

# Information Guide

## Former Webb Air Force Base

**Texas**  
**Howard County**



### Skeet Range No. 1



**U.S. ARMY**



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

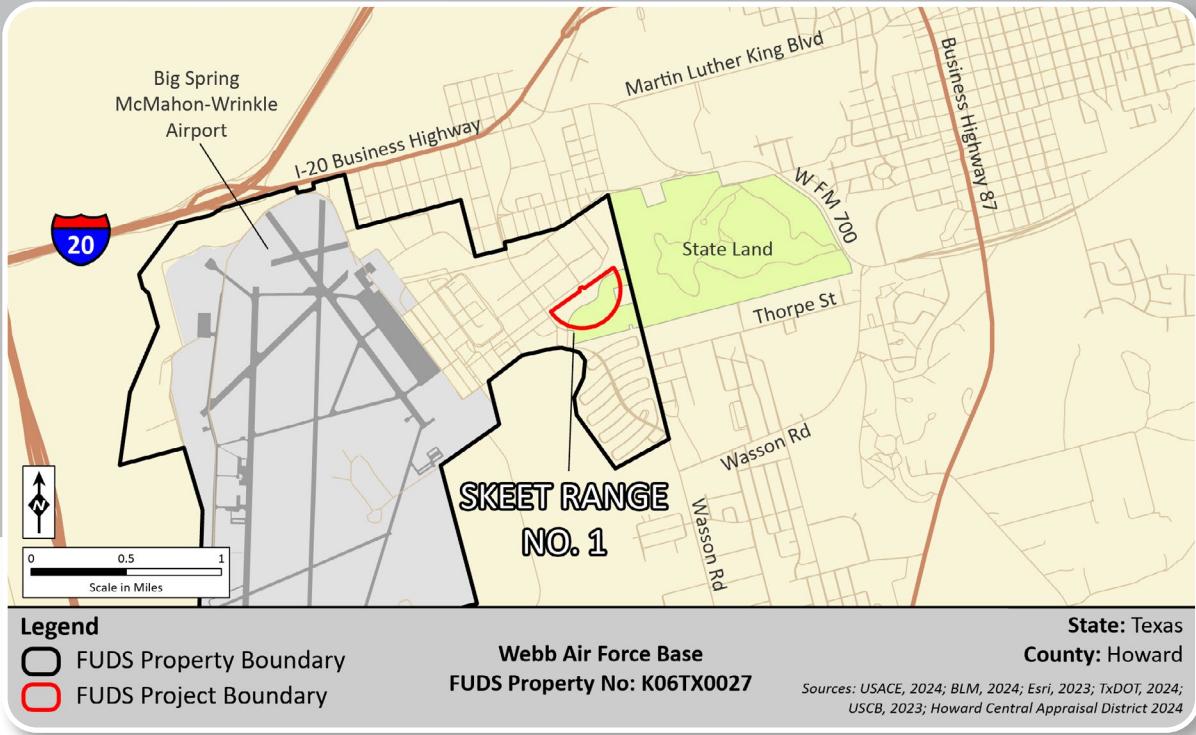
The former Webb Air Force Base, also known as Big Spring Army Air Field, was used by the U.S. Army Air Forces from 1942 to 1946 for bombardier and small arms training. The base was also used by the Air Force from 1951 to 1977 for flight and small arms training. An area associated with the former Webb Air Force Base, known as Skeet Range No. 1, has been identified through historical research and site visits as having been used as a skeet range. 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 No. 1 is located in the northeastern portion of the former Webb Air Force Base, within the city of Big Spring, in Howard County, Texas. The publicly owned land is used as part of a memorial park, state park and for residential purposes.



Source: U.S. Air Force

Front gate at the former Webb Air Force Base, 1960s



## 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 No. 1 is located in the northeastern 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 1942 to 1946 and from 1951 to 1977, 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 No. 1.

### 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 skeet target fragments



**Example of skeet target fragments**

## **Former Webb 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 Webb 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).