

BACKGROUND

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 the early 1950s, the 47th Infantry Division trained replacement troops at



Camp Rucker Headquarters circa 1942

Camp Rucker for combat in Korea. 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, with all U.S. Army Aviation flight training consolidated to Fort Rucker by 1973. Following a temporary name change in 2023, the installation was officially redesignated Fort Rucker in June 2025 in honor of CPT Edward F. Rucker, a WWI pilot and Distinguished Service Cross recipient. Today, it stands as the home of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and the headquarters for the U.S. Army Aviation Branch, having played vital roles in every major American conflict from the Korean War to modern theaters in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Fort Rucker encompasses 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 is a complex training environment featuring 20 live-fire ranges, tactical training bases, urban operations sites, and the Aviation Gunnery Range Complex. Since its inception, there has been continuous live-fire activity on the post, involving mortars, aerial gunnery, rockets, grenade launchers, and explosive charges.

Due to the nature of the range activities, munitions may be present across the installation. Munitions present may be heavily corroded, whole or in parts, buried, or covered with leaves, making them difficult to recognize. Do not approach, touch, 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 and others from potential explosive hazards present by following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety: **Recognize, Retreat, Report.**



61mm Mortar Round

3Rs Explosives Safety Guide

FORT RUCKER

IF YOU ENCOUNTER MUNITIONS

Emergency Contacts	
Anywhere on Fort Rucker	
Call Range Operations	(334) 255-4303
Off Post	
Call 911	



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



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

<https://3Rs.mil>

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2.36-inch Rifle Grenade

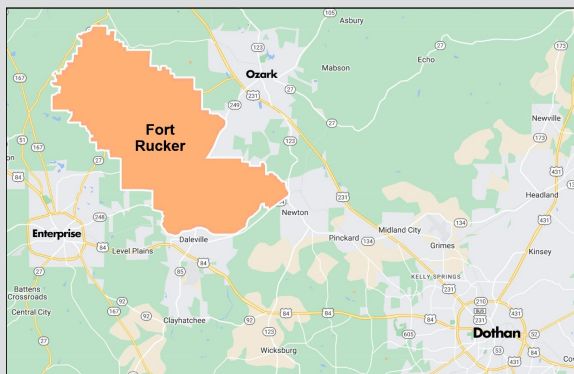


75mm Projectile

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What are military munitions?

A: Military munitions are material used by our Nation's Armed Forces to defend the United States. Military munitions are dangerous by design. They are made to kill or injure enemy forces or damage enemy equipment. When military munitions do not function as intended (do what they are supposed to do) during use, they become unexploded ordnance or UXO.



Q: What do military munitions look like?

A: Military munitions come in many different sizes, shapes, and colors. Their size and shape depends on how the military intends to use them. For example, rounds used to train soldiers on crew-served weapons, like tanks and artillery, are large. Rockets, fired from aircraft or ground vehicles, can vary in size, as can bombs dropped from aircraft. Other types of munitions include grenades, practice mines, submunitions, simulators, and pyrotechnics. Weathering changes the appearance of military munitions making them more difficult to spot or recognize.

Q: Where could I encounter military munitions?

A: You are most likely to encounter munitions in areas where the military conducts or formerly conducted live-fire training or testing with military munitions, but they also may be encountered in other areas. The vast majority of military munitions, however, are in impact areas of both operational and former ranges. Because of changing military needs, locations once used by the military during training may now be used by the public for other purposes, such as recreational areas. Many of these locations are no longer on military installations.

Q: What do I do if I come across a military munition?

A: If you suspect you have come across a military munition, the best way to ensure your safety is to follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:

Recognize — when you see a munition and that it is dangerous;

Retreat — do not touch it, but carefully leave the area; and

Report — call the emergency contacts on the back of this guide to report what you saw.

Remember, military munitions may be encountered anywhere. Should you come across a munition or suspect you may have, follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety.

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 on the back of this guide.



2.75-inch Rocket from Apache Guardian at Fort Rucker



M203 Grenade Launcher at Fort Rucker

Photos Courtesy of Defense Visual Information Distribution Service