



UCSD (Camp Matthews)

Project Number: J09CA111001

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

2020

Overview

The University of California at San Diego (UCSD) (Camp Matthews) Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is located in La Jolla, California. This FUDS includes the Range Complex No. 1 Munitions Response Site (MRS), which consists of 5,056 acres. The area is heavily developed and encompasses portions of the UCSD campus and the surrounding communities.

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 (DOD) 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 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 come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat – do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

Report – immediately what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement, call 911.

History

In 1918, the U.S. Marine Corps leased land from the city of San Diego to build an eight-target, 600-yard rifle range. Historical records indicate that by the following year the Marine Corps had developed a campsite and parade ground, and was conducting field instruction. By 1924, support buildings had been erected, including a cookhouse, mess hall, police shed and armory.

In 1941, the camp encompassed 577 acres. The area was officially designated as Camp Matthews on 23 March 1942. By 1949, Camp Matthews had grown to 15 active gunnery ranges. The active gunnery ranges measured up to 1,000 yards in length and were used for training in small arms, rifles, machine guns, mortars and rockets, as well as launching hand grenades.

In 1962, Congress passed legislation directing the Navy to transfer the Camp Matthews property to UCSD. The last shots were fired at Camp Matthews in 1964. Since the transfer, munitions debris and munitions and explosives of concern have been identified on portions of the former camp.



*Rifleman at former Camp Matthews
Source: University of California at San Diego*

Numerous munitions items have been found at the former Camp Matthews since its closure. Based on these findings and the site history, the Army Corps of Engineers is investigating UCSD (Camp Matthews) for munitions hazards through the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program.



*Marine rifle range at Camp Matthews
Source: Camp La Jolla Military Park
<http://campaljolla.org>*

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Site Investigation

In January 1995, UCSD (Camp Matthews) was designated as a FUDS. The 2005 Preliminary Assessment Report documents the site's military history along with the findings of historical records research, munitions discoveries and site visits. Between 1998 and 2005, there were at least seven accounts of munitions discoveries.

The 2007 Site Inspection report details the findings of munitions-related debris and contaminants and the recommendation for further investigation.

An aerial photo analysis and site visit were conducted to identify

undeveloped land where Remedial Investigation activities could be performed. Approximately 739 acres (consisting of 27 candidate properties) met the criteria for the investigation.

The 2018 Remedial Investigation was conducted to characterize military munitions contamination that may remain at Range Complex No. 1. Munitions and small arms debris were identified on two candidate properties. Despite this presence, the amount of debris indicates a low presence of military munitions. Munitions Constituent soil sampling in Candidate Property 001 indicates a potential risk to

human health and the environment that require further investigation.

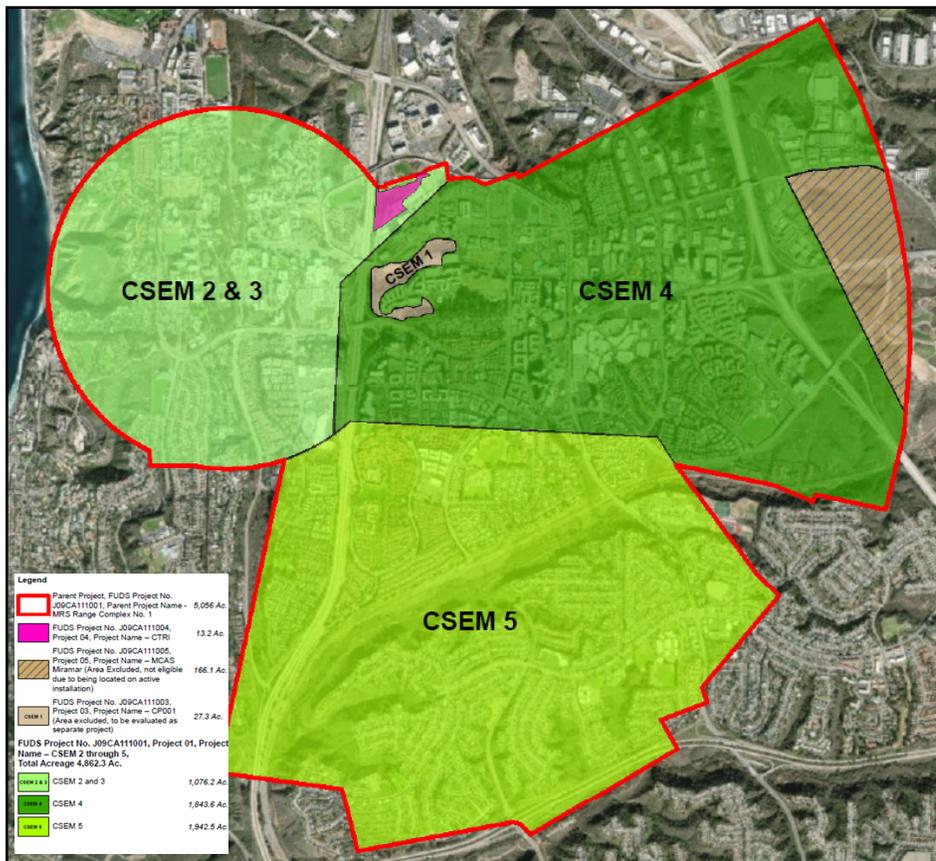
Based on the findings, Range Complex No. 1 was delineated into three project areas:

Project 01 - Conceptual Site Exposure Model (CSEM) areas 2 through 5 (4,862.3 acres) were recommended for No Further Action.

Project 03 - Candidate Property 001 (27.3 acres) was recommended for a separate Remedial Investigation.

Project 05 - Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar (166.1 acres) was determined ineligible for the FUDS Program.

Map of Range Complex No. 1



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Although the likelihood of a military munitions encounter is low. The Army Corps of Engineers recommends you follow the 3Rs:

Recognize

when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous;

Retreat

do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and

Report

immediately what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement, **call 911**.



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. To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil.

