

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about the military activities that took place at the former Fort Michie and to raise awareness of the explosive hazards that may exist at the property.

The former Fort Michie was used from 1900 to 1948 as a coastal defense site. Between 1900 and 1926, six batteries were constructed on the property. Fort Terry used Fort Michie as a sub-post prior to and during World War 1. After the war, the fort became a sub-post of Fort Horatio Gouveneur. The six battery range fans that extended out over the water, known as Michie Batteries – Water Acreage, have been identified through historical research as having potential explosive hazards. The munitions known or suspected to have been used at these batteries include small to large caliber munitions and small arms ammunition.

The former Fort Michie is located on Great Gull Island, in Suffolk County, New York. The land is owned by the American Museum of Natural History and is used as a research facility and bird sanctuary.

Because explosive hazards associated with military munitions from past military activities may remain in the water surrounding Great Gull Island, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that landowners and visitors follow the **3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat and Report.**



Example of small to large caliber munitions

Former Fort Michie

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 Fort Michie, 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:
www.denix.osd.mil/uxo

3Rs Safety Guide

Former Fort Michie

**New York
Suffolk and
New London Counties**



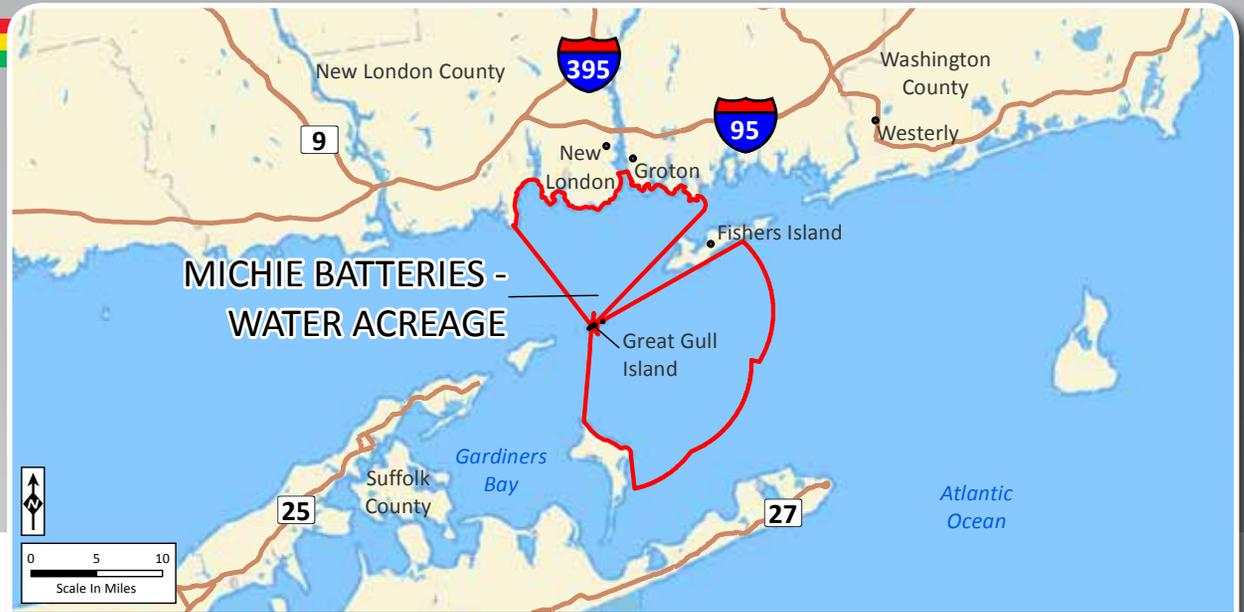
Michie Batteries – Water Acreage



US Army Corps of Engineers



The former Fort Michie on Great Gull Island, 1924



Legend

-  FUDS Property Boundary
-  Project Boundary

Fort Michie
FUDS Property No: C02NY0612

States: Connecticut, New York
Counties: New London, Suffolk

Sources: USACE, 2015; Census, 2014; Esri, 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What types of potential hazards exist?*

A: Military munitions, such as small to large caliber munitions and small arms ammunition, were potentially used at the former Fort Michie. 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: **R**ecognize – when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous; **R**etreat – do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and **R**eport – 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 at these batteries, and some munitions may remain in the water surrounding Great Gull Island. The U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers has determined that further investigation is required for the Michie Batteries – Water Acreage at the former Fort Michie.

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, Fort Michie, in the Geographical Information System tool on the Formerly Used Defense Sites website at 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.