

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about the military activities that took place at the former Fort Michie and to raise awareness of the explosive hazards that may exist at the property.

The former Fort Michie was used from 1900 to 1948 by the U.S. War Department for coastal defense. An area associated with the former Fort Michie, known as Michie Batteries – Water Acreage, has been identified through historical research and site visits as having potential explosive hazards. The munitions known or suspected to have been used at these batteries include medium to large caliber munitions and small arms ammunition.

The Michie Batteries - Water Acreage is located within New London County, Connecticut, and Suffolk County, New York. The former ranges extend from Great Gull Island into the waters of Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean and include Little Gull Island. The land within these former ranges is publicly and privately owned, and is used for educational purposes and as a bird sanctuary. The water areas within these former ranges are publicly managed.

Because explosive hazards associated with military munitions from past military activities may remain on the land and in the waters of the Michie Batteries – Water Acreage, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that landowners, waterbody managers and visitors follow the **3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat and Report.**



Example of a large caliber munition

Former Fort Michie

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 Fort Michie, 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.

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



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

3Rs Safety Guide

Former Fort Michie

**Connecticut
New London County**

**New York
Suffolk County**



Michie Batteries - Water Acreage



US Army Corps of Engineers.



Source: National Archives at New York

The former Fort Michie on Great Gull Island, 1924

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What types of potential hazards exist?

A: Military munitions, such as medium to large caliber munitions and small arms ammunition, are known or suspected to have been used at the Michie Batteries – Water Acreage. 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: **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; and **R**eport – 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 these batteries, and some munitions may remain on the land and in the waters of the Michie



Legend

- FUDS Property Boundary
- FUDS Project Boundary

Fort Michie
FUDS Property No: C02NY0612

States: Connecticut, New York
Counties: New London, CT; Suffolk, NY
Sources: USACE, 2020; Esri, 2019; DISDI, 2020; USCB, 2019; Esri, 2020; Suffolk County Open Data, 2021

Batteries – Water Acreage. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that further investigation is required for the Michie Batteries – Water Acreage at the former Fort Michie.

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 landowners, waterbody managers and the community. Additionally, it will coordinate with landowners and waterbody managers 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) or select the GIS Tool on the Interim Risk Management page at www.fuds.mil. Learn more about munitions and explosives safety at <https://3Rs.mil>.

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.

● Report

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