



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Little Rock District

# Fact Sheet

September 2001

## Use ordnance safety precautions at the Camp Robinson Formerly Used Defense Site

### Why is the Army Corps of Engineers working in my area?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting investigations at the Camp Robinson Formerly Used Defense Site. Unexploded ordnance (military ammunition) remains in an area north of Highway 89, which was once part of the World War II-era Camp Robinson infantry-training center.

The areas of concern include 9,260 privately-owned acres and 4,000 acres that make up the Camp Robinson Wildlife Development Area. Also, two acres that are now part of the North Little Rock airport are being investigated.

### What is the Camp Robinson Formerly Used Defense Site?

During World War II, the U.S. Army operated Camp Robinson for basic troop and weapons training. After the war, Camp Robinson was declared surplus and the 48,188-acre facility was broken up. Most of it, about 32,884 acres, was transferred to the Arkansas National Guard. Some of it went to the city of North Little Rock and Central Baptist College. A small portion, 31 acres was retained by the federal government for use as an Army Reserve Center, now designated as Camp Pike. The remainder was sold to private owners with deed restrictions.

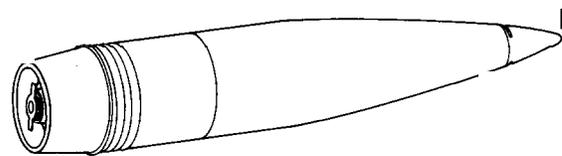
The parts of Camp Robinson that are still operated by the military are not eligible for environmental cleanup under the FUDS program. But, everything else that was once part of Camp Robinson is eligible for inclusion in the FUDS program. Only the areas north of Highway 89, and the North Little Rock Airport are FUDS-eligible sites believed to contain unexploded ordnance.

### What types of Unexploded Ordnance are likely to be encountered at the Camp Robinson FUDS?

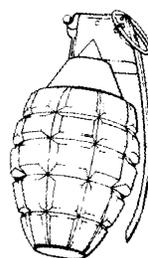
Various sizes of ordnance were used at Camp

Robinson. Small arms munitions were used to train soldiers in marksmanship and gun safety. Artillery rounds were fired from larger guns. The area north of Highway 89 in Faulkner County has a documented historical use of a variety of projectiles including 30-caliber, 37 mm, 60 mm, 3-inch, 75 mm, 105 mm and 155 mm. The drawing shows what some of these items would have looked like when they were new.

#### 155mm Round



*Projectiles with similar shapes and varying sizes might be encountered north of Highway 89 in the Camp Robinson Formerly Used Defense Site.*



#### MKII Hand Grenade

*Ordnance experts will search for items like this at the North Little Rock Airport.*

MKII hand grenades were used at the North Little Rock Airport in Pulaski County.

The drawing shows what a new MKII hand grenade would look like.

### What does UXO look like now?

The munitions used on the property in Faulkner County had a similar shape, but came in many different sizes. Aging and weathering usually has caused the paint to wear off or fade, and the items have rusted.

Because the rust color blends in with color of the ground or dead leaves, they can be difficult to spot or



After time, ordnance may rust and look similar to this old 105mm artillery round.

recognize. The items will be rusty, and will look like big bullets or like pointed metal pipes.

### What makes it dangerous?

Most military munitions contain some form of propellant and explosives or pyrotechnic mixes to make them work as they were designed to work (propelling the ordnance, exploding it or producing intense smoke or light). When a military munition does not function as intended during use, it becomes Unexploded Ordnance or UXO. Many people commonly refer to UXO as “duds,” but UXO should not be considered safe. These items are extremely dangerous and should never be touched or moved. Even though they are old, they can still explode and cause serious injury or death.

### Where could I encounter UXO?

Areas that the military used for weapons training or for testing weapons or munitions, such as the property that was once part of Camp Robinson, could contain UXO. After the war, the government sold the much of the property with deed restrictions, limiting it to surface use only. Despite these warnings, some of the land is being used for riskier purposes, including housing areas.

**If I step on UXO by mistake, or run over it on my**

### bicycle, what will happen?

If you step on or run over UXO with your bicycle, it could explode. If you're lucky, and it doesn't, leave the area from the same direction in which you entered it.

If you encounter UXO while walking or playing, you are probably in an area where you shouldn't be. You should leave the area immediately. To avoid other UXO, retrace your steps out of the area from the same direction in which you entered. Do not go near the UXO, touch it or move it.

Try to remember where you saw the UXO. When you are safely away from the UXO try to mark the area with a piece of clothing or break some branches to help mark the area. Immediately report what you saw to a parent, the police or a teacher.

### If UXO exploded, how far would the pieces go?

It depends on what type of munition it is. Some munitions have very large danger areas, known as the fragmentation distance. When the shell explodes, the metal body breaks into many different sized fragments. The explosion causes these metal fragments to be travel at very high speeds, in all directions. These fragments are very hot, very sharp, and often jagged.

Generally, the larger a munition item, the more explosives it will have, and the larger its fragmentation distance will be.

The fragmentation distances at the Camp Robinson FUDS range from 200 feet to 2,577 feet depending upon the lay of the land and the type of ordnance. Since the fragmentation distances are so far, it is not safe to throw rocks at ordnance or to shoot it with a gun. Most injuries from ordnance are caused by people tampering with the ordnance. You can assure your own safety by acting responsibly.

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**Want to be added to the mailing list? Have questions?  
Contact Project Manager Margaret Morehead at (501) 324-7134.**

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**RECOGNIZE - Ordnance at the Camp Robinson FUD site may come in many different sizes. It is likely to be rusted and will look like big bullets or pointed metal pipes.**

**RETREAT - Try to remember where you saw the UXO. If possible, when you are safely away from the UXO, mark the area with a piece of clothing or some broken branches.**

**REPORT - To protect yourself, your family and your friends, immediately report what you saw to a parent, the police or a teacher. Ask them to call 911. The military will only respond to requests they receive from local law enforcement officials.**

