



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE
100 Headquarters Avenue
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NEW MEXICO 88002-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
TEDT-WS-CG

26 FEB 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, Directors and Office Chiefs of Team White Sands

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #24: Work Force Briefing and Training on the Hazards of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

1. It is vital that persons entering White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) acknowledge the very real hazards presented by one of the world's largest munitions impact areas. WSMR has been used as an ordnance and explosives test facility since its inception as a proving ground in 1945. Prior to that, some areas of what is now the Southern part of the Range were used as artillery impact areas by troops training at Fort Bliss. As a tri-service DoD Range, White Sands has tested nearly every type of deployable ordnance developed in the United States since 1945, as well as many items from other countries. Quite a number of these munitions were deliberately designed to blend in with the terrain, and their presence may not be immediately obvious to the casual observer.

2. Consequently, even though WSMR performs extensive Range Clearance activities, there is no assurance that any area of the Range is truly 100% free of UXO. Therefore, all personnel under our control or sponsorship will receive either a formal orientation or a detailed briefing on the hazards of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) present at White Sands Missile Range before they are granted access to the Range. (The "Range" is defined as the area outside the main post cantonment area.) WSMR organizations are responsible for ensuring assigned personnel and visitors are briefed on UXO hazards.

a. Activities with contractors working on the Range are specifically included in this requirement and must take positive action to comply with all components of this requirement. Contracting Officer's Representatives, and/or Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives will obtain the required briefing materials from their chain of command and coordinate with contractor management to comply with this requirement. This training requirement will be included in all new contracts.

b. All customer and tenant activities must fully comply with this requirement. This includes all non-appropriated fund activities and non-governmental/private organizations operating on or visiting the Range. Sponsors of these activities and organizations are responsible for obtaining the required briefing materials from their chain of command and formally tasking the appropriate management or supervisory personnel to comply with this requirement.

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c. One time visitors will be escorted by WSMR personnel and will be given a safety briefing on range hazards to include UXO. One time visitors to the cantonment area are not required to take UXO training.

3. Everyone entering or transiting the Range must receive an appropriate UXO Range Hazard Briefing (or at least a basic UXO Orientation for personnel granted casual recurring access for delivery or other commercial purposes) from their Range sponsor or chain of command as a first step in gaining access to the Range for any work-related or recreational purpose. This briefing and/or orientation should be targeted to the receiving audience, but the bottom line is that everyone desiring to enter the Range must receive a briefing or orientation before being allowed access. Annual supplemental UXO hazards refresher training will be provided by each organization to all assigned or sponsored personnel who have continued access to the Range. Each organization will maintain formal records of this training and make them available for review.

4. A videotape providing our current UXO Range Hazards Briefing is available for each organization. A copy may be obtained from Visual Information or may be viewed from the White Sands Missile Range Home Page. You should use this as your baseline training tool, and everyone should see it. Enclosed is the UXO Range Hazards Orientation Sheet for signature after completion of the training. You may duplicate this sheet as needed.

5. If you have any questions concerning this requirement, contact Test Center Operations at 678-3541 or the Installation Safety Office at 678-2305.

Encl
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JOHN S. REGAN
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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MEMORANDUM FOR All Newly Assigned Personnel to White Sands Missile Range

SUBJECT: Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Hazards Orientation/Initial Safety Briefing

1. Welcome to White Sands Missile Range. You will find your assignment to this national treasure both interesting and enjoyable. As you are undoubtedly aware, the nature of our mission and the rugged geography encompassed by the Range create some very real hazards to visitors and employees at our facilities. With this in mind, I ask that you carefully read and sign this document in the space provided below. Should you have any questions, please ask any of your unit leaders or installation safety personnel and they will address your concerns or provide any additional information you might desire on a particular issue.
2. White Sands Missile Range has been used as an Ordnance and Explosives Test Facility since its inception as a Proving Ground in 1945. Prior to that, some areas of what is now the Southern part of the Range were used as artillery impact areas by troops training at Ft. Bliss. As a tri-Service Department of Defense Range, we have tested nearly every type of deployable ordnance that has been developed in America since 1945, as well as many items from other countries. Quite a number of these were deliberately designed to blend in with the terrain, and their presence may not be immediately obvious to a casual observer.
3. Although we conduct Range Clearance activities, we have no assurance that any area of the Range is truly 100% cleared of UXO. In general, if you see something man-made while on the Range, please avoid it. If it looks like an ordnance item, please report it to your unit leaders or installation safety personnel without disturbing it or its immediate vicinity.
4. Finally, the isolated nature of the Range, our rugged geography, and the Southwest's extreme climatic conditions combine to create health hazards of their own. Severe sunburn can occur in as little as 10 or 15 minutes at this altitude, and just about all of our wildlife and insect life come equipped with fangs or venom of some kind. Even the exotic Oryx you will see during your visit have long horns and a bad attitude. So, remain vigilant and keep your safety awareness at a high level while enjoying your visit to America's premier testing facility. Upon signature, please present this to your safety officer or unit leader for official filing.

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5. Thank you for your attention to this important safety orientation. Have a safe visit!


JOHN S. REGAN
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

I acknowledge that I have received the Commander's Range Hazard Orientation Briefing. I also acknowledge that I understand the hazards of unexploded ordnance and will therefore not touch or disturb any ordnance that I may find on the Range unless my official job requires me to do so. If my job requires me to handle UXOs, I will report to my unit leader or installation safety personnel.

Signature

Date