

# Information Guide

## Former Forbes Air Force Base

**Kansas**  
**Shawnee County**



## Target Butt Range



US Army Corps  
of Engineers.

## Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about the military training activities that took place at the former Forbes Air Force Base and to raise awareness of the hazards that may exist at the property.

The former Forbes Air Force Base, also known as Topeka Army Air Field, was used from 1942 to 1946 as an operational training facility for heavy bomber aircrews. An area associated with the former Forbes Air Force Base, known as Target Butt Range, has been identified through historical research and site visits as having been used to calibrate aircraft guns during training. The munitions known or suspected to have been used at the range are small arms ammunition. Hazards associated with small arms ammunition may still remain on the property.

The Target Butt Range is located in the north-central portion of the Topeka Regional Airport, in Shawnee County, Kansas. The land is publicly owned and is an unused area within the regional airport.



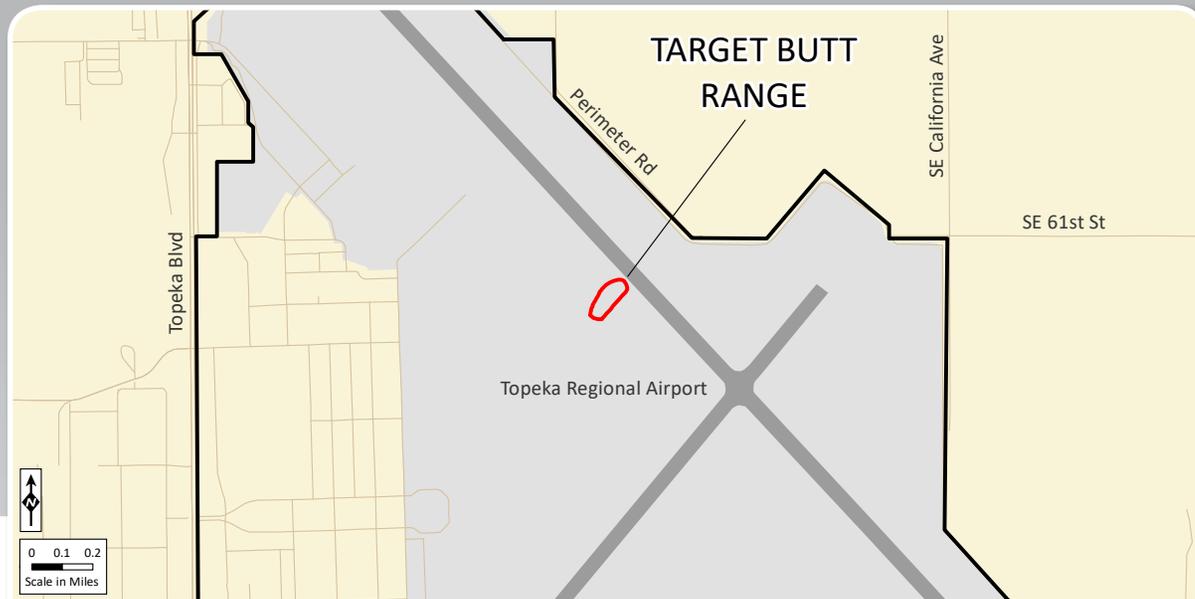
Source: Kansas State Historical Society

**An aerial view of the former Forbes Air Force Base, formerly known as the Topeka Army Air Field, 1943.**



Source: Kansas State Historical Society

A view of the barracks at the former Forbes Air Force Base



**Legend**

-  FUDS Property Boundary
-  FUDS Project Boundary

**State:** Kansas  
**County:** Shawnee

**Forbes AFB**  
**FUDS Property No: B07KS0198**

Sources: USACE, 2020;  
USCB, 2021; Esri, 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Do small arms ranges present a health risk?

**A:** Lead fragments, both large and small, can be present in berms at small arms ranges. Lead may be harmful if there is repeated ingestion or repeated contact with skin. Because lead in the fragments presents a potential health hazard, the fragments should not be touched, moved, piled or disturbed in any way. The best thing to do is leave them alone.

**Q:** What should I do if I come into contact with lead fragments?

**A:** If you have walked through lead fragments, rinse off and remove your shoes before entering your home. If your hands and clothes have come into contact with lead fragments, wash your hands and clothes.

**Q:** What are the findings of the work that the government has completed?

**A:** Historical research and site inspections indicate that from 1942 to 1946, the U.S. military used small arms ammunition at this range and potential hazards may remain on the property. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that further investigation is required for the Target Butt Range.

**Q:** Where can I get more information?

**A:** For more information, call the Formerly Used Defense Sites Information Center toll-free number 1-855-765-FUDS (3837) or select the GIS Tool on the Interim Risk Management page at [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).



Example of small arms ammunition



**Example of small arms ammunition**

## **Former Forbes Air Force Base**

### **For More Information**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers.**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for identifying, investigating and, when necessary, conducting an appropriate response to address contamination and military munitions resulting from past Department of Defense activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites, also referred to as FUDS.

For information about the former Forbes Air Force Base, contact the FUDS Information Center by calling the toll-free number 1-855-765-FUDS (3837).

For general information about the FUDS Program, visit [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).