

## **Fort George G. Meade and secure DoD facility former Mortar Range Site User Training Guide**

### Training Materials Include:

- Fort Meade Unexploded Ordnance Safety Program Slide Presentation
- Mortar Range Munitions Response Area Fact Sheet

### Target Audience:

- Individuals responsible for maintaining structures, grounds/land on the former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area
- Individuals responsible for emergency response and security on the former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area
- Individuals responsible for construction, including construction workers, planners, and managers, on the former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area
- Employees of the Fort Meade and secure DoD facility Environmental Divisions
- Employees of Fort Meade Department of Public Works who process dig permits
- Individuals working within office buildings on the former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area

### Purpose:

- Educate site users (audience) of the potential hazards posed by possible unexploded ordnance
- Inform site users of actions to take if an ordnance item is encountered, and
- To communicate land-use restrictions applicable to the former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area.

### Training Administrators:

- Fort Meade Environmental Division (or assignee)

### Training Drivers and Timeline

- With the exception of office workers, training should be administered as part of orientation upon assignment to work on the former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area or within the Fort Meade Environmental Division
- Training should be completed within one month of assignment
- Training will be provided on an internal Intranet for office workers and is non-mandatory

Training shall be completed annually by employees of Fort Meade Department of Public Works who process dig permits to ensure they fully understand the requirement



**U.S. Army Fort George G. Meade  
Military Munitions Response Program  
Former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area  
Fact Sheet**



**Final Date**

**OVERVIEW**

This fact sheet discusses the history of the former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area, the Army's environmental investigation of the site, and the measures the Army has put in place to ensure the site is safe.

**LOCATION & HISTORY OF SITE**

The 322-acre former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area (site) was a range and training area located in the west-central portion of Fort Meade (see map below). Based on munitions debris found at the site, it is believed the site was used from the early 1920s into the 1940s. The former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area has been divided into two munitions response sites: the Mortar Area and the Training Area.

The majority of the site has been used as a golf course since 1956. A jogging trail was along the western edge of the golf course. The northwestern portion of the site is Department of Defense property and is developed with buildings and associated paved surfaces. In early 2012, the Department of Defense closed the golf course and jogging trail and began construction of additional buildings on the site.

**COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED**

The Army conducted a thorough remedial investigation of the site to determine if any risk posed by munitions and explosives of concern needs to be addressed. The studies conducted by the Army included reviewing historical records, a geophysical investigation, an intrusive investigation, and soil sampling.

The 2010 Remedial Investigation included a geophysical investigation that identified 6,228 anomalies; 1,805 were identified as cultural features such as buried utilities. The remaining 4,423 anomalies were evaluated and 1,333 were hand dug during the intrusive investigation. The majority were found to be metal items such as horseshoes and nails. The investigation found no unexploded ordnance.



## COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED (continued)

Historical evidence indicates that risks associated with unexploded ordnance may exist on the former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area. However, based on the results of investigations conducted there is a low probability of encountering unexploded ordnance, as only munitions debris and evidence of only non-explosive training items were identified during the 2010 Remedial Investigation.

## RECORD OF DECISION SIGNED TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM SITE MONITORING

In September 2012, the Army and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed a Record of Decision. This document legally binds the Army to maintain land-use controls and conduct long-term monitoring. The land-use controls require a permit to be obtained before digging occurs and prohibits residential housing at the site. The long-term monitoring includes annual inspections to ensure no munitions items have moved to the surface through erosion or frost heave.

A copy of this Record of Decision and more information about the site is available online at: [www.ftmeade.army.mil/environment](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/environment) (click Clean-up Program, Program Sites, and Former Mortar Range). The Record of Decision is also available in the Fort Meade Administrative Record located at the Anne Arundel County Library, West County Area Branch, 1325 Annapolis Road, in Odenton, Maryland.

## STEPS TO FOLLOW IF YOU IDENTIFY A POTENTIAL MUNITIONS ITEM

Below are photographs of some of the munitions items found during the investigation. If you see an item that looks suspicious, do not touch it. Leave the area and immediately call 911.



**RECOGNIZE:** When you discover a suspicious item or a possible munitions, remember they can be very dangerous. Do not touch, kick, throw or do anything else to disturb the item. Also, remember that the munitions are sometimes not readily identifiable, and may appear to be any other metallic or rusty item. Use caution and do not touch it.

**RETREAT:** Mark the general location of the item (a minimum of 10 feet away) and retreat to a minimum of 300 feet away on the same path used to approach the item.

**REPORT:** Call 911.

**Additional Information:** Go to the Army Environmental Command website: <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/cleanup/images/mmrp-uxofactsht.pdf>



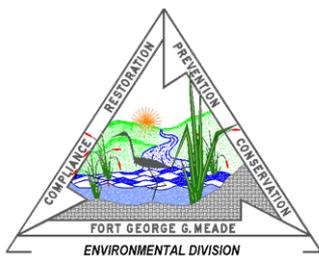


# Fort George G. Meade



## Unexploded Ordnance Safety Program

### Former Mortar Range Munitions Response Area





# Purpose



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The purpose of this training presentation is to:

- Educate site users of the potential hazards posed by possible unexploded ordnance
- Inform site users of actions to take if an ordnance item is encountered, and
- To communicate land-use restrictions applicable to this area.





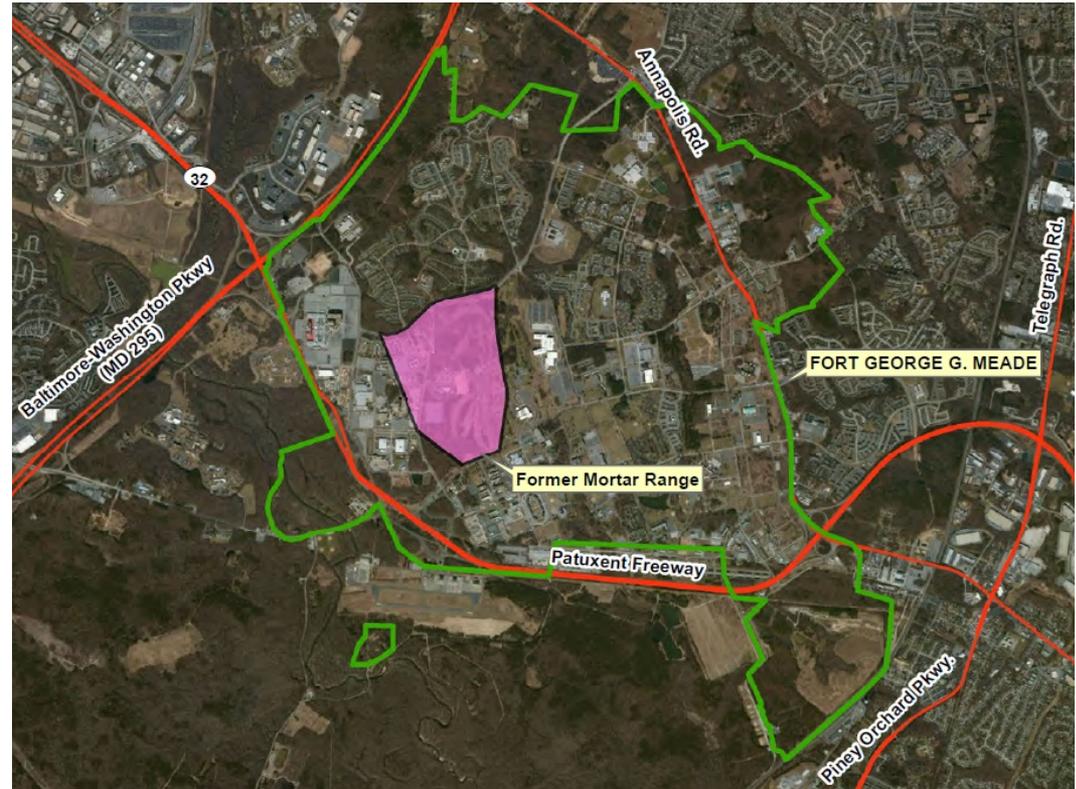
# Former Mortar Range Location



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These buildings are located on a former Mortar Range which was located in the west-central portion of Fort Meade and is bounded to the:

- north by Rockenbach Road,
- east by Taylor Avenue, and
- south by Mapes Road.





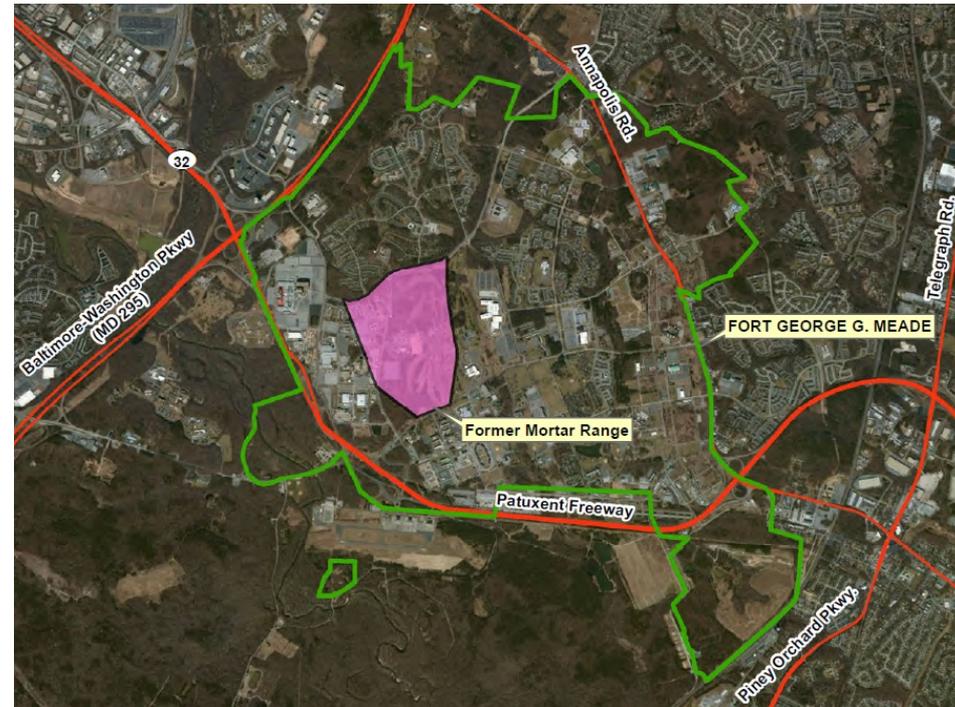
# Former Mortar Range Background



The former Mortar Range was active from the early 1920s until the 1940s when it became the installation golf course. Future use is administrative and construction is currently underway.

Extensive studies found only one live munition, but did find numerous training rounds without explosives.

Although the probability of encountering live munitions is low, it cannot be ruled out.



*Additional information regarding the former Mortar Range MRA is available on the FGGM Website: <http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/environment>*





# *Safety Recommendations for Site Users*



- Site Users - Avoid unpaved, wooded or undeveloped portions of the site. Your best defense is avoidance.
- Maintenance Users - Use extreme caution when working in areas where evidence of erosion is observed. Be aware of and follow the Fort Meade and secure DoD facility dig permit processes. Be familiar with examples of munitions presented on the following slide.
- All Users – Understand the Land Use Restrictions. Obey signage.

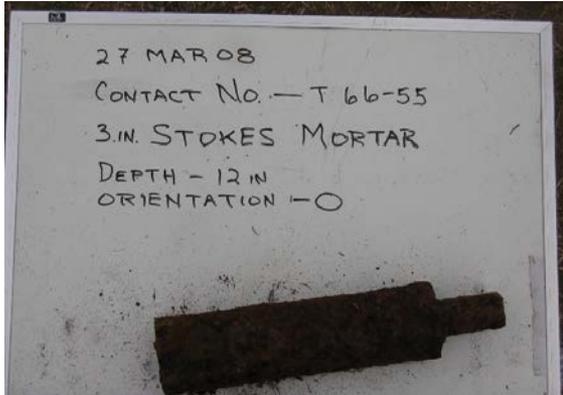




# Examples of Munitions Debris Encountered on the Site



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3-inch Training Stokes Mortar



Small Arms Ammunition



75-mm Mk1 Shrapnel Projectile  
(Explosive Hazard)



60-mm Training Mortar



81-mm Training Mortar



# Learn the **3RS** of UXO Safety



- R**ecognize ...when you may have encountered munitions.
- R**etreat ...do not touch, move or disturb it, and carefully leave the area.
- R**eport ...immediately to the police.

**UXO** stands for **U**ne**X**ploded **O**rdnance  
(UXO can be: new or old; shiny or rusty; clean or dirty)

*Additional information can be found on the Army Environmental Command website:  
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/cleanup/images/mmrp-uxofactsht.pdf>*





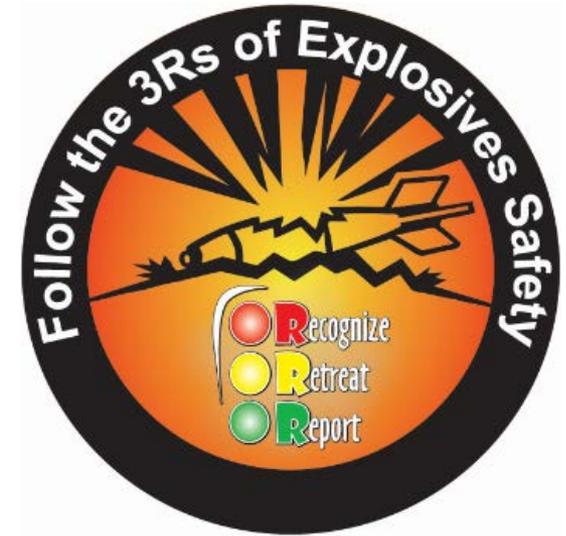
# UXO Safety Steps



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Should you encounter UXO or suspicious items:

- **STOP**, do **NOT** touch or attempt to move any object you find.
- Note the location and go back the way you came.
- Notify the Fort Meade Police Department by calling 911.
  - Explain to the dispatcher where you found the object.





# UXO Safety



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This training **DOES NOT** make you an expert in UXO!!  
Safety must always be your prime consideration.

## Follow the three Basic Rules of UXO Site Safety:

1. If you didn't drop it, don't pick it up!
2. If you didn't drop it, don't pick it up!
3. If you didn't drop it, don't pick it up!





# UXO Safety



## REMEMBER:

Not all hazards are obvious, don't assume anything is safe.

- DO NOT TOUCH IT!
- DO NOT MOVE IT!
- DO NOT DELAY IN REPORTING IT!

Be Safe!

Your best defense is avoidance!

