

HISTORY

Originally called Ozark Triangular Division Camp, the installation was renamed Camp Rucker in 1942 to train units deploying to the Pacific and European regions during World War II, including tank, infantry replacement, and Women's Army Corps units. In August 1954, the Army Aviation School moved to Camp Rucker from Fort Sill, and in October 1955 Camp Rucker was designated Fort Rucker. In 1956, the Army Aviation Center began assembling and testing armament systems for U.S. Army helicopters. The installation was renamed Fort Novosel in 2023 and has played vital roles in the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, and the Afghanistan and Iraq theaters.



Today, Fort Novosel is home to the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence. The installation covers approximately 63,000 acres in southeast Alabama, including over 44,000 acres of training lands and nearly 14,000 acres of impact area. The installation has 20 live fire ranges, 2 tactical training bases, 2 urban operations sites, 2 leadership reaction courses, 3 land navigation courses, the Aviation Gunnery Range Complex, and various bivouac and field training exercise sites.

Due to the nature of the range activities, munitions may be present across the installation. These may include hand grenades, mortars, projectiles, practice and high explosive bombs, artillery shells, and rockets. Many munitions blend in with the environment and may be hard to see. Some areas are closed to hunting due to known explosives hazards, but munitions may remain in other areas.

Hunters at Fort Novosel must possess an Alabama hunting license and purchase a hunting permit via iSportsman. Additionally, hunters must: show proof of completion of a hunter education course; register firearms with the Military Police (building 5001); and check in and out of hunting areas via iSportsman. Hunters are responsible for knowing where they are at all times and should refer to the latest hunting map and signs/markings to ensure they stay within the hunt boundary.

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.**



105mm Projectile

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 the emergency contacts in the table below.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER MUNITIONS

Emergency Contacts

Anywhere on Fort Novosel

Call Range Operations	(334) 255-4303
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Off Post

Call 911

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

<https://3Rs.mil>

June 2023

3Rs Explosives Safety Guide

FORT NOVOSEL

Hunters



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



75mm Projectile



2.36-inch Rifle Grenade

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:

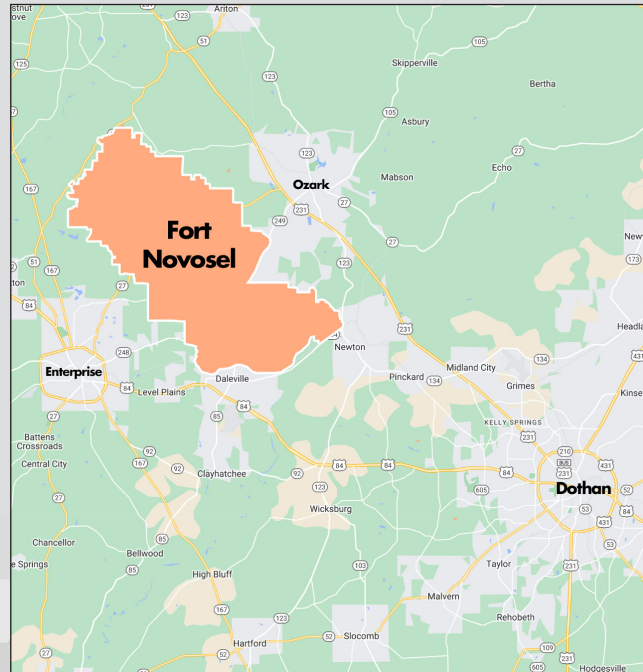
- Never approach, touch, move, or disturb a munition or suspect munition.
- Be aware that munitions do not become safer with age.
- Don't be tempted to take or keep a munition as a souvenir.

Munitions come in many sizes, shapes, and colors. Some may look like bullets or bombs, while others may 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 if possible (e.g., with a piece of clothing) so response personnel can find the munition.



Report

**Call local authorities to
report 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.

If you believe you may have encountered a munition while on Fort Novosel, call Range Operations at (334) 255-4303. If you are off post, call 911. 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



Unknown Projectile in Training Area