

## BACKGROUND

The Ricochet Area MRS comprises 3,262 acres of Pennsylvania State Game Land 211, which is owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The Ricochet Area MRS lies within East Hanover Township in Dauphin County and Cold Spring Township in Lebanon County.

Fort Indiantown Gap has been an active training installation for more than 80 years. First acquired for the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1931, WWII resulted in the posts conversion to active duty Army use in 1940. It continued to be an active duty Army installation until it reverted back to the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1998. The installation provides excellent training on more than 140 training sites, while remaining good stewards of the environment. Historical records indicate that surface danger zones extended from the post into the current area known as the Ricochet Area MRS.

The Ricochet Area MRS was not intentionally used as a target area for military activities conducted at the post's operational range areas. The presence of munitions within the Ricochet Area MRS is the result of unintentional overshots and/or ricochets from the former operational ranges used from 1933 to 1998. Current range designs incorporate firing angles that prevent ricochets into SGL 211.

Exposure to weather over the years may make munitions, which may be on the surface, buried, or whole or in parts, difficult to recognize. Even old munitions can still explode and cause harm to persons. As such, no one should ever touch, move or disturb anything encountered that may be a munition or part of one. All munitions should be considered dangerous; regardless of how long they have been in the environment or how frequently they have been handled.

Help protect yourself, your family and your community by learning and following the 3Rs of explosives safety.

## WHAT DO I DO IF I FIND A MUNITION OR SUSPICIOUS ITEM?

### FOLLOW THE **3 Rs**:

#### **R**ecognize: Munitions are dangerous

When you discover a suspicious item or a possible munition, remember that these items can be very dangerous. Do not touch, kick, throw, or do anything else to disturb the item. Also, remember that munitions found in the ground are sometimes not readily identifiable, and may appear to be any other metallic or rusty item. Use caution, leave it alone, and do not touch it.

#### **R**etreat: Do not touch, move, or disturb item

Mark the area appropriately for responders. If you know or suspect that you have found a munition, mark the area so that responders will be able to find the munition item from the closest access point. If you have a global positioning system (GPS) record the location of the munition and share with the responders. Walk away on the same path you came in on. Do not run.

#### **R**eport: Call 911 with description and location of item

**FIRST CALL 911** with description and location of item. If you encounter a munition, or suspect you have encountered such an item, do not attempt to disturb, remove, or destroy it. Immediately call 911.



Pennsylvania  
National Guard  
Public Affairs Office  
717-861-8829



Pennsylvania  
Game Commission  
Southeast Regional  
Office  
610-926-3136



# MUNITIONS CONCERNS

## SAFETY INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW



# MUNITIONS CONCERNS

## WHAT ARE THE MUNITIONS CONCERNS?

Between 2007 and 2012, the Army National Guard and Pennsylvania Army National Guard conducted a review of existing documents, performed site inspections, analyzed soil samples, and conducted a remedial investigation and feasibility study that identified a Munitions Response Site (MRS) within a portion of State Game Lands 211. A remedial action was conducted in 2014 where geophysical data was collected to identify potential munitions and explosives of concern (MEC). A surface removal of MEC was conducted in a focused area estimated to be 1,334 acres. A subsurface MEC removal was performed at the two herbaceous openings (Cold Spring Herbaceous Opening and Yellow Springs Herbaceous Opening).



The goal of a remedial action is to reduce explosive safety hazards to ensure the protection of human health, public safety, and the environment. To achieve this goal at the Ricochet Area MRS, the remedial action objective was selected to minimize exposure to MEC for the following land use activities:



- Minimizing the public's exposure to MEC while maintaining the intended future land use of public access for recreational activities;
- Minimizing the exposure of Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel and their contractors to MEC at timber management areas and at herbaceous openings maintained for turkey and deer.



## WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

