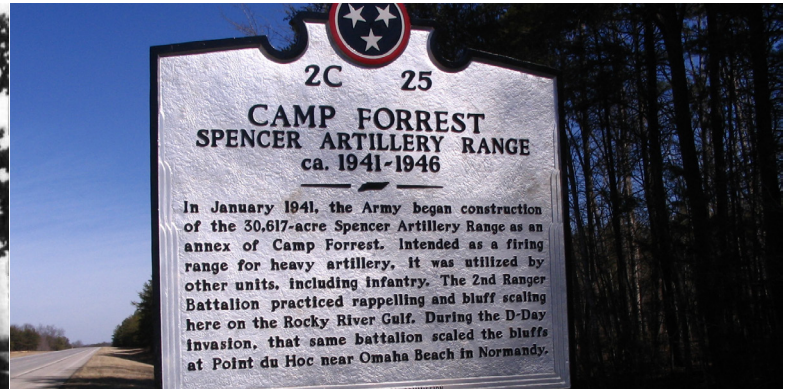
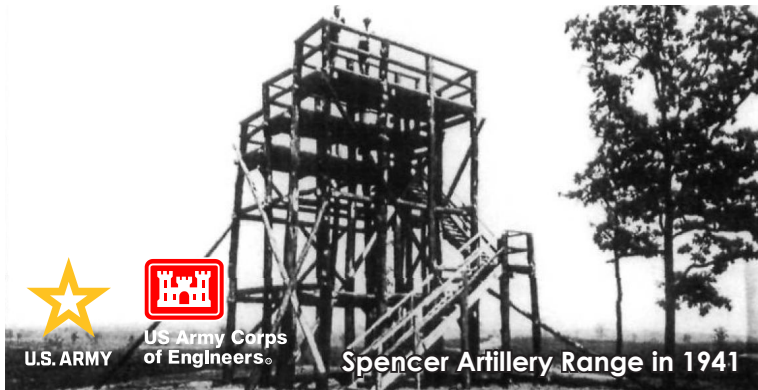


# FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Spencer Artillery Range

## REMEDIAL ACTION



February 2025

## 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) executes 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

The Spencer Artillery Range FUDS property encompasses 30,618 acres in Van Buren, Warren, Sequatchie, and Bledsoe counties, approximately 10 miles southeast of McMinnville and 12 miles south of Spencer, Tennessee. From 1941 to 1944, Spencer Artillery Range served as the main artillery range for Camp Forrest in Tullahoma, Tennessee. During World War II, various units assigned to Camp Forrest made the 40-mile trip westward to train at Spencer Artillery Range. Training at the range included the use of anti-aircraft guns, mortars, anti-tank rockets, target rockets, and artillery projectiles ranging in size from 20 to 155 millimeters (mm).

Although most training activities ceased by September 1944, units from Dyersburg Army Air Field continued to use the Spencer Artillery Range as an air-to-ground gunnery range. By August 1946, the U.S. Army had cancelled all leases for land associated with Spencer Artillery Range, returning the land to its original owners. Today, all land within the Spencer Artillery Range FUDS property is privately owned, except for portions of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and public rights of way. The Spencer Artillery Range FUDS property consists of seven distinct projects. This fact sheet addresses **Project 01**, which encompasses 4,120 acres and includes portions of two former impact areas known as Jake's Mountain and Bald Knob, the residential Whispering Pines area, a large stretch of Greenfield Road, a commercial/industrial area, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, and undeveloped wooded areas. Continued and future development of zoned residential areas is anticipated within Project 01.

## Environmental Investigations

USACE conducted a Remedial Investigation at the Spencer Artillery Range FUDS property in 2010 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.

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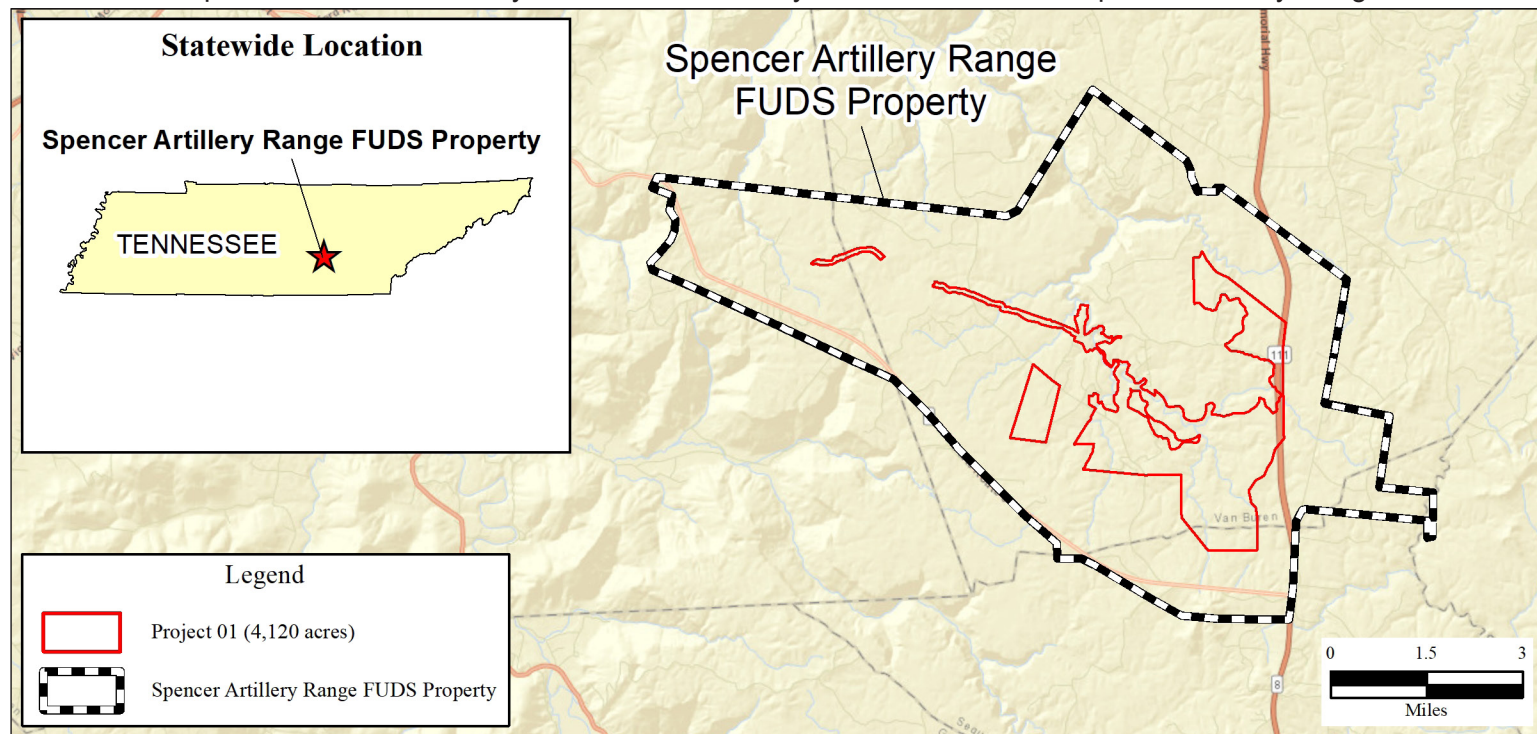
Technicians analyzed the data to select metallic objects to dig up. Teams found munitions within the Project 01 area, including 37mm artillery projectiles and high-explosive base fuzes. Investigative activities also included the collection of soil samples to determine if the metals and explosives that 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 Spencer Artillery Range FUDS property.

USACE finalized a Feasibility Study in March 2019, which evaluated a variety of remedial alternatives for each project, including Project 01, within the Spencer Artillery Range FUDS property. In August 2020, USACE presented its preferred remedial alternative to the public in a Proposed Plan. In 2021, USACE finalized a Decision Document to select the Remedial Action for Project 01.

### Remedial Action (Land Use Controls)

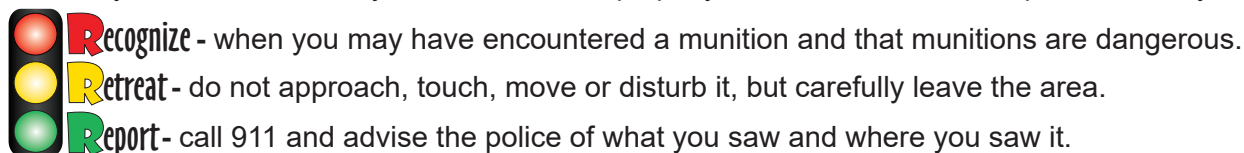
The Remedial Action for Project 01 consists of land use controls focused on educational awareness to inform land users of potential munitions hazards and safety precautions to take to avoid contact with munitions, emphasizing the importance of the 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat, Report) of Explosives Safety. To implement the Remedial Action at Project 01, USACE will distribute educational fact sheets, install warning signs, and offer educational training to Van Buren County and Warren County schools. 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/Spencer-Artillery-Range>



### SAFETY FIRST: REMEMBER THE 3RS

Always use caution when you are on a FUDS property and follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Savannah District**  
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue  
Savannah, GA 31401  
[cesas-FUDS@usace.army.mil](mailto:cesas-FUDS@usace.army.mil)



Scan for Project Webpage

Project documents can be viewed on the project webpage and are also available at:  
**Burritt Memorial Library**  
427 College Street  
Spencer, TN 38585

