



# Nellis Small Arms Range, MRS02 UNLV Study Area

Project Number: J09NV051002

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

2016

## Overview

The former Nellis Small Arms Range is located in Clark County, Nevada, approximately 6 miles north of Las Vegas on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) includes the Munitions Response Site (MRS) 02 – University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Study Area, which covers 2,014 acres that UNLV is considering for development.

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 17 October 1986. These properties are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites.

Since hazards from military munitions may remain at the site, 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

In 1941 the War Department acquired approximately 46,953 acres of land from the Department of the Interior to establish a flexible machine gunnery training range for soldiers at the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery School.

During its operation the range was used for small arms weapons training by Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy personnel from Nellis Air Force Base and Lake Mead Base. The site also served as an emergency drop area for hung bombs, wing-tip tanks and pylons. Additionally, a portion of the site was used as an explosive ordnance disposal area.

In 1953, a range clearance was performed on 26,000 acres. In August 1954, approximately 25,620 acres were relinquished to BLM, and in July 1961 an



*An improvised moving skeet-shooting trainer used in early 1942*

*Source: Official USAAF photo*

additional 10,758.27 acres were relinquished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The remaining land (approximately 10,555 acres) is owned by the Air Force.

Additional range clearances were conducted in 1972, 1977, 1978 and 1995. Throughout this period, munitions items continued to be found, indicating that munitions and explosives of concern may still remain on the Nellis Small Arms Range.



*Aerial view of the former target ranges at the Nellis Small Arms Range*

*Source: Google earth © 2016 Google*

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# Site Information

In 2015, UNLV was granted federal land under the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act and has made plans to develop a portion of the former Nellis Small Arms Range into a graduate education and research campus. Before proceeding, the university has requested that the Army Corps of Engineers complete its response action of the site for potential munitions hazards.

In 2016, the Army Corps of Engineers defined a 2,014 acre MRS within the Nellis Small Arms Range to address potential munitions hazards at the UNLV site. What follows is a summary of site investigations that will inform

the Army Corps of Engineers’ response action decision process.

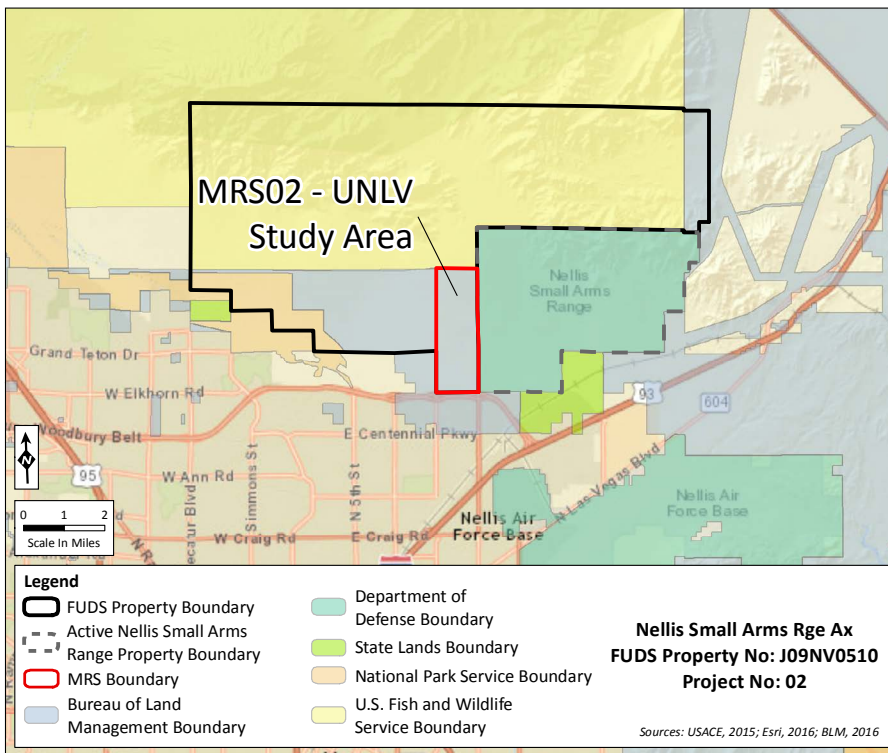
During a 1993 site visit, .50-caliber bullet clips were identified on the range, and the Army Corps of Engineers determined that 36,378.27 acres of the Nellis Small Arms Range were eligible for the FUDS Program. A 1996 Archives Search Report compiled the findings of a field visit, historical research, and residential interviews that provided the context of the site’s previous military usage. Based on this research, the Army Corps of Engineers determined that the range may contain munitions and explosives of concern. With additional research, three former, overlapping ranges—Ordnance

Burial Area, Moving Target Range, and Ordnance Jettison Area—were identified as comprising the Nellis Small Arms Range, which is described in the 2004 Archives Search Report Supplement.

In December 2006, a visual inspection of the ground surface and soil sampling were conducted for the 2007 Site Inspection Report. While the inspection only identified munitions debris within the range, the Army Corps of Engineers recommended additional investigations.

The Army Corps of Engineers is beginning a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to characterize the nature and extent of munitions and to evaluate remedial alternatives.

## Map of MRS02 UNLV Study Area



## Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Hazards from military munitions may still remain within the former range. 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 the 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).

