



Sahuarita Air Force Range

Project Numbers: J09AZ057601, J09AZ057602 and J09AZ057603

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Fact Sheet

2021

Overview

The Sahuarita Air Force Range Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is located in Pima County, Arizona, and intersects the eastern edge of the town of Sahuarita.

The FUDS is divided into three project areas known as Munitions Response Sites or MRSs: (1) Air to Ground Gunnery Range and Bomb Targets 1 & 4, (2) Unpiloted Radio-controlled Flying Target (OQ Range) and Air to Ground Gunnery Range, and (3) Bomb Targets 2 & 3.

FUDS are properties that were formerly owned by, leased to or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense and transferred from DOD control prior to October 17, 1986. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or USACE, is the organization responsible for environmental remediation of these properties.

Since hazards from military munitions remain on the site and may be found inside or outside of identified MRS boundaries, USACE 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 police of what you saw and where you saw it.

History

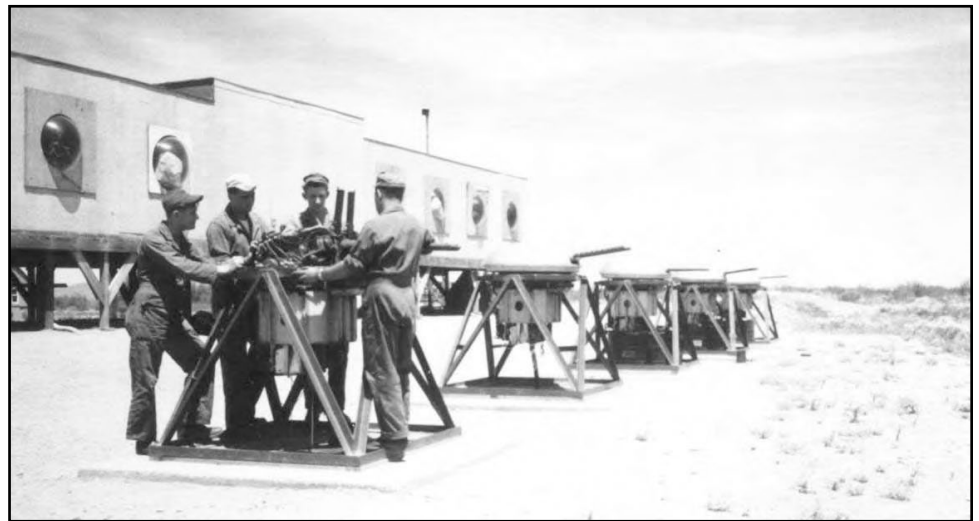
In April 1942, the Army Air Corps at Davis-Monthan Field acquired approximately 27,000 acres of land south of Tucson for use as a training range. A runway, bombing targets, an unpiloted radio-controlled flying target, air-to-ground gunnery targets, buildings, and observation towers were some of the improvements the Army Air Corps made to the land.

The Bombing Targets were used for high-altitude and night bombing training by Airmen stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Field/Air Force Base, as well as, March Field, California, and Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. Some targets consisted of wooden pyramids that were 24-foot wide and concentric circles.

The air-to-ground gunnery targets were used by pilots for strafing and other firing with small arms guns. The runway, located within the gunnery range, was primarily used for emergency landings.

The unpiloted radio-controlled flying target was used for ground-to-air gunnery practice. Remote-controlled drone aircraft were ejected from a large rotary launcher located southwest of the runway. Airmen on the ground would fire machine guns at the drones.

Historical documents indicate that the range was used through 1958 and that the majority of the leases for the property were terminated between 1971 and 1978.



B-29 and B-20 turret line on the unpiloted radio-controlled flying target gunnery range at Sahuarita Air Force Range, Arizona, 9 September 1952

Source: NARA College Park, RG 342-FH, box 2230, photo 4A-24136

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

915 Wilshire Blvd ▪ Los Angeles, California ▪ Phone: (213) 452-3921

Email: FUDS.SPL@usace.army.mil ▪ Website: www.spl.usace.army.mil

Site Investigation

An Inventory Project Report was completed in 1994, which documented the FUDS Program eligibility for Sahuarita Air Force Range's. USACE also identified an initial property boundary.

In 1996, the findings of an historical records and photos review and site visit were compiled in an Archives Search Report. Munitions and munitions debris from general purpose and practice bombs of various sizes, projectiles, and small arms ammunition were identified as potential concerns.

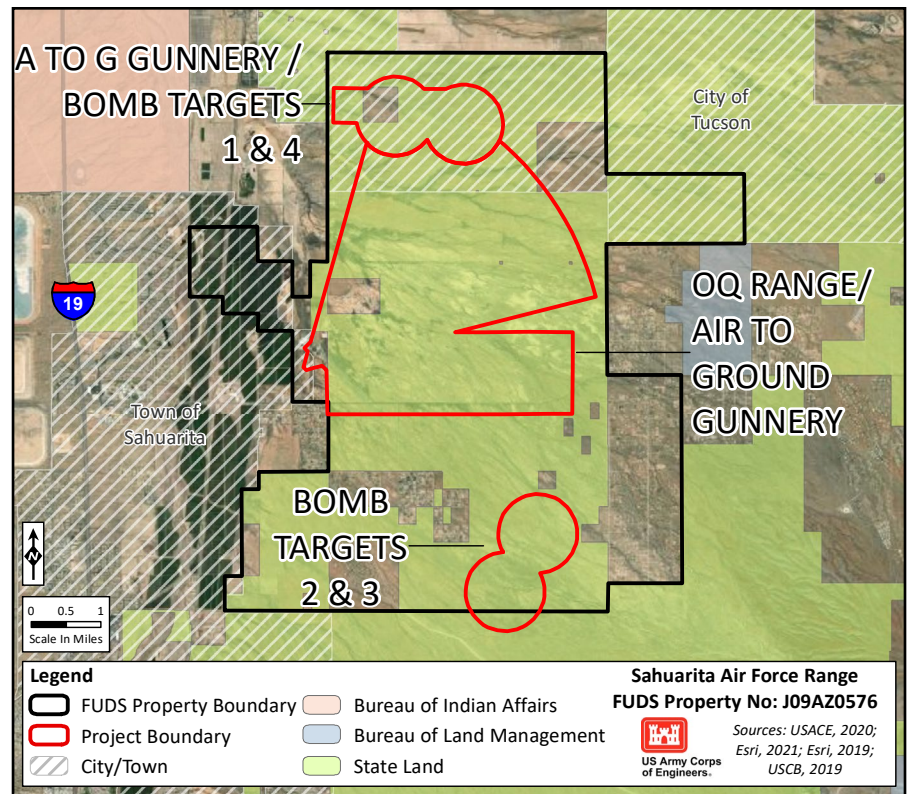
In 2004, USACE evaluated the available information and identified seven ranges within the FUDS. These ranges were grouped into the three MRSs depicted on the right.

In 2007, USACE finalized the Site Inspection Report. The inspection included taking soil samples and walking 44-miles within the FUDS to identify evidence of former military use, such as munitions/munitions debris. USACE determined that a Remedial Investigation was required for the site.

A Remedial Investigation to determine the nature and extent of munitions hazards at the range is underway. Once the investigation is complete the results will be analyzed and a Proposed Plan of remediation will be made available for public review and comment.

While USACE continues its investigation, it is possible to encounter munitions (either whole or in parts) in or near the FUDS. If you see an item that may be a munition, remember to follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety on the right.

Map of Sahuarita Air Force Range



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Hazards from military munitions 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
Los Angeles District

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Public Affairs Office at (213) 452-3921 or FUDS.SPL@usace.army.mil. To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil.

