

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about the military 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.

The former Suffolk County Air Force Base was used for military purposes during two time periods. The former property was used from 1943 to 1945 for gunnery training and from 1951 to 1969 for air defense and for organizing and training personnel for combat. An area associated with the former Suffolk County Air Force Base, known as Airfield Dump, has been identified through historical research and site visits as having potential explosive hazards. The munitions known or suspected to have been disposed of at the dump include general purpose bombs, practice bombs, rockets, grenades, bulk demolition materials, pyrotechnics, riot control materials and small arms ammunition.

The Airfield Dump is located in the southern portion of Francis S. Gabreski Airport and approximately 1 mile east of Old Riverhead Road, in Suffolk County, New York. The land is publicly owned and is used as a county airport.

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



General purpose bomb 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.

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



Visit the U.S. Army's Explosives Safety Education website:
<https://3Rs.mil>

3Rs Safety Guide

Former Suffolk County Air Force Base

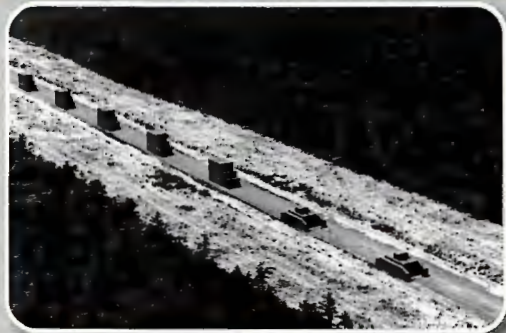
New York
Suffolk County



Airfield Dump



US Army Corps of Engineers.



Source: Cradle of Aviation Museum

Aerial view of decoy tanks and trucks on a 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 materials, pyrotechnics, riot control materials and small arms ammunition, are known or suspected to have been disposed of at the Airfield Dump. 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: Based on historical research and site inspections, military munitions are known or suspected to have

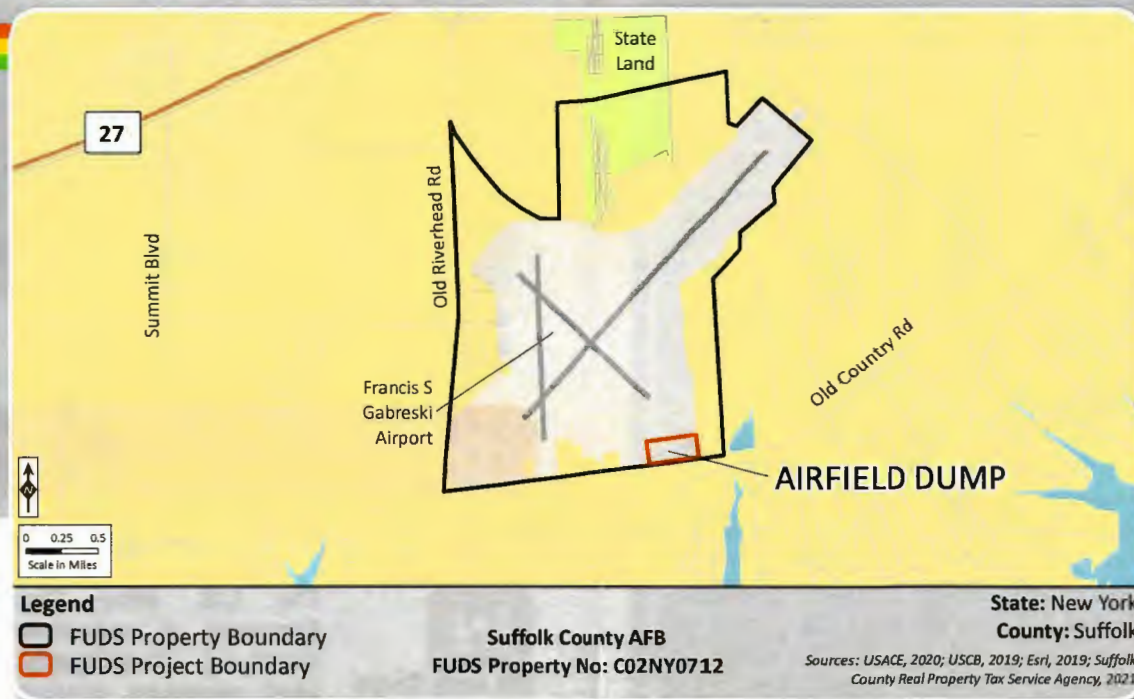
been disposed of at this dump, and some munitions may remain on the property. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that further investigation is required for the Airfield Dump at the former Suffolk County Air Force Base.

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 the landowner and the community. Additionally, it will coordinate with the landowner 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) or select the GIS Tool on the Interim Risk Management page at www.fuds.mil. Learn more about munitions and explosives safety at <https://3Rs.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.