

Information Guide

Former Walker Air Force Base

**New Mexico
Chaves County**



Skeet 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 Walker Air Force Base and to raise awareness of the hazards that may exist at the property.

The former Walker Air Force Base, also known as Roswell Army Air Field, was used between 1942 and 1949 by the U.S. Army for aircraft flight training. In 1949, the former base was transferred to the U.S. Air Force and used until 1967 as a Strategic Air Command base to support fighter and bomber groups. An area associated with the former Walker Air Force Base has been identified through historical research and site visits as having been used as a skeet range from the mid-1950s to 1967. Skeet ranges ordinarily consisted of a shooting field (laid out in a semicircle) with an associated safety fan in which skeet targets were hurled into the air for target practice by Soldiers along the firing line. The items known or suspected to have been used at the range are small arms ammunition and skeet targets. Hazards associated with skeet targets may still remain on the property.

The Skeet Range is located in the western portion of the former Walker Air Force Base, in Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico. The land is publicly owned and is part of the Roswell International Air Center.



Source: 453rd BG Memorial Association

Front gate of the former Walker Air Force Base, 1957

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are skeet targets?

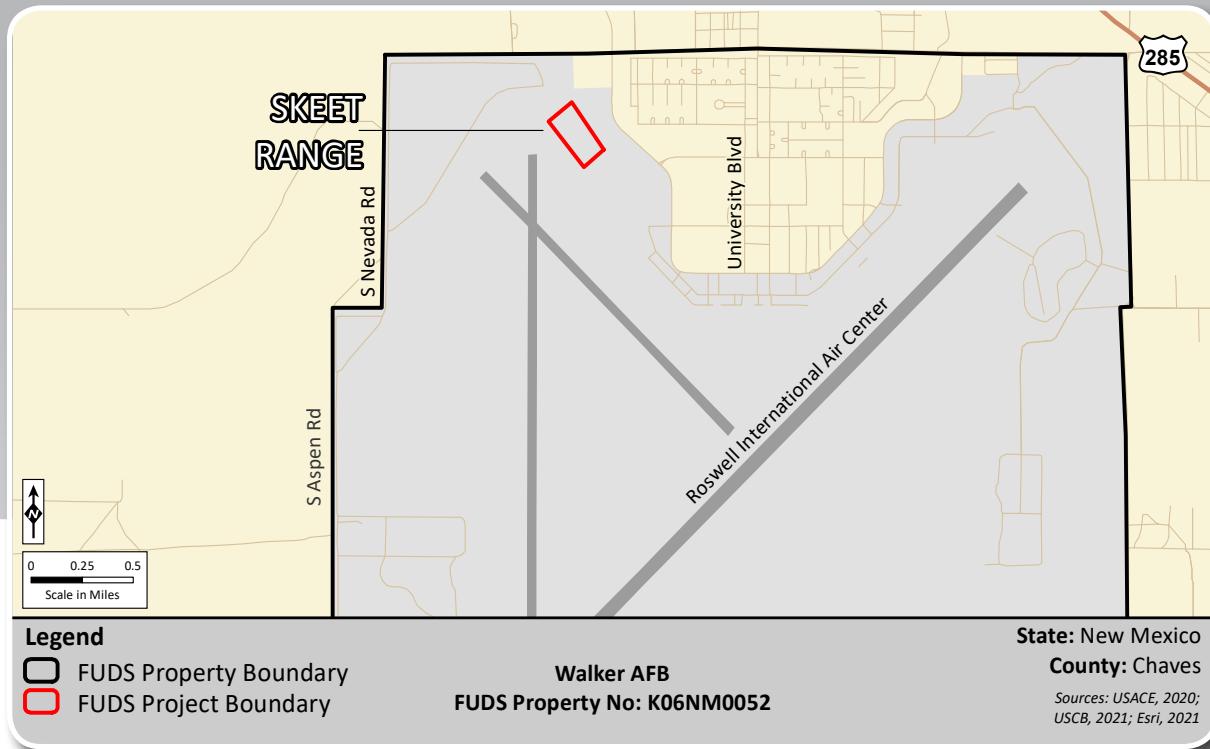
A: Skeet targets are the clay pigeons hurled into the air from a trap at varying elevations and speeds to simulate the angles of flight taken by moving targets.

Q: Do skeet target fragments present a health risk?

A: World War II-era skeet targets used at this range were manufactured with coal tar pitch as a binder. Coal tar pitch contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, also known as PAHs. Because PAHs in the skeet target fragments present 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: Where are the skeet target fragments located?

A: The Skeet Range is located in the northwestern portion of the property. However, because skeet target fragments can become airborne in heavy winds and be washed away by moving water from storms, skeet may be found outside the known skeet range area.



Q: What should I do if I come into contact with skeet target fragments?

A: If you have walked through skeet target fragments, rinse off and remove your shoes before entering your home. If your hands and clothes have come into contact with skeet target 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 the mid-1950s to 1967, the U.S. military used skeet targets 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 Skeet 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). Additional information can be found by searching on the property name, Walker AFB, in the GIS Tool that is available by clicking on the Interim Risk Management link at www.fuds.mil.



Example of skeet fragments



Example of skeet fragments

Former Walker 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 Walker 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.