

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to inform you of the military training activities that took place at the former Midland Army Air Field and to raise awareness of the hazards that may exist at the property.

From 1941 until 1946, the U.S. Army Air Corps operated a flying school under the name Midland Army Air Field. An area of the property has been identified through historical research and site visits as having been 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 as a means of target practice for the men along the firing line. The items known or suspected to have been previously used at the Skeet Range are general small arms and skeet targets. As a result of these previous military training activities, hazards associated with skeet target fragments may still remain there today.

The former Midland Army Air Field comprises approximately 1,680 acres southwest of Midland in Midland County, Texas. Today, the air field is owned by the city of Midland and is known as Midland International Airport. As depicted on the inside map, the Skeet Range is located at the western side of the airport property.



Example of skeet target fragments

Former Midland Army Air Field

For More Information



US Army Corps of Engineers.

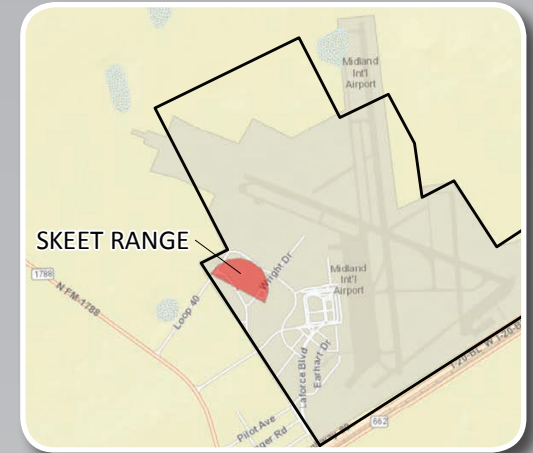
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for identifying, investigating and, when necessary, conducting an appropriate response to address contamination and military munitions resulting from past Department of Defense activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites, also referred to as FUDS.

For information about the former Midland Army Air Field, 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.

Information Guide

Former Midland
Army Air Field
Texas
Midland County



Skeet Range

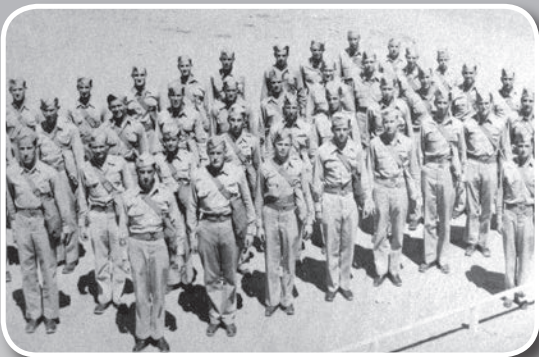


Example of skeet target fragments



US Army Corps of Engineers.

Source: 43-15 Class Yearbook, 1943, Midland Army Air Field.



Flight Two of 43-15 Class at Midland Army Air Field, 1943

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. The former Midland Army Air Field Skeet Range is located in the western portion of the property as shown on the map to the right.

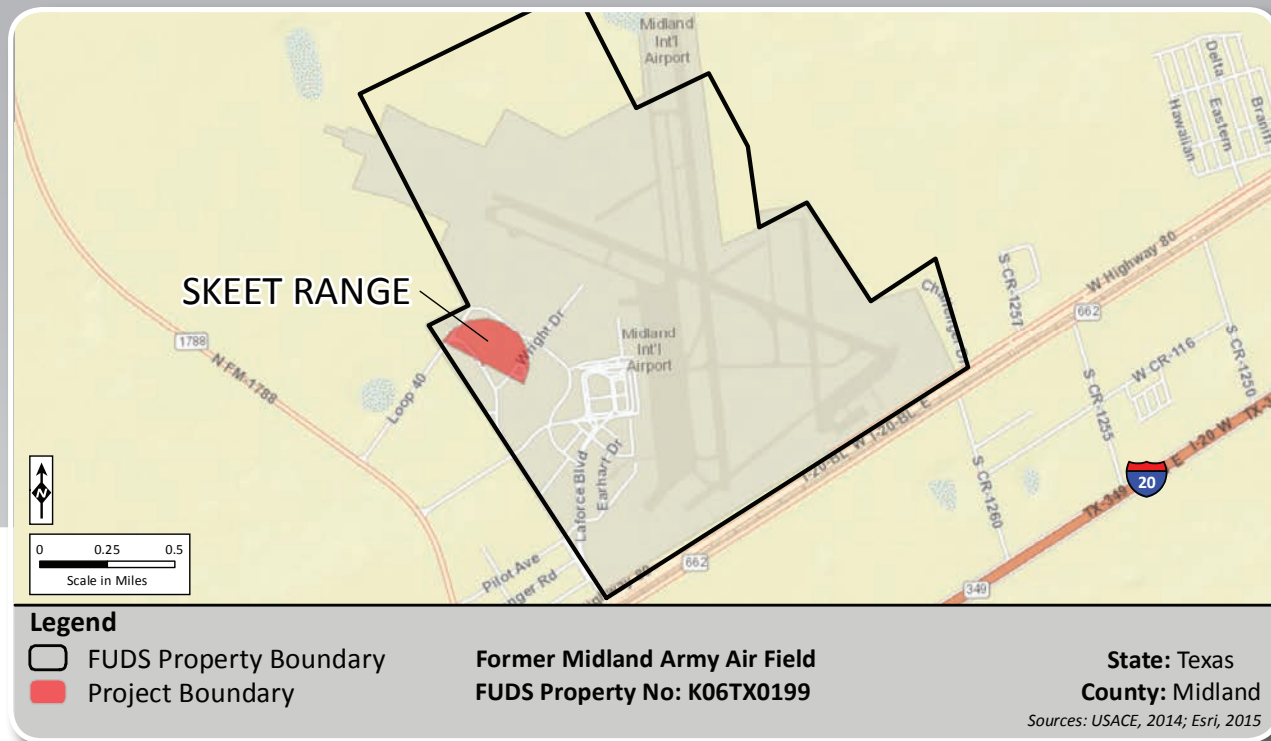
Q: *Where are skeet target fragments located?*

A: While the location of the former Midland Army Air Field Skeet Range is well-defined, skeet target fragments can become airborne in heavy winds and be washed away by moving water from storms, etc. Consequently, skeet target fragments may be found outside the known skeet range area.

Q: *Does skeet present a health risk?*

A: World War II-era skeet targets were manufactured with coal tar pitch as a binder. Coal tar pitch contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, also known as PAHs, which may be harmful if there is repeated inhalation, repeated ingestion, or repeated contact with skin.

Q: *What do skeet target fragments look like? Can I remove them myself?*



A: Skeet target fragments range in size from clay shards to very small particles. 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 the fragments alone.

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: *Why is the Army Corps of Engineers involved at the former Midland Army Air Field?*

A: Congress established the Formerly Used Defense Sites, or FUDS, Program to address properties formerly owned by, leased to, or

otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense. Army is the lead agent for the FUDS Program and the Army Corps of Engineers executes the program on behalf of the Army and DOD. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for identifying, investigating and, when necessary, conducting an appropriate response to address such contamination and military munitions resulting from past DOD activities.



Example of skeet target fragments