

## BACKGROUND

White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), the largest military installation in the United States, is in south-central New Mexico and encompasses over 2.2 million acres in five counties. In addition to the main installation, there are two extension areas adding over 3.8 million acres to the range. WSMR is partially bordered on the east by Holloman Air Force Base and by Fort Bliss on the south.

Since its beginning as a proving ground in 1945, WSMR



Photo: DVIDS

has been an ordnance and explosives test facility. Prior to that, some areas of WSMR were used for bombing practice and as an artillery range for Fort Bliss. WSMR tested nearly every type of deployable ordnance developed in the United States since 1945, as well as many foreign items. By design, many munitions blend in with the environment and may be hard to see.

WSMR is a laboratory with a large complex of test ranges, launch sites, impact areas, and instrumentation sites required to develop and test weapons and weapons systems. Since 1945, WSMR conducted over 50,000 missile and rocket firings and tests. Due to the nature of the range activities, munitions may be present across the installation and include submunitions, warheads, practice and high explosive bombs, artillery shells, and rockets.

Munitions may be heavily corroded, whole or in parts, buried or covered by plants, making them difficult to recognize. Do not approach, touch, or disturb anything encountered that may be a munition or part of one, but carefully leave the area. Consider all munitions dangerous regardless of how long they have been in the environment or how frequently they have been handled. Old or new munitions can be deadly. Help protect yourself, co-workers and the public from explosive hazards present by following the **3Rs of Explosive Safety— Recognize, Retreat and Report.**



Submunition

## 3Rs Explosives Safety Guide

### White Sands Missile Range

#### IF YOU ENCOUNTER MUNITIONS

##### Emergency Contacts

##### On White Sands Missile Range

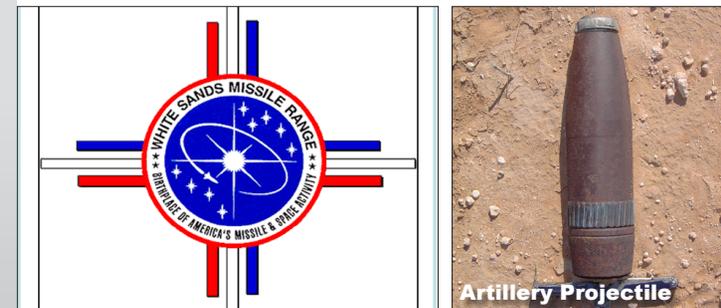
On range or from a cell phone	Call WSMR Police (575) 678-1234
From landline	Call 911

##### On White Sands National Monument

Call 911



## Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



Artillery Projectile

Visit the U.S. Army's Explosives Safety Education website:

[www.denix.osd.mil/uxo](http://www.denix.osd.mil/uxo)





Bomb



Shaped Charge

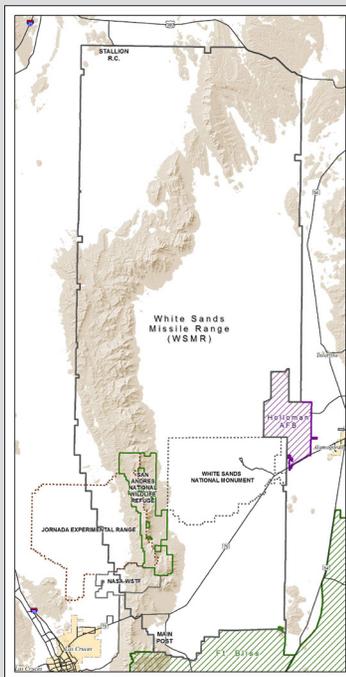
## Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

- Recognize** when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous;
- Retreat** do not approach, touch, move or disturb a suspect munition, but carefully leave the area; and
- Report** immediately what was seen to the contacts on the back panel

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: What are military munitions?

**A:** Military munitions are dangerous by design. They are made to kill or injure enemy forces or damage enemy equipment. When military munitions do not function as intended (do what they are supposed to do) during use, they become unexploded ordnance or UXO.



### Q: What do military munitions look like?

**A:** Military munitions come in many different sizes, shapes, and colors. Their size and shape depends on how the military intends to use them. For example, rounds used to train soldiers on crew-served weapons, like tanks and artillery, are large. Rockets, fired from aircraft or ground vehicles, can vary in size, as can bombs dropped from aircraft.

Other types of munitions include hand and rifle grenades, mines and submunitions. Weathering changes the appearance of military munitions making them more difficult to spot or recognize.

### Q: Where could I encounter military munitions?

**A:** You are most likely to encounter them in areas where the military conducts, or formerly conducted, training or testing involving military munitions, but they can also be encountered in other areas. The vast majority of military munitions, however, are in impact areas of operational and former ranges. Because of changing military needs, there are many locations where former ranges are now outside installation borders.

### Q: What do I do if I see a military munition?

**A:** If you suspect you have come encountered a military munition, the best way to ensure your safety is to follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety. **Recognize that munitions are dangerous; Retreat — do not approach, touch, or disturb a suspect munition, but carefully leave the area the same way you entered; and Report immediately what was seen** (see back panel for contacts).

Because military munitions are present at active installations and for a variety of reasons could be encountered outside installation boundaries, follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety.



Photos: Defense Video & Imagery Distribution Systems (DVIDS)