

3Rs Safety Guide

Former KOFA NWR Training Area

Arizona

La Paz and Yuma Counties



Hidden Valley Practice
Landmine Area

Maneuver Area/Small Arms

McPherson Pass Practice
Landmine Area



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about the military training activities that took place at the former KOFA NWR Training Area and to raise awareness of the explosive hazards that may exist at the property.

The former KOFA NWR Training Area was used from 1942 to 1944 by the U.S. military as part of the California Arizona Maneuver Area (CAMA). The training area was used for infantry and mechanized units training, as well as for the development of desert warfare techniques and training methods. Several areas of the KOFA NWR Training Area have been identified through historical research and site visits as having potential explosive hazards. These areas include the Hidden Valley Practice Landmine Area, Maneuver Area/Small Arms and McPherson Pass Practice Landmine Area. The munitions known or suspected to have been used at the property include medium caliber munitions, riot control materials, practice land mines and small arms ammunition.

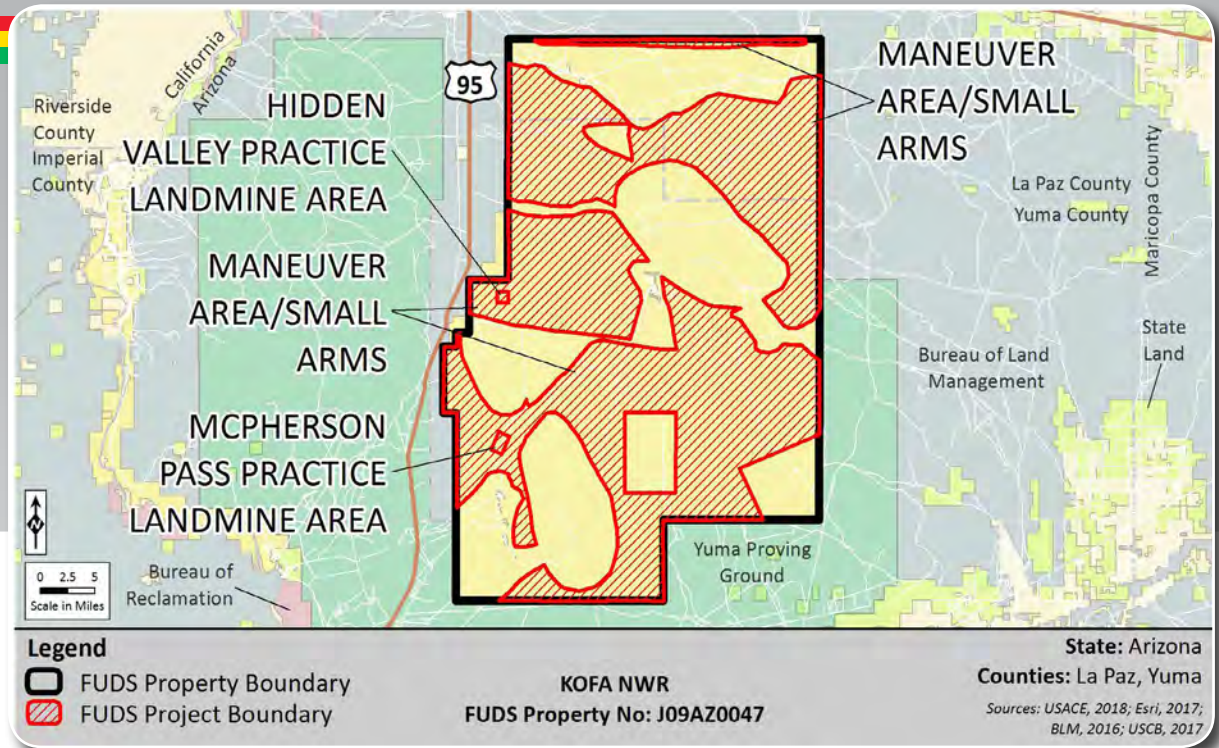
The former KOFA NWR Training Area is located just east of U.S. Highway 95, between Yuma and Quartzsite in La Paz and Yuma counties, Arizona. The land is publicly owned and is used as a National Wildlife Refuge and for various forms of recreation.

Because explosive hazards associated with military munitions from past military training may remain at the KOFA NWR Training Area, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that landowners and visitors follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat and Report.



Source: General Patton Memorial Museum

Soldiers outside tent city at the former KOFA National Wildlife Refuge Training Area, 1940s



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What types of potential hazards exist?*

A: Military munitions, such as medium caliber munitions, riot control materials, practice land mines and small arms ammunition, were potentially used at the former KOFA NWR Training Area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is unable to rule out the presence of munitions that may pose an explosive hazard.

Q: *What do I do if I suspect I may have come across a military munition?*

A: If you suspect you may have come across a military munition, the best way to ensure your safety is to follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety: **R**ecognize – when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous; **R**etreat – do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and **R**eport – call **911** and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.

Q: *What are the findings of the work that the government has completed?*

A: Historical research and site inspections indicate that military munitions were potentially used at this area, and some munitions may remain on the

property. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that further investigation is required at the former KOFA NWR Training Area.

Q: *What will be done next?*

A: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will make explosives safety education material that is based on the 3Rs available to landowners and the community. Additionally, it will coordinate with landowners as it plans required response activities.

Q: *Where can I get more information?*

A: For more information, call the Formerly Used Defense Sites Information Center toll-free number 1-855-765-FUDS (3837). Additional information can be found by searching on the property name, KOFA NWR, in the Geographic Information System tool on the Formerly Used Defense Sites website at www.fuds.mil.

Follow 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.



Example of a medium caliber munition

Former KOFA NWR Training Area

For More Information



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for identifying, investigating and, when necessary, conducting an appropriate response to address contamination and military munitions resulting from past Department of Defense activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites, also referred to as FUDS.

For information about the former KOFA NWR Training Area, contact the FUDS Information Center by calling the toll-free number 1-855-765-FUDS (3837). For general information about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil.

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



Visit the U.S. Army's Explosives Safety Education website:
<https://3Rs.mil>