



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

September 15, 2021

**Subject: Notification and Safety Education Initiative at Department of Defense
Formerly Used Defense Sites**

Tom Bennett
Mayor
Town of Southern Shores
Southern Shores Town Hall
5375 N Virginia Dare Trl
Southern Shores, NC 27949

The Honorable Tom Bennett:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which executes the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program on behalf of the Army, conducts notification and safety education activities at FUDS with munitions-related concerns when additional investigations are not expected to occur in the near future. This letter is to advise you that information will be mailed to landowners whose property may be subject to environmental or safety concerns linked to past Department of Defense (DoD) activities at the FUDS on the enclosed list.

Congress established DoD's FUDS Program as part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program to address properties formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the DoD prior to October 1986 that may contain environmental contamination or military munitions resulting from past DoD activities. USACE is responsible for identifying, investigating and, when necessary, conducting an appropriate response to address contamination or military munitions at the approximately 5,400 FUDS properties across the country that still require a response.

After initial site inspections, USACE identified properties which may have munitions-related concerns and require further investigation. Due to the large number of munitions response sites (MRS), not every site can be addressed immediately. Because safety is the Army's number one priority at FUDS, USACE will provide landowners on a FUDS MRS a notification letter and a site-specific safety guide at least once every five years.

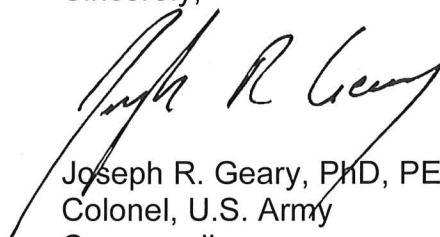
Should military munitions remain on these properties, they are most likely below ground surface; however, there is a possibility that some may have become partially or fully exposed. If present, these military munitions may pose an explosive hazard.

It may be some time before USACE is able to fully investigate the extent of the environmental contamination or military munitions at each of the identified FUDS; therefore, the site-specific safety guides include information on actions to take to reduce the risks that may remain from past DoD activities. For MRS with potential explosive hazards, the safety information encourages readers to follow the 3Rs of Explosive 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; and **Report** – call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it. Local law enforcement will arrange for Department of Defense Explosive Ordnance Disposal or police bomb squad personnel to locate, evaluate, and address the situation. For more information please visit: <https://3Rs.mil>.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army has informed your congressional representatives of the notification and safety education activities. This notification letter will also be forwarded to local officials and offices that may be called as first responders. A copy of the distribution list is enclosed.

Enclosed are copies of the site-specific safety guides and a sample of the notification letter that will be mailed to landowners within an MRS. Questions about this notification process can be answered by contacting Carl Dokter, FUDS Program Manager, at (912) 652-5673 number or by email at Carl.H.Dokter@usace.army.mil. Additional information on the FUDS Program can be found at www.fuds.mil.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Geary, PhD, PE
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Enclosures:

- (1) List of FUDS Projects
- (2) Government Distribution List
- (3) FUDS Notification and Safety Education Fact Sheet
- (4) Sample Letter to Landowners
- (5) Site-Specific Safety Guides

Dare County Projects

Notification and Safety Information will be mailed to property owners within the following Dare County Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). More information about these projects, including an interactive map, is available at www.fuds.mil.

Project List

Southern Shores, Southern Shores, I04NC108501



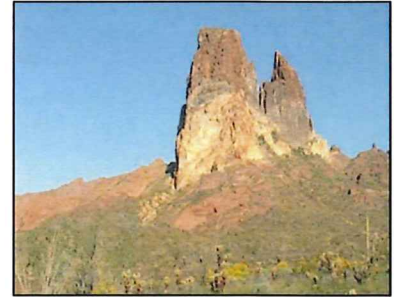
Formerly Used Defense Sites Notification and Safety Education Initiative Interim Risk Management

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Background

For more than 200 years, our military forces have carried out activities such as maneuvers and live-fire training and testing on various properties throughout the United States in preparation to defend our national interests. Some of these activities resulted in a possible need for an environmental response. Properties that the Department of Defense, or DOD, used for these purposes and transferred before October 1986 are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites or FUDS. The DOD is committed to responding to environmental contamination and military munitions on FUDS that resulted from the Military Services' past use and pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

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Army is the lead agent for the FUDS Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers executes the program on behalf of Army and the DOD. The Army is committed to responding to contamination and military munitions (e.g., unexploded ordnance) present on these properties to allow for their safe use. Active coordination and collaboration with property owners, state and federal regulators, tribal and local governments, and affected communities are critical to Army's activities. While conducting these activities, the Army Corps of Engineers ensures that its actions are protective of human health and the environment and conducted in a safe, timely, and transparent manner. It also works hard to keep interested parties informed of its activities, including offering affected communities and property owners opportunities to express their views early and continuously throughout the process.

Notification and Safety Education Initiative

Given the number of FUDS, it may be some time before the Army Corps of Engineers is able to address the potential hazards present. For this reason, and in the interest of public safety, the Army is implementing notification and safety education activities as part of the DOD's Interim Risk Management initiative. The Army Corps of Engineers will implement these activities at eligible FUDS every five years beginning with military munitions sites that pose the greatest potential risk. These activities are designed to help reduce impacts to human health, safety and the environment until further response activities are initiated. The goal is to educate property owners and others about how to reduce risk from hazards that may remain from the DOD's use of the property. The Army Corps of Engineers uses cost-effective methods to help safeguard affected communities, maintain transparency, and allow for early and continuous engagement with property owners, affected communities and other stakeholders.

Types of activities the Army Corps of Engineers implements at a FUDS include:

- Notifying property owners whose land is within a FUDS boundary;
- Coordinating with government officials whose constituents reside within a FUDS boundary;
- Staffing a toll-free FUDS information telephone line: 1-855-765-FUDS (3837);
- Providing 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat and Report) Explosives Safety Program (www.denix.osd.mil/uxo) materials at those FUDS where military munitions may be present; and,
- Conducting public education activities tailored to specific projects.

The Army Corps of Engineers will implement these notification and safety education activities at designated FUDS at least once every five years. For more information about the FUDS Program see www.fuds.mil.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – HEADQUARTERS

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