

Edwards Air Force Base Military Munitions Response Program MMRP Fact Sheet

September 2021



This fact sheet was prepared to notify the public that the latest Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) investigations at Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), California are complete and results are available. Four Munitions Response Sites (MRSs), all located adjacent to the base boundary, were investigated as shown in bold on Figure 1 (see Page 2).

The following two sites were investigated under a Supplemental Comprehensive Site Evaluation (CSE) Phase II:

- MRS AL505-3 – Off-Base Adjacent Area 3
- MRS AL505-5 – Off-Base Adjacent Area 5.

Two additional sites were investigated under a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) as follows:


- MRS AL505-2 – Off-Base Adjacent Area 2-Central
- MRS AL505-4 – Off-Base Adjacent Area 4-Central.

Results of the investigations can be found in the *Final Supplemental CSE Phase II Report* (Administrative Record Number [AR #] 5994) and the *Final RI/FS Report for MRSs AL501A, AL504, AL505-2, and AL505-4* (AR # 5995). Both reports are dated April 2021 and are available to the public (see text box in the next column).

Edwards AFB began as a United States Army bombing and gunnery range in the 1930s. Army personnel set up and maintained a series of ground targets on this range. These ground targets may have been active from the 1930s to possibly as late as the early 1960s. Outside of the active ranges, munitions items have been found in a number of areas at Edwards AFB and in off-base areas adjacent to the Edwards AFB boundary. This fact sheet describes how to recognize munitions-related items and what to do if one is encountered or is suspected.

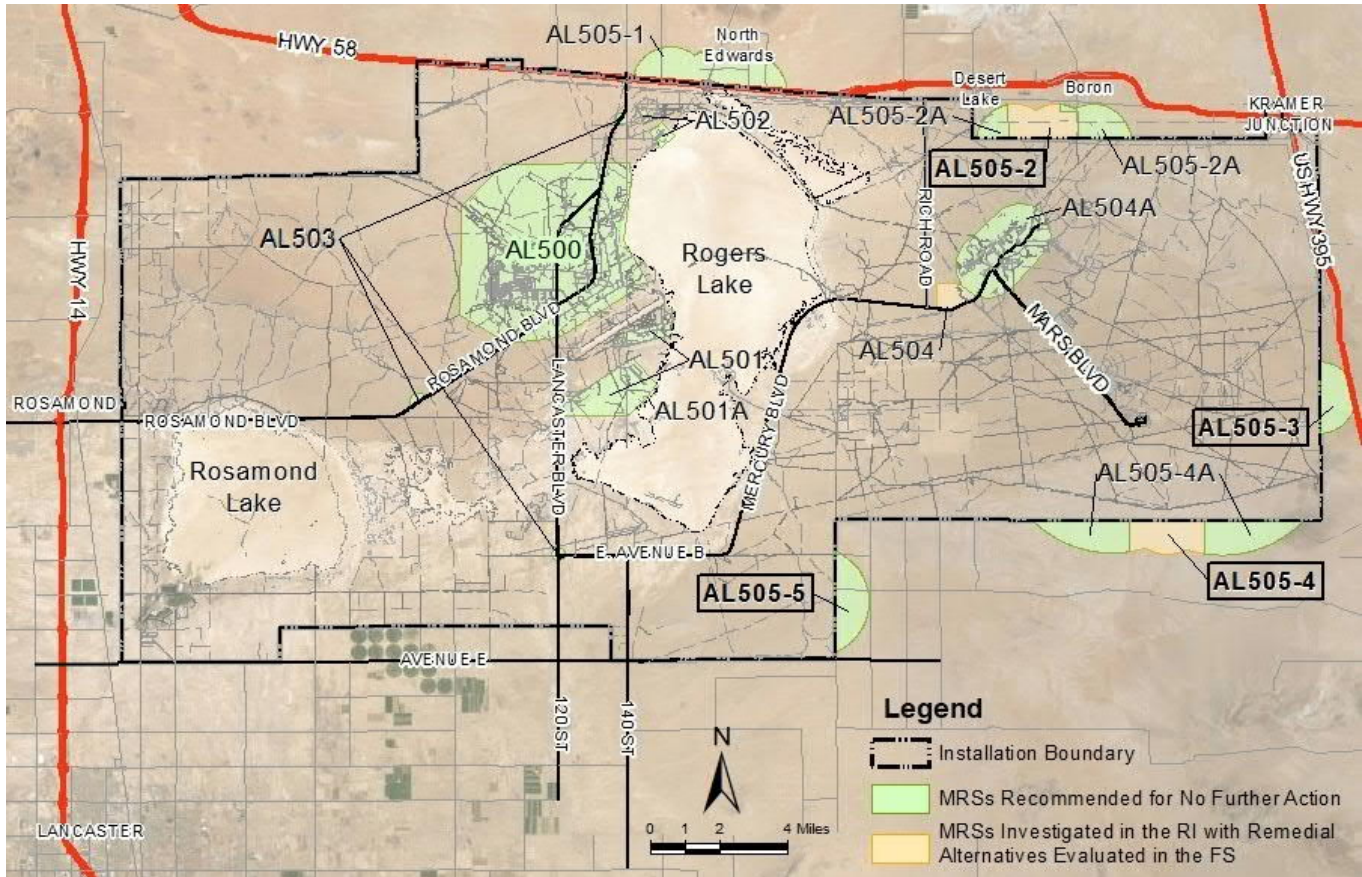
U.S. Air Force Administrative Record

Documents for the MMRP and other Edwards AFB environmental programs are available online at the AR website by following these steps:

1. Click this link <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil> or copy it to your web browser.
2. At the start page, click “Continue to Site.”
3. With the “Active Duty” button selected, scroll down the “Installation List” and select “Edwards AFB, CA.”
4. Enter the appropriate AR # (see text) in the “AR #” field and click the “Search” button.
5. Documents can be viewed by clicking on the  icon in the “View” column.

Military munitions that were used but fail to function as intended are called unexploded ordnance (UXO). Military munitions abandoned without proper disposal or removed from storage in a military magazine or other storage area for the purpose of disposal are called discarded military munitions (DMM). The United States has always maintained a trained and ready military to protect its national interests. As a result of the munitions-related activities (e.g., live-fire training and testing, disposal operations) required to maintain this force, and other actions (e.g., souvenir collecting), UXO or DMM can be found almost anywhere, particularly in areas located near installations that have used munitions. Although the military controls access to areas known or suspected to contain UXO on active installations, a number of areas that are known or suspected to contain military munitions that were once used by the military have been transferred to public uses.

Figure 1. Edwards AFB MRS Location Map



When people encounter or believe they may have encountered a munition, they should consider it extremely dangerous. To protect their family, friends and neighbors, everyone should learn and follow the **3Rs of explosives safety**: **R**ecognize – when you may have encountered a munition and the potential danger; **R**etreat – do not approach, touch, move or disturb it; **R**eport – notify local law enforcement of what you saw and where you saw it.

Although military munitions will most likely be found in areas that the military currently uses or has used in the past, they could be encountered anywhere (e.g., Civil War battlefields, in homes as family souvenirs). Following the 3Rs when you have or think you may have encountered a munition can prevent a tragedy.

UXO are often referred to as duds, bombs, dummy rounds or by other terms. Regardless of what you call them, they should be considered dangerous. Never approach, touch, move or disturb munitions. Even Civil War cannon balls and souvenir munitions that may have been kept by a family and handled for years can be extremely dangerous.

Remember that UXO:

- Comes in many shapes and sizes
- Can look like a:
 - pointed pipe
 - soda can
 - baseball
 - muffler
- May be visible on the surface or may be buried
- May be exposed by erosion or fires
- May look new or old
- May be complete or in parts
- May be found alone or in groups
- Should be considered dangerous regardless of size or age

Munitions including their components (e.g., projectiles, fuzes, rocket motors) may contain high explosives, propellant or pyrotechnics. Munitions should never be collected as souvenirs or trophies. No matter how old or damaged a munition may look, it can still be as dangerous or more dangerous than the day it was made.

The 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Recognize – Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is key to reducing the risk of injury or death. If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, consider it extremely dangerous. Remember, munitions are sometimes hard to identify.

Retreat – If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but immediately and carefully – do not run – leave the area following the same path on which you entered. If you can, mark the general area, not the munition, in some manner (e.g., with a hat, piece of cloth or tying a piece of plastic to a tree branch).

Report – When you think you may have encountered a munition, notify your local law enforcement – call 911.



Even small munitions can be dangerous and should be treated with caution.



Munitions can be hard to see, especially when they have had years to rust and settle into place. Beware as munitions can be hidden by deep grass or brush.



Munitions can be clean or rusty and may be hard to recognize. Even old munitions can be very dangerous.



Even practice bombs can have explosive flash or spotting charges.



Munitions that seem to be severely damaged or incomplete can still be dangerous, especially if explosive fuzes are intact.



The Kern County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad and Edwards AFB Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams are trained to safely respond to UXO and DMM hazards.

DON'T FORGET

Munitions are dangerous and may not be easily recognizable. Never touch, move or disturb munitions or suspected munitions.

REMEMBER THE 3Rs

- RECOGNIZE:** Recognize when you may have encountered a munition.
- RETREAT:** Do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area the way you entered.
- REPORT:** Call 911! Immediately notify local law enforcement of what you saw and where you saw it.

For more information visit the UXO safety education website at: www.denix.osd.mil/uxo and the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program website at: www.fuds.mil

