

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about the military 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 from 1917 to 1974 for various military purposes, including coastal defense, the testing of anti-aircraft guns and small arms training. An area associated with the former Fort Tilden, known as Coastal Battery & Sm 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 at the ranges include medium to large caliber munitions, medium to large caliber practice munitions, mortars, practice mortars, practice rockets and small arms ammunition.

The Coastal Battery & Sm Arms Ranges - Land is located on the western portion of Rockaway Peninsula, in the New York City borough of Queens, New York. The land is publicly owned and is part of the Gateway National Recreation Area.

Because explosive hazards associated with military munitions from past military activities may remain on the Coastal Battery & Sm 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 a large caliber munition

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.

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



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

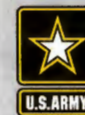
3Rs Safety Guide

Former Fort Tilden

**New York
Queens Borough**



**Coastal Battery & Sm Arms
Ranges - Land**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**



Source: NPS/Gateway NRA Museum Collection

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 medium to large caliber munitions, medium to large caliber practice munitions, mortars, practice mortars, practice rockets and small arms ammunition, are known or suspected to have been used at the Coastal Battery & Sm Arms Ranges - Land. 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

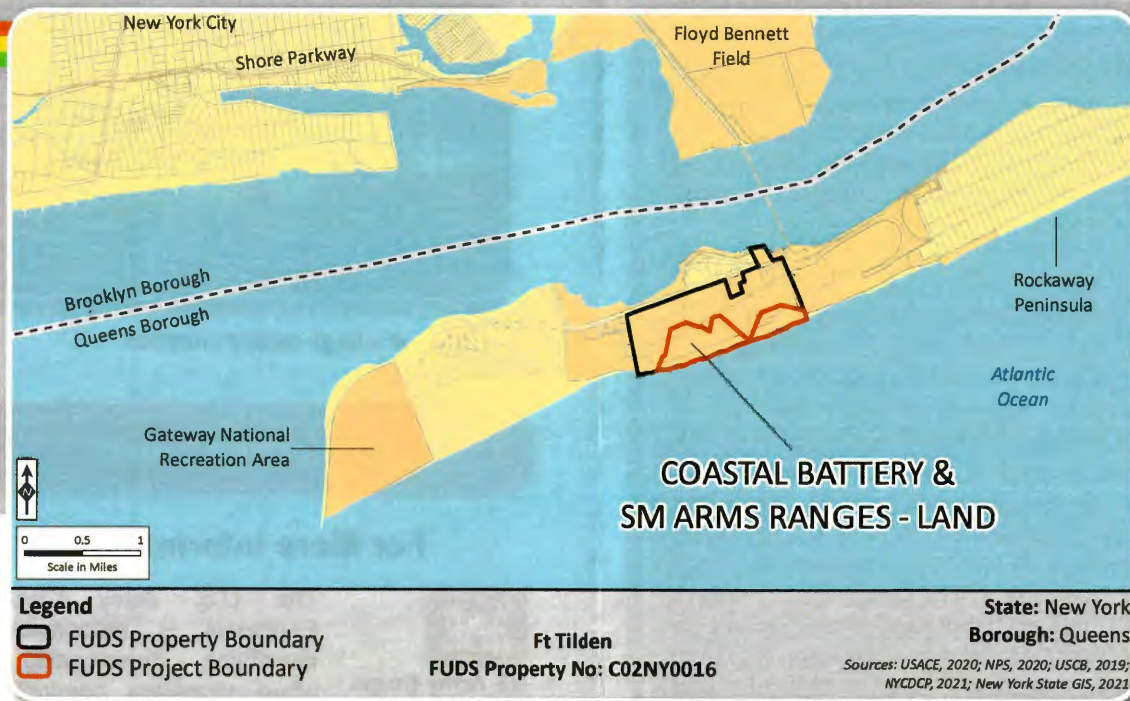
been used at these ranges, and some munitions may remain on the property. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that further investigation is required for the Coastal Battery & Sm Arms Ranges - Land at the former Fort Tilden.

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 GIS Tool that is available by clicking on the Interim Risk Management link 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.