



# Remedial Investigation at Formerly Used Defense Site Suffolk County Army Air Field Bombing and Gunnery Range

Fact Sheet

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## Overview

Under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (District) will be starting an environmental investigation at the former Suffolk County Army Air Field (AAF) Bombing and Gunnery Range (BGR) Munitions Response Site (MRS) located in Suffolk County, New York, approximately 2 miles north of Westhampton Beach. The purpose of this Remedial Investigation (RI), is to evaluate whether historical Department of Defense activities at the former Suffolk County AAF BGR MRS have impacted current environmental quality at the site from munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), and if so, to identify what cleanup or remediation is needed to protect human health and the environment. The investigation and remediation process will be conducted in accordance with federal regulations and will be coordinated with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

## Site History

The Suffolk County AAF BGR MRS is 4,297 acres in size and was activated in 1943 for bombing, strafing, and rocket fire training exercises for fighter pilots. Most of the training exercises appear to have been .50 caliber machine guns, practice bombs, and practice rockets. However, from May 1943 through January 1944, 100-lb and 500-lb high explosive (HE) bombs, incendiary bombs, and 4.5-in HE rockets were reportedly used on the numerous targets located throughout the MRS. Military use of the Suffolk County AAF site ceased in 1946. Except for two target silhouettes constructed of painted boulders, a destroyer, and an aircraft carrier, no military structures remain at the MRS.

## Planned Investigation

Geophysical investigations will be conducted to help define the horizontal and vertical boundary of munitions as well as the type of buried munitions. The investigation will be conducted in three (3) phases:

- **Phase 1:** Transects placed approximately 500 feet apart through the entire MRS will be walked with geophysical equipment to map any areas of metallic responses.



- **Phase 2:** In areas of metallic responses, grids (50 x 100 feet) will be placed that will be traversed with geophysical equipment to develop a target dig list.

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- **Phase 3:** Unexploded ordnance (UXO) technicians will dig on the target locations to determine the sources of the metallic response. Soil and potentially groundwater samples will be collected based on the results of the investigation and sampled for explosives and select metals associated with munitions and explosives.



If any munitions are found that potentially have an explosive hazard, the onsite RI contractor will safely dispose of the munitions through intentional detonations.

During the field work, access through privately and publicly owned parcels will be requested through a Right-of-Entry form sent to each property owner where the investigation is planning to traverse through their property.

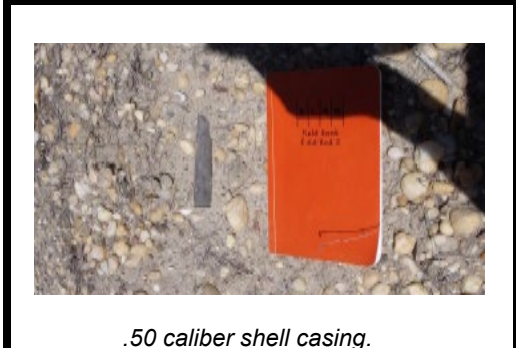
### Safety Reminder

If you find any object that looks like or you believe to be a munitions items, follow the three Rs:

- **Recognize** the item as potentially hazardous,
- **Retreat** from the area without touching or moving the item; and immediately
- **Report** the items to the local police by calling 911.



*2.25-inch practice rocket nose cone.*



*.50 caliber shell casing.*



*2.25-in practice rocket bodies.*

**Project documents will be available for public review** in hard copy at the document repository established at:

Westhampton Free Library  
7 Library Avenue  
Westhampton Beach, NY

Or they can be found on the project website

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Suffolk-County-Army-Air-Field-Bombing-and-Gunnery-Range/>

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