



# Kirtland Air Force Base Precision Bombing Ranges N-2/New Demolition Area MRS

Project Number: K06NM044501

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

2023

## Overview

The former Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB) Precision Bombing Ranges Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is located on the west side of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Most of the land is publicly managed by the City of Albuquerque and the U.S. National Park Service as the Petroglyph National Monument.

The FUDS is divided into smaller areas known as Munitions Response Sites (MRS). This fact sheet provides information about the N-2/New Demolition Area (NDA) MRS, which is 1,252 acres.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the organization responsible for environmental remediation of properties that were formerly owned by, leased to or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense (DoD) and transferred from DoD control prior to 17 October 1986.

Since military munitions hazards may remain at the MRS, USACE encourages you to make safety a priority by following 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.

## History

In the late 1930s, the U.S. military established an aviation training school and servicing operation for transient aircraft at the Albuquerque Municipal Airport. In 1941, the U.S. Army acquired land adjacent to the airport and began constructing of the Albuquerque Army Air Field. By 1942, the field was expanded and named Kirtland Field.

The U.S. Army Bombardier School operated at Kirtland Field. In 1942, the school leased approximately 15,246 acres of land on the west side of Albuquerque. Eight precision bombing ranges were established on the property that became known as the West Mesa (also known as Kirtland AFB Precision Bombing Ranges).

The bombardier school used these, and other ranges throughout New Mexico, so that

pilots could practice dropping bombs (practice and general purpose) as part of the training program.

In 1947, the U.S. Army declared the bombing ranges as surplus and the leases were cancelled. Range clearance activities were conducted on some of the bombing ranges in 1952; however, later finds indicate that munitions hazards may still remain.



*Army Air Corps aviators trained at Albuquerque Army Air Field for combat overseas in World War II. Source: AFNWC History Office*



*Aerial photograph of MRS N-2 and the New Demolition Area, 1959*

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# Site Information for N-2/NDA MRS

USACE began investigating the Kirtland AFB Precision Bombing Ranges in 1992. Between 1994 and 2011, USACE conducted site visits and investigations to identify the munitions hazards that remain on N-2/NDA MRS.

Based on the investigations, USACE evaluated six remedial alternatives for the N-2/NDA MRS. The selected remedial alternative was: *Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) removal, surface MEC clearance, and a statistically designed geophysical survey, including the use of state-of-the-art MetalMapper to evaluate anomalies combined with Land Use Controls.*

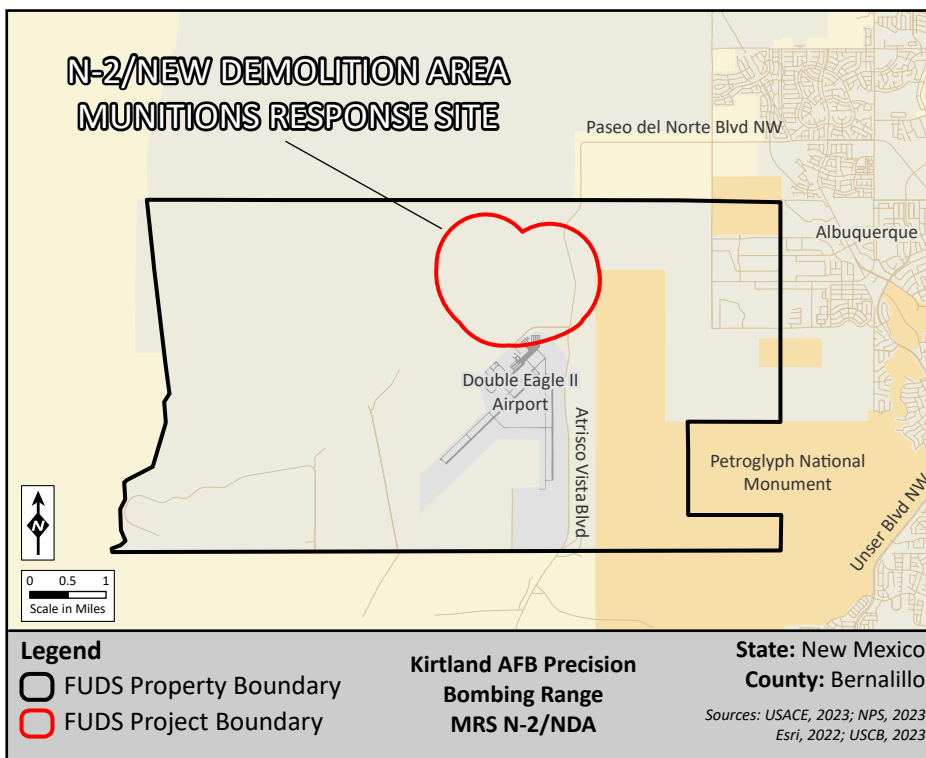
Starting in 2013, the selected remedy was implemented at the N-2/NDA MRS in a three-phase process. As a result, all identified MEC hazards were removed from the high-density areas. A subset of the medium- and low-density areas were investigated and no MEC were identified. USACE concluded that all medium- and low-density areas were free of MEC. Based on these conclusions, USACE determined that any remaining MEC hazards would be addressed by implementing the Land Use Controls.

In 2022, USACE conducted its first five-year review of the N-2/NDA MRS. The purpose was to evaluate the performance of the remedy

and determine if the remedy is and will continue to be protective of human health and the environment. The report documented that the field activities were still protective, but the implementation of some Land Use Controls could not be confirmed and additional signage was necessary.

Based on these findings, USACE is ensuring the Land Use Controls are fully implemented for N-2/NDA MRS. Safety materials will be distributed to landowners and warning signs will be provided by USACE to Double Eagle II Airport for installation. Five-year reviews will continue to evaluate the protectiveness of the Remedial Action.

## Map of the N-2/NDA MRS



## Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Hazards from military munitions may still remain within the former range. Protect yourself by following 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.



US Army Corps of Engineers

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District Public Affairs Office at 505-342-3349 or [cespa-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cespa-pa@usace.army.mil). To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).

