

HISTORY

Established as Camp Polk in 1941, Fort Polk today spans nearly 200,000 acres. It is home to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), which uses highly-realistic scenarios involving various munitions. Given Fort Polk's long history and changes in property use, hunters need to be aware that a variety of munitions may be encountered almost anywhere on the property.



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician at Fort Polk
Photo: Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

JRTC scenarios and other live-fire training exercises may involve all types of munitions, including small-arms rounds, hand grenades, and landmines. Fort Polk is divided into numerous impact and training areas. Some areas of the installation are closed to hunting due to known explosives hazards, but munitions may be encountered anywhere.

Hunters on post must check-in at a Self-Clearing Check Station or through the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) mobile app. Updated maps of the Fort Polk Wildlife Management Area are available at the Self-Clearing Check Stations, the LDWF website, and through the LDWF mobile app. Hunters are responsible for staying within authorized hunt boundaries. If you are uncertain if an area is closed, contact a hunt official so you do not put yourself in danger.

Munitions present may be heavily corroded, whole or in parts, buried or covered with leaves, making them difficult to recognize. Do not approach, touch, move, or disturb anything encountered that may be a munition or part of one, but carefully leave the area. Consider munitions dangerous, regardless of how long they may have been in the environment. Help protect yourself from potential explosive hazards by following the **3Rs of Explosives Safety: Recognize, Retreat, Report.**

Mortar Round



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 you saw and where you saw it to emergency contacts in the table below.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER MUNITIONS

Emergency Contacts

Fort Polk Cantonment Area

Call (337) 531-COPS (2677)

Fort Polk Training Ranges

Call (337) 531-5445 or (337) 531-5239

Off Installation

Call 911

For additional information call
U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety
at (918) 420-8919
or see

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

<https://3Rs.mil>

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3Rs Explosives Safety Guide

FORT POLK

Hunters



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



Rocket Launch Training at Fort Polk
Photo: Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

Recognize

When you see a munition and that it is dangerous.



Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is the most important step in reducing the risk of injury or death. Munitions may be encountered on land or in the water. They may be easy or hard to identify. Although munitions may be present almost anywhere, hunting area maps identify areas of highest risk.

To avoid the risk of injury or death:

- Never approach, touch, move, or disturb a munition or suspect munition.
- Be aware that munitions do not become safer with age. In fact, they may become more dangerous.
- Don't be tempted to take or keep a munition as a souvenir.

Munitions come in many sizes, shapes, and colors. Some may look like bullets or bombs, while others look like pipes, small cans, or even a car muffler. Whether whole or in parts, new or old, shiny or rusty, munitions can still explode. The best way to avoid injury or death is to stay out of marked areas with no entry signs, heed posted warnings, and stay in designated hunting areas.

Retreat

Do not touch it, but carefully leave the area.

Avoid death or injury by recognizing that you may have encountered a munition and by promptly retreating from the area. If you encounter what you believe is a munition, do not approach, touch, move, or disturb it. Instead, immediately and carefully leave the area by retracing your steps—going out the way you entered. Once safely away from the munition, mark the path (e.g., with a piece of clothing) so response personnel can find the munition.



Artillery Projectile



Rocket

Report

Call 911 to tell the police what you saw.

Protect yourself, your family, your friends, and your community by immediately reporting munitions or suspected munitions.

Help improve the safety of future hunts by providing as much information as possible about what you saw and where you saw it. This will help the police and military explosive ordnance disposal, police bomb squad, or authorized range personnel find, evaluate, and address the situation.



Mortar Round

If you believe you may have encountered a munition, report:

- The area where you encountered it.
- Its general description. Do not approach, touch, move, or disturb it to get a better description.
- When possible, describe its:
 - Estimated size
 - Shape
 - Visible markings, including coloring