

## Introduction

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

The former Fort Tilden was used by the Department of Defense from 1917 to 1974 for training on coastal gun batteries, anti-aircraft artillery and small arms. The coastal gun batteries include Battery Harris East and West, Battery Kessler and Battery Ferguson – along with two ranges, the Pistol Range and the Rifle Range. An area of the former Fort Tilden, known as Coastal Battery & Small Arms Ranges – Land, has been identified through historical research and site visits as having potential explosive hazards. The munitions known or suspected to have been used include small to large caliber munitions, practice rockets and small arms ammunition.

The former Fort Tilden is located on a barrier island known as Rockaway Peninsula, in Queens County, New York City, New York. The property is located within the Gateway National Recreation Area. The land, which is owned by the U.S. National Park Service, is part of the Gateway National Recreation Area.

Because explosive hazards associated with military munitions from past military training may remain on the Coastal Battery & Small Arms Ranges – Land, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that the landowner and visitors follow the **3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat and Report.**



Example of practice rocket debris

## Former Fort Tilden

### 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 Tilden, 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 Fort Tilden

**New York  
Queens County**



### Coastal Battery & Small Arms Ranges – Land



**US Army Corps of Engineers**



Personnel at the former Fort Tilden firing a 16-inch gun, 1941

## Frequently Asked Questions

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

**A:** Military munitions, such as small to large caliber munitions, practice rockets and small arms ammunition, were potentially used at the former Fort Tilden. 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 this fort, and some munitions may remain on the property. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has

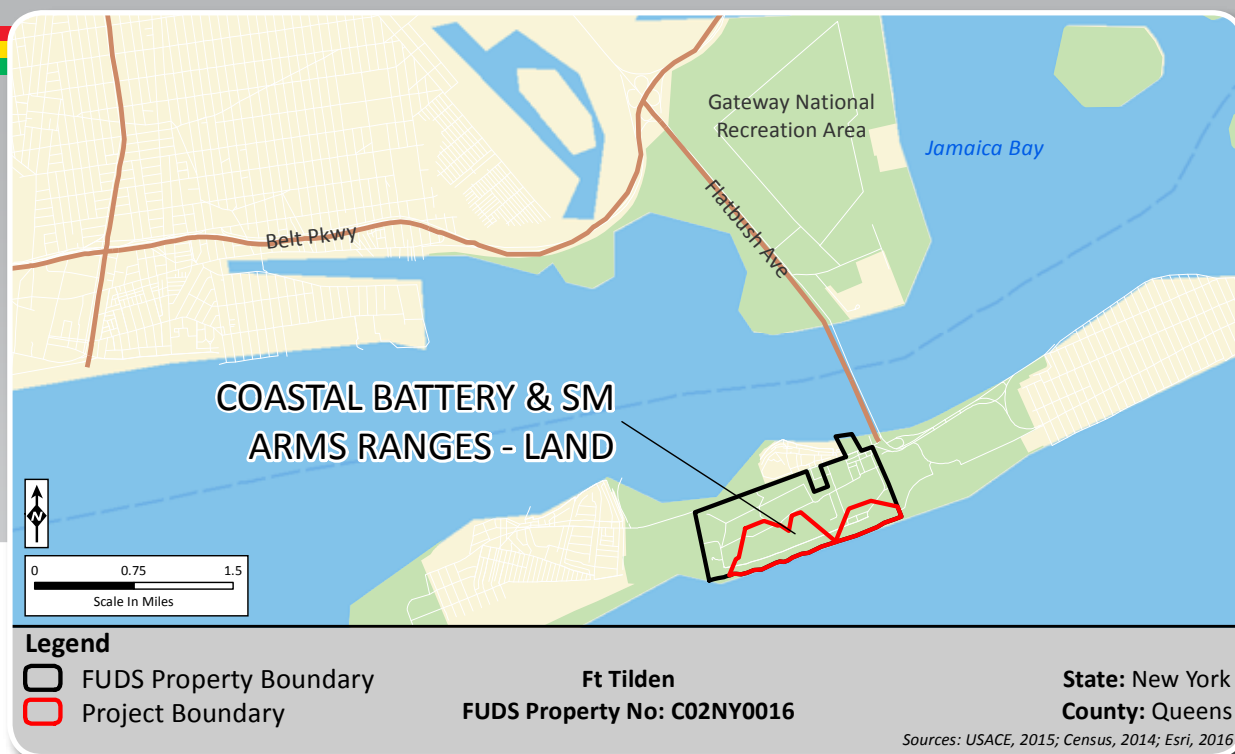
determined that further investigation is required for the Coastal Battery & Small Arms Ranges – Land at the former Fort Tilden.

**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). Additional information can be found by searching on the property name, Ft Tilden, 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.