

Among the benefits of being a military family is the opportunity to share in the military experience. However, family members need not share the dangers potentially posed by military munitions used in training or combat.

The U.S. military conducts live-fire training and testing to maintain combat readiness. As a result, military munitions may remain unexploded on operational ranges. Because military families often live on or near military installations, they are more likely to encounter munitions than the general public. Protecting military Families, Soldiers, and the public from explosive hazards associated with military munitions is everyone's responsibility.

The U.S. Army established the 3Rs of Explosives Safety Education Program in 2000 after a fatal incident at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. A group of teenagers entered an operational range and took some munitions home, even though signs warned of the explosive hazards and prohibited entry. During handling, a munition detonated, killing one teen and critically injuring another. Unfortunately, the teens did not recognize the hazard the munitions posed.

Soldiers and their Families need to be aware of the risks posed by living on or near operational ranges or by having souvenir munitions in their houses and take necessary precautions. You can help protect yourself, your family, friends, and community by following the **3Rs of Explosives Safety: Recognize, Retreat, Report.**



Don't Forget

- Ammo is dangerous and may not be easy to recognize!
- Avoid areas the military used for training!
- Never get near, touch, move, or disturb ammo!

Follow the 3Rs

Recognize

When you see ammo and that it is dangerous

Retreat

Do not touch it, but carefully leave the area

Report

Call local authorities to report what you saw

IF YOU ENCOUNTER AMMO

Emergency Contacts

Anywhere on Fort Rucker

Call Range Operations	(334) 255-4303
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Off Post

Call 911

3Rs Explosives Safety Guide

Military Families

Fort Rucker



For additional information,
visit the U.S. Army's Explosives Safety Education website
<https://3Rs.mil>

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Recognize

Recognizing that munitions are dangerous is the most important step in reducing injuries or deaths.

Military families eager to explore and enjoy recreation on or near an installation should be aware of the dangers of handling or disturbing munitions. To keep everyone safe, practice the 3Rs of Explosives Safety.



Munitions are designed to kill people or destroy equipment. They may be old or new, and easy or hard to identify. If you encounter or suspect you have encountered a munition, do not touch, move or disturb it. If a munition explodes, anyone nearby could be killed or severely injured. Even cannon balls from the Civil War present an explosive hazard.

Munitions will most likely be encountered in areas the military used or still uses for live-fire training or where combat once occurred. Help keep your family safe by staying away from ranges and out of restricted areas marked with warning signs.

Unfortunately, munitions often prove to be deadly souvenirs. Taking a munition for a keepsake presents an immediate and real danger to you, your family, friends, and your community. Don't be tempted! Recognize that souvenir munitions, even if kept for years, are dangerous.

Retreat

Military munitions should only be handled by trained and authorized personnel.

If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, do not touch, move or disturb it. Carefully leave the area (retreat) by retracing your steps.

If your family or friends encounter or suspect they have encountered a munition, instruct them:

- Not to touch, move or disturb it, but immediately and carefully leave the area.
- If on land, retrace their steps out of the area by the same path which they entered. Once safely away, mark the path, if possible, with a hat or piece of clothing so that trained personnel can more easily find it.
- If in the water, swim away in the direction from which they came. If possible, determine the munition's position by using landmarks.

Soldiers who unexpectedly encounter or suspect they may have encountered a munition on or outside of a range or while deployed should not touch, move, or disturb it. Instead, they should immediately leave the area, retracing their steps out of the area by the same path by which they entered, and note the location.



Report

Report as much information as you can about what you saw and where you saw it, but do not approach it.



If you, your children, or friends encounter or suspect you have encountered a munition, immediately report it to the police, or through your chain-of-command.

Call local authorities. Provide the following:

- A landmark near the munition
- A description of the munition, including:
 - Its size and shape
 - Any visible markings — do not approach or handle the munition to see markings

Although a detailed report will help the police and Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel locate and destroy the munition, never approach a munition to get a better description. Your safety is more important.

