

REMEDIAL ACTIONS



Camp Butner in 1945

December 2024

Defense Environmental Restoration Program – Formerly Used Defense Sites

Across the country, the Department of Defense acquired properties, often during times of war, to use for military training, testing, and demonstrations. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals or other government entities. These Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) properties can range from privately owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, industrial, and educational properties. The Department of Defense is committed to protecting people and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these sites if hazards from the former military operations remain. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program-FUDS was established to evaluate and, if necessary, to remediate FUDS properties. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manages the program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, in 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986. These laws provide the authority for certain cleanup activities and dictate procedural requirements. USACE conducts investigations to determine the potential risk to people and the environment from the military's use of the property. Public involvement and community participation are important components of the process. USACE partners with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local governments, regulatory and environmental agencies, and affected property owners.

Background

Camp Butner is located 15 miles north of Durham, North Carolina, and encompasses approximately 40,384 acres in Granville, Person, and Durham counties. It was primarily established to train infantry, artillery, and engineering combat troops for deployment and redeployment overseas during World War II. The installation was active from 1942 until 1946; however, training was only conducted through 1943.

Following World War II, the U.S. Department of War closed Camp Butner in 1947 and transferred the property to the Army National Guard, the state of North Carolina, local municipalities, and private owners. This fact sheet addresses Projects 04, 05, and 11 within the Camp Butner FUDS property:

- **Project 04 and Project 11:** The land within these project areas previously consisted of a training complex with an artillery impact area, two mortar ranges, and several small arms ranges. Both project areas are located inside the Camp Butner Training Center, so access is restricted.
- **Project 05:** This area previously contained an artillery impact area, mortar ranges, several small arms ranges, a mock village, and two machine gun ranges. This area consists of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and undeveloped wooded lands. All land is privately owned and is unrestricted to property owners.

Environmental Investigations

USACE conducted a Remedial Investigation at the Camp Butner FUDS property in 2012 and 2013 to determine if potential hazards exist from the Department of Defense use of the property that may present an unacceptable risk to human health and/or the environment. Investigative activities included the use of geophysical equipment on paths (called transects) and grids (square or rectangular areas of various sizes) to map metallic objects in the ground.

Technicians analyzed the data to select metallic objects to dig up. Teams found munitions within the Project 11 area,

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Camp Butner

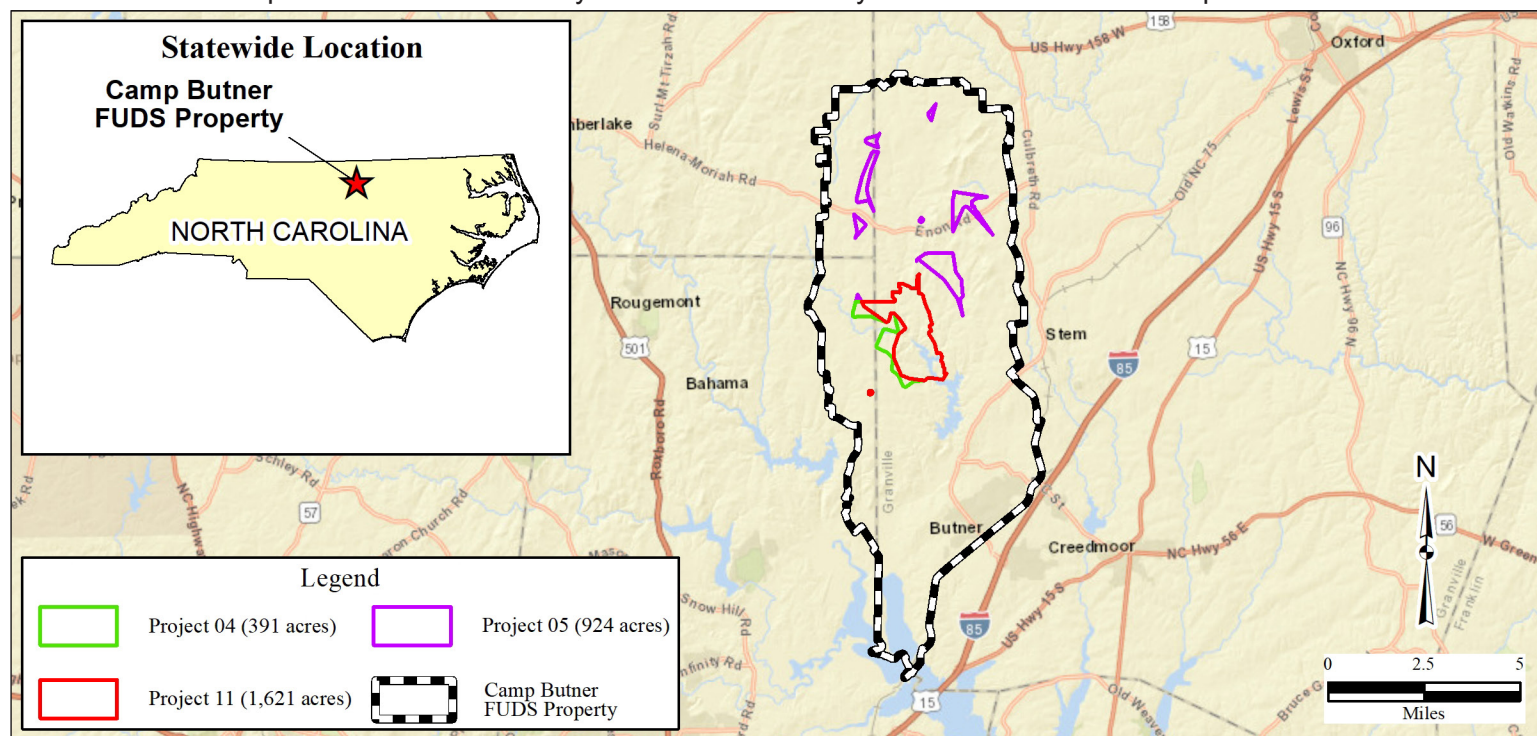
including 60 millimeter mortars and hand grenades. Within Projects 04 and 05, teams recovered fragmentation from mortars and other projectiles that was classified as munitions debris. Investigative activities also included the collection of soil samples to determine if the metals and explosives that comprise munitions (known as munitions constituents) remain at the FUDS property. Based on the Remedial Investigation results, USACE concluded contamination associated with munitions constituents is not present at the Camp Butner FUDS property.

USACE finalized a Feasibility Study in March 2019, which established remedial alternatives and recommended the most appropriate remedial approach for the projects based on results of the Remedial Investigation, including the baseline risk assessment. A Proposed Plan finalized in January 2020 identified the preferred remedial alternatives for each Project. Subsequently, USACE approved Decision Documents in 2021 and 2022 to authorize implementation of the Remedial Actions.

Remedial Actions (Land Use Controls)

The Remedial Actions for Projects 04, 05, and 11 consist of land use controls focused on educational awareness to inform land users of potential munitions hazards and safety precautions to take to avoid contact with munitions, emphasizing the importance of the 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat, Report) of Explosives Safety. To implement the Remedial Actions, USACE will distribute educational pamphlets and fact sheets and install warning signs at Projects 04, 05, and 11. USACE established a project webpage at the link below to keep the community apprised of project progress:

<https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/Missions/Formerly-Used-Defense-Sites/Camp-Butner/>



SAFETY FIRST: REMEMBER THE 3RS

Always use caution when you are on a FUDS property and 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Scan for Project Webpage

Project documents are available on the project webpage at the link above or by scanning the QR code to the left.

