



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Honolulu District



SAIPAN, CNMI MARPI POINT FIELD

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE **SEPT 2026**

FACT SHEET

Introduction

Marpi Point Field is a 410-acre area in the northern end of the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). It is what is known as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manages the FUDS program to investigate and clean up properties that were once owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States under the jurisdiction of the Department of War (DoW) and transferred prior to October 1986.

Site History

During World War II, after the capture of Saipan in July 1944, the military developed the northern end of Saipan primarily for the Naval Air Base (NAB) Marpi and ammunition storage for both the Army and the Navy. By June 1947, the Navy disestablished the NAB Marpi; however, much of the stored ordnance remained in open revetments. Munitions known or suspected in Marpi Point Field include 100-lb bombs, a range of high explosive (HE) ammunition from small caliber projectiles (25 to 155-mm) to large 5-inch HE, mortars; grenades, small-caliber rockets, and small arms ammunition (bullets).

In 1949, a series of major fires on Saipan triggered explosions at the ordnance storage area just south of Marpi Point Field. The explosions scattered residual munitions across northwestern Saipan.



Naval Air Base, Marpi Point, Saipan— June 11, 1945

Initial ordnance removal and disposal efforts took place between 1949 and 1950. Several demolition sites were set up in and around Marpi Point Field to burn or detonate surplus and unserviceable ammunition that remained. These activities spread additional munitions, made some items more sensitive, and left significant munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) on the surface or just below it.

In October 1962, personnel from the Guam U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal detachment began addressing remaining unexploded ordnance in northern Saipan. The two-year effort cleared portions of the area, followed by a final Navy clearance effort in 1967. Broader clearance work was limited by personnel and equipment constraints associated with the Korean War.

In March 1963, Marpi Point Field was transferred back to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan District.

In 1978 Saipan was approved by Congress to become part of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth. The land comprising the former Marpi Point Field is currently owned and managed by the CNMI Department of Public Lands (DPL). Access is limited to much of the project site by cattle fencing, vegetation, and lack of viable roads/paths. Several small, undeveloped parcels along the primary perimeter road are privately owned with limited leases for cattle grazing.

Investigations

USACE is committed to remediating FUDS-eligible properties like Marpi Point Field on behalf of the DoW and in accordance with mandated processes and requirements. USACE Honolulu District executes the program in CNMI on behalf of the Army and DoW, and in close coordination with the lead regulatory agency, the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Following the 1995 eligibility determination, USACE completed a series of environmental investigations to evaluate risks at Marpi Point Field and identify the preferred cleanup approach.



Stowage & Operations at Naval Magazine Saipan— Jan. 21, 1946

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS | HONOLULU DISTRICT

230 Otake St., Fort Shafter, HI 96858

EMAIL: HonoluluDistrictFUDSinfo@usace.army.mil | www.poh.usace.army.mil/missions/environmental/fuds/Marpi-Point-Field

Year	Investigation	Findings
2010	Site Inspection (SI)	Numerous munitions debris (MD) items indicative of potential residual munitions and explosives of concern, or MEC presence was observed and recommended to proceed to the next phase.
2016	Remedial Investigation (RI)	Assessed the nature and extent of MEC and munitions constituents (MC) contaminant concerns. Confirmed the presence of both surface and subsurface MEC, as well as their nature and extent throughout the Munitions Response Site. A total of 66 hazardous MEC items were removed. Of those, 33 of were found on the surface. Elevated MC concentrations were also identified and recommended further evaluation.
2017	Feasibility Study (FS)	
2022	Supplemental RI	This investigation determined there is unacceptable risk due to the presence of munitions and MEC, and no unacceptable risk due to MC at the site.
2022	Supplemental FS	Developed and evaluated clean up alternatives for the munitions at Marpi Point Field.
2024	Proposed Plan (PP)	Identified surface and subsurface cleanup and Institutional Controls (signage, Public Education Initiatives) as the preferred action.

Next Steps

Pending signature of the 2026 Record of Decision (ROD), USACE expects to initiate a Remedial Action at Marpi Point.

Potential MEC exposure at Marpi Point Field may involve site visitors, tourists, cemetery visitors and workers, trespassers, periodic residents, private parcel owners, cattle farmers, and site workers who could encounter MEC on or near the ground surface. The planned remedy is intended to reduce those potential risks.

Once implemented, the remedy is expected to protect human health and the environment. Following completion of a Remedial Action, Five-Year Reviews will be implemented if unlimited use/unrestricted exposure is not achieved to ensure the selected remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.

Community Involvement

USACE is committed to keeping the public informed about this important project and why it's being conducted. Updates and public engagement opportunities will be shared through local/social media outlets and this project webpage in coordination with the lead regulatory agency, the CNMI Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality. A schedule for any future on-site work will be made public once the plans are approved.

We continue to prioritize educating the community about this enduring environmental mission and improving public understanding about the processes involved in cleaning up potential contamination or munitions that may remain on properties from past DoW activities.

Explosives Safety



The 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat, Report) of Explosives Safety Program provides education and training at schools, community events, and organizational briefings to inform the public of the hazards of potential munitions using the guidance of the 3Rs Outreach Program. This training is also available from USACE upon request for private/non-profit organizations, and government agencies.

Your safety is the top priority. If you encounter something that might be an old munition, please remember the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:

RECOGNIZE: When you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous. Munitions can come in many shapes and sizes. They can be rusty or look like new. They can be out in the open, hidden in bushes, or partially buried.

RETREAT: If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but immediately and carefully leave the area following the same path on which you entered.

REPORT: When you think you may have encountered a munition, notify local law enforcement.

If you have questions about the Marpi Point Field FUDS project, you can contact USACE at HonoluluDistrictFUDSInfo@usace.army.mil.

The project's administrative record can be accessed at:
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (www.cnmilib.org)
Beach Road and Insatto Street (P.O. Box 501092)
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 235-7316 / Email: cnmistatelibrary@gmail.com

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