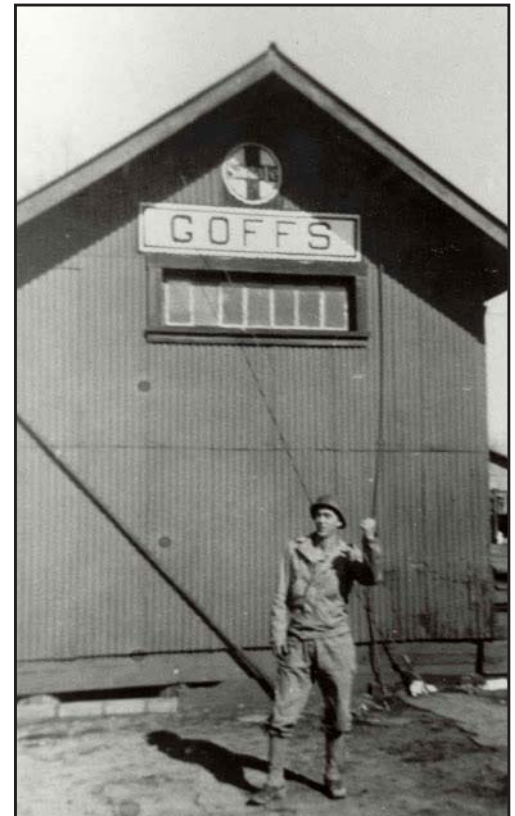
Goffs Campsite was acquired by the U.S. War Department in 1942 through leases. The property was used from 1942 until 1944. Goffs Campsite was located within the Combat Zone of the Desert Training Center, a vast network of camps, airfields, depots, ranges and maneuver areas. The Desert Training Center was later renamed California-Arizona Maneuver Area (C-AMA).

Goffs Campsite, which was also known as Goffs Army Ammunition Depot #4 and Rifle Range, served as a storage and supply point for C-AMA training activities. The property consisted of field depots and encampments at the railroad station and highway crossroads in Goffs, California. An ammunition storage area, consisting of 10 ammunition storage igloos, and a rifle and pistol range were also located at the campsite. A landing strip was located to the east of the campsite.

The U.S. Army ceased operations at C-AMA in March 1944 and declared the area, including Goffs Campsite, as surplus. Afterward, the property was transferred to the previous owners.

In April 1980, the Explosives Ordnance Detachment at Fort

Irwin responded to a request to investigate an explosives dumpsite near Goffs Butte. After investigating the dumpsite, the unit determined that a removal action was warranted. The subsequent removal activities uncovered and transported off-site 80 tons of munitions items, including practice rockets, rifle grenades and practice landmines.



*A lieutenant of the 563rd QM RHD Company trying to thumb his way out of Goffs during World War II.*

*Source: Mojave Desert Archives, Goffs, California*

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# Site Investigation

In 1994, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a records search and site visit for an Inventory Project Report. During the records search, a 1980 incident report and ordnance removal record were discovered. Based on the findings, the property was identified as a Formerly Used Defense Site.

In 1998, an investigation in support of the Archives Search Report was conducted. The site visit team found a disturbed ordnance and explosive burial site and various munitions items scattered on MRS01. The team also found munitions debris consistent with a rifle and pistol range at MRS02.

The 2004 Archive Search Report Supplement established the

boundaries of the two MRSs and defined range configurations.

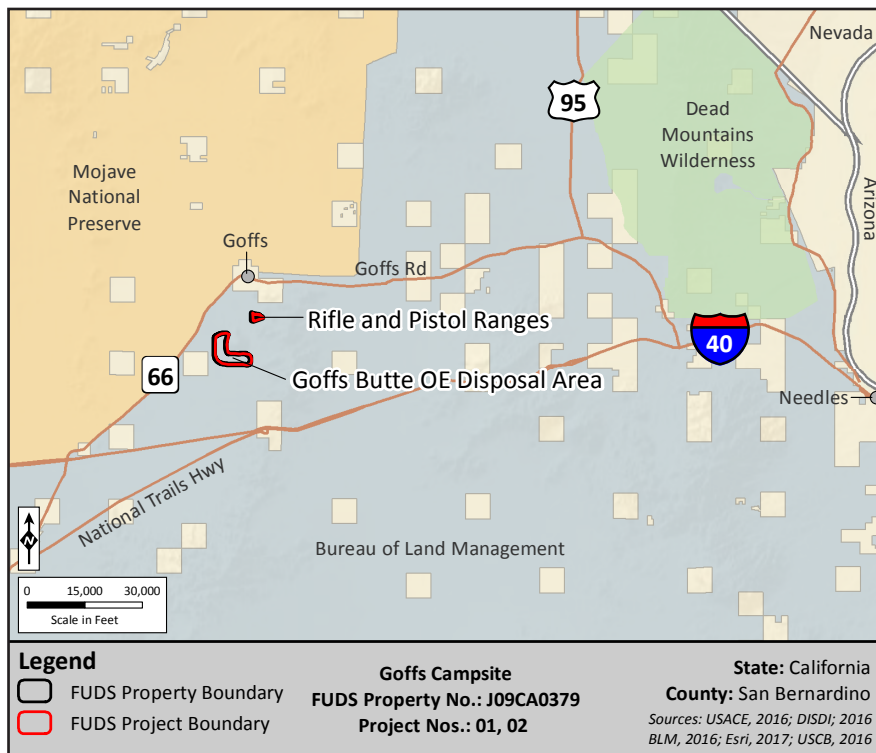
In 2008, an investigation in support of the Site Inspection Report was conducted. The site visit team found both munitions and explosives of concern and munitions debris at MRS01 and small arms munitions debris at MRS02. Soil sampling results identified elevated levels above background levels of copper and lead at MRS02.

Because the desert tortoise, a federally protected threatened species, is present on the site, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluated whether additional field work that might impact the species was necessary, and determined that additional sampling was not

needed for the 2015 Remedial Investigation. As a result, the Remedial Investigation report was prepared using data from previous investigations. Analysis of these investigations indicated a potential explosives safety risk at MRS01. There are no human health risks indicated at MRS02 and the potential for ecological risk is considered to be negligible.

Based on the Remedial Investigation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends MRS01 for a Hazard Notification with Educational Awareness remedial alternative. MRS02 is recommended for No Further Action. Information about the recommendations is available in the Proposed Plan.

## Map of Goffs Campsite



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

