

## Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about the military training activities that took place at the former Suffolk County Air Force Base and to raise awareness of the explosive hazards that may exist at the property.

Between 1943 and 1945, the former Suffolk County Air Force Base was used as a gunnery training base for fighter pilots and instructors. Fighter groups received gunnery, bombing, small arms and rocketry training before going overseas. The former Suffolk County Air Force Base was originally known as a sub-base of the Army Air Base, Mitchel Field, New York. Later, the base was named Suffolk County Army Air Field, and finally became known as Suffolk County Air Force Base. Several areas of the former Suffolk County Air Force Base have been identified through historical research and site visits as having potential explosive hazards. These areas include the Airfield Dump and the Demolition Range. The munitions known or suspected to have been used, stored and destroyed at the range include general purpose bombs, practice bombs, rockets, grenades, bulk demolition material and small arms ammunition.

The former Suffolk County Air Force Base is located approximately 2 miles north of Westhampton Beach, in Suffolk County, New York. The property is publicly and privately owned, and consists of Gabreski Airport, private businesses, a facility occupied by the New York Air National Guard, U.S. Department of Agriculture offices and the Eastern Suffolk Boards of Cooperative Educational Services buildings, which are used for educational purposes and a park.

Because explosive hazards associated with military munitions from past military training may remain on the Airfield Dump and the Demolition Range, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that landowners and visitors follow the **3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat and Report.**



Practice rocket debris at the former Suffolk County Air Force Base

## Former Suffolk County Air Force Base

### For More Information



**US Army Corps of Engineers.**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for identifying, investigating and, when necessary, conducting an appropriate response to address contamination and military munitions resulting from past Department of Defense activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites, also referred to as FUDS.

For information about the former Suffolk County Air Force Base, contact the FUDS Information Center by calling the toll-free number 1-855-765-FUDS (3837). For general information about the FUDS Program, visit [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).

### Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

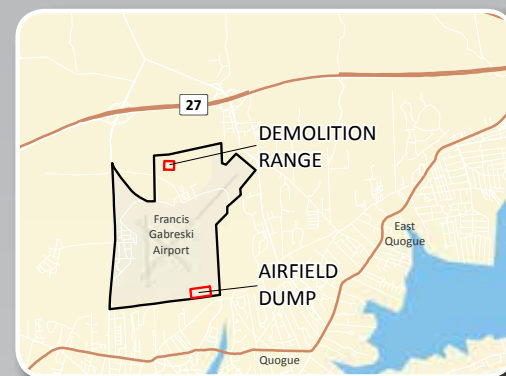


Visit the U.S. Army's Explosives Safety Education website:  
[www.denix.osd.mil/uxo](http://www.denix.osd.mil/uxo)

## 3Rs Safety Guide

### Former Suffolk County Air Force Base

New York  
Suffolk County



### Airfield Dump Demolition Range



**US Army Corps of Engineers.**



Aerial view of decoy tanks and trucks on road near runways at the former Suffolk County Air Force Base

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What types of potential hazards exist?

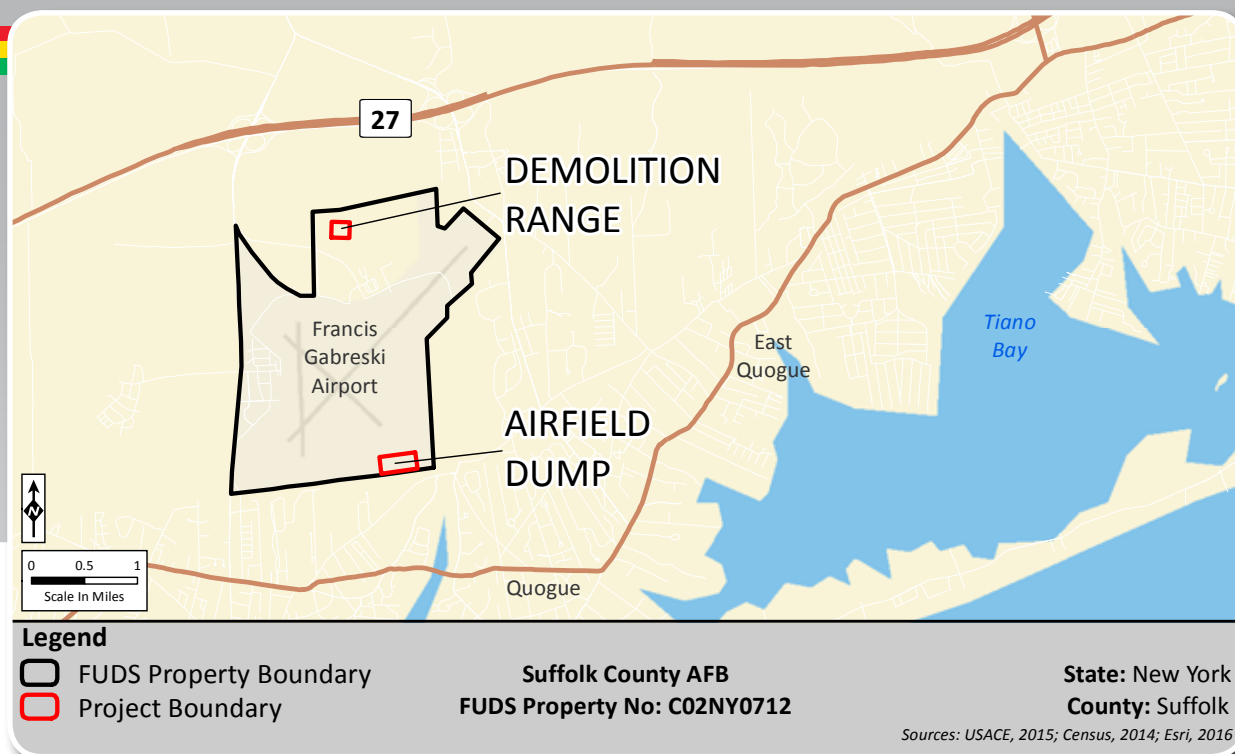
**A:** Military munitions, such as general purpose bombs, practice bombs, rockets, grenades, bulk demolition material and small arms ammunition, were potentially used at the former Suffolk County Air Force Base. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is unable to rule out the presence of munitions that may pose an explosive hazard.

**Q:** What do I do if I suspect I may have come across a military munition?

**A:** If you suspect you may have come across a military munition, the best way to ensure your safety is to follow the 3Rs of Explosives 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.

**Q:** What are the findings of the work that the government has completed?

**A:** Historical research and site inspections indicate that military munitions were potentially used, stored and destroyed at this range and dumpsite, and



some munitions may remain on the property. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that further investigation is required for the Airfield Dump and Demolition Range at the former Suffolk County Air Force Base.

**Q:** What will be done next?

**A:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will make explosives safety education material that is based on the 3Rs available to landowners and the community. Additionally, it will coordinate with landowners as it plans required response activities.

**Q:** Where can I get more information?

**A:** For more information, call the Formerly Used Defense Sites Information Center toll-free number 1-855-765-FUDS (3837). Additional information can be found by searching on the property name, Suffolk County AFB, in the Geographical Information System tool on the Formerly Used Defense Sites website at [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).

## Follow the 3Rs of Explosives 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.

### Report

call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.