

# 3Rs Safety Guide

## Former Monomoy Island Gunnery Range

**Massachusetts  
Barnstable County**



### **Bombing Range (Water)**



**U.S. ARMY**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



**Recognize  
Retreat  
Report**

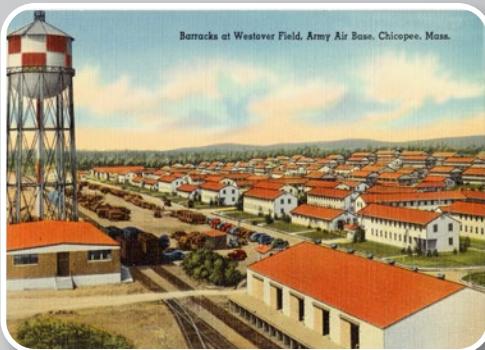
# Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about the military training activities that took place at the former Monomoy Island Gunnery Range and to raise awareness of the explosive hazards that may exist at the range associated with the property.

The former Monomoy Island Gunnery Range was used between 1944 and 1950 by the U.S. Army Air Forces and U.S. Air Force for bombing and air-to-ground gunnery practice. An area associated with the former Monomoy Island Gunnery Range, known as Bombing Range (Water), has been identified through historical research and site visits as having potential explosive hazards. The munitions known or suspected to have been used at the range include practice bombs with spotting charges.

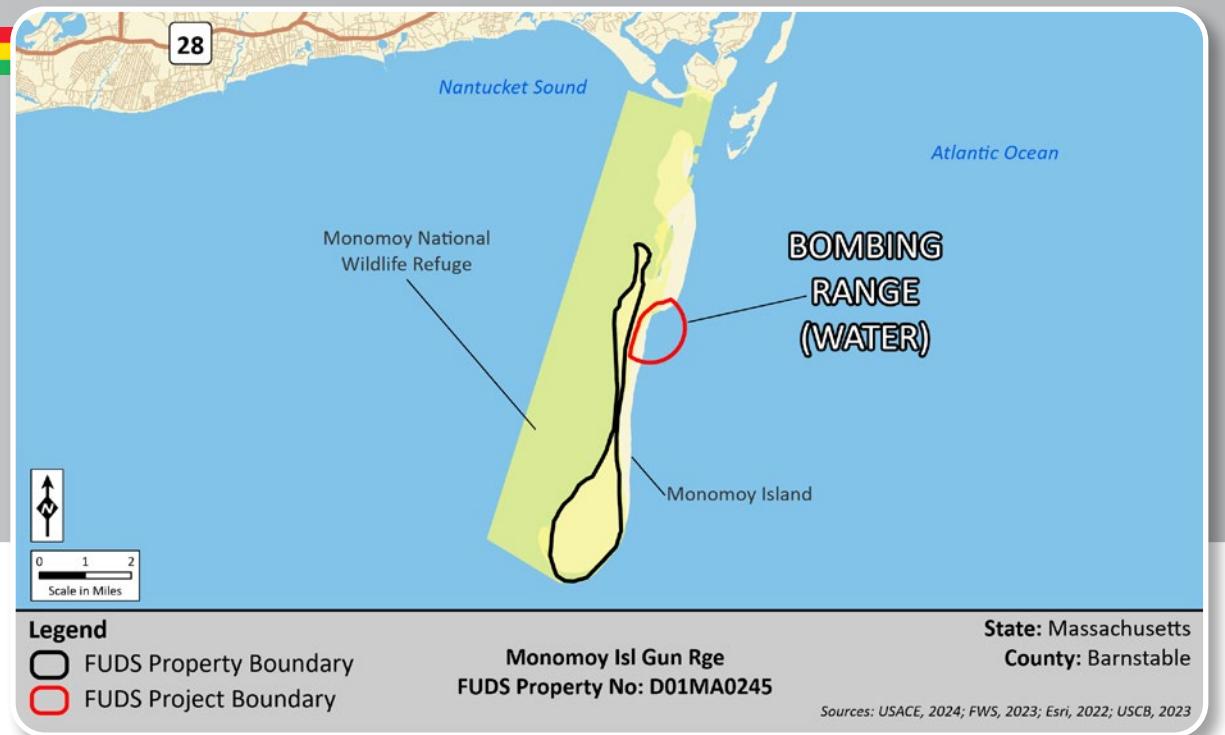
The Bombing Range (Water) is located on Monomoy Island, in Barnstable County, Massachusetts, and extends into the Atlantic Ocean. The land within this former range is publicly owned and is managed as the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. The water area within this former range is publicly managed and is used for recreational purposes.

Because explosive hazards associated with military munitions from past military training may remain in the waters and on the land of the Bombing Range (Water), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that the landowner, the waterbody manager and visitors follow the **3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat and Report.**



Personnel from the former Westover Army Air Base used the former Monomoy Island Gunnery Range for training purposes

Source: Barracks at Westover Field, Army Air Base, Chicopee, Mass. (Card). (1930). Retrieved from <https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/0K225127w>



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What types of potential hazards exist?

**A:** Military munitions, such as practice bombs with spotting charges, are known or suspected to have been used at the Bombing Range (Water). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is unable to rule out the presence of munitions that may pose an explosive hazard.

**Q:** What do I do if I suspect I may have come across a military munition?

**A:** If you suspect you may have come across a military munition, the best way to ensure your safety is to follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety: **Recognize** – when you may have encountered a munition, and that munitions are dangerous; **Retreat** – do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and **Report** – call **911** and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.

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

**A:** Based on historical research and site inspections, military munitions are known or suspected to have been used at this range, and some munitions may remain in the waters and on the land of the Bombing

Range (Water). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that further investigation is required for the Bombing Range (Water) at the former Monomoy Island Gunnery Range.

**Q:** What will be done next?

**A:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will make explosives safety education material that is based on the 3Rs available to the landowner, the waterbody manager and the community. Additionally, it will coordinate with the landowner and the waterbody manager as it plans required response activities.

**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). Additional information can be found by searching on the property name, Monomoy Isl Gun Rge, in the GIS Tool that is available by clicking on the Interim Risk Management link at [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).

## Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

**R**ecognize

when you may have encountered a munition, and that munitions are dangerous.

**R**etreat

do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

**R**eport

call **911** and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.



**Example of practice bomb debris**

## **Former Monomoy Island Gunnery Range**

### **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 Monomoy Island Gunnery Range, 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).

### **Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety**



Visit the U.S. Army's Explosives Safety Education website:  
<https://3Rs.mil>