U.S. Army

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE : NEW MEXICO

White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is a uniqe tri-service Army installation, conducting defense-related testing for all military services, private industry and our allied nations. Established as the White Sands Proving Ground in 1945, WSMR is home to two National Historic Landmarks. Trinity Site, where the world's first atomic bomb was detonated and Launch Complex 33, where the first V-2 rockets were launched as part af the emerging U.S. rocket program following World War II.

WSMR is located in the Tularosa Basin between the Sacramento and San Andres mountain ranges. With no outlet to the sea, the vast, closed basin created the world's largest gypsum field – the White Sands National Monument, which is located within the borders of WSMR.

WSMR has an estimated daily impact to the local economy of $4.7 million per day.

FAST FACTS

- Location: **Doña Ana, Sierra, Socorro, Lincoln and Otero Counties, New Mexico**
- Land Area: **2.2 million acres**
- Special Use Airspace: **~11,000 nautical miles^2**
- Military Personnel: **381 active duty**
- Civilian Personnel: **1,971 (+ 2,674 Contractors)**

Above: White Sands Missile Range tests the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (U.S. Army photo)

Left: WSMR's missile park displays more than 60 missiles. (U.S. Army photo)

MISSION STATEMENT

White Sands Missile range provides Army, Navy, Air Force, DoD and other customers with high quality services for experimentation, test, research, assessment, development and training in support of the Nation at war.

VISION STATEMENT

Our goal is to become the leading live and virtual range facilities for component, integration and Joint system of system efforts in support of wartime efforts by providing the best, most innovative, flexible services to our customers.

CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
(575) 678-1134

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UNIT MISSIONS

» **White Sands Test Center (WSTC):** Plans, prepares, and executes developmental testing for Army systems, including rockets and missiles, unmanned aerial systems, and directed energy systems. Safeguards the Army's sole remaining research reactor.

» **The 46th Group, U.S. Air Force at White Sands, New Mexico:** The Air Force's liaison with WSMR. Conducts a broad range of air-related testing in technology areas as diverse as radar cross-section measurement, GPS-denial, munitions/missile performance, and aircraft survivability.

» **Naval Surface Warfare Center Detachment White Sands:** Conducts a wide variety of open-air tests at naval facilities ranging from remote sites to fully developed locations tailored to specific weapons systems. Transportation, fabrication, logistics, ordnance storage, assembly, and test conduct teams are in place to provide one-stop testing.

» **Army Research Laboratory (ARL):** Provides America's soldiers the technology edge through scientific research, technology development, and analysis. The Laboratory has two elements located at WSMR – the Computational and Information Sciences Directorate and the Survivability & Lethality Analysis Directorate.

» **Center for Counter Measures (CCM):** Directs, coordinates, supports, and conducts independent countermeasure/counter-countermeasure test and evaluation activities for United States and foreign weapon systems, subsystems, sensors, and related components.

» **National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA):** Provides accurate and timely analysis of worldwide gravity, satellite, and positional information, including imagery and mapping control for navigation, safety, intelligence, positioning and targeting in support of national security objectives.

» **TRADOC Analysis Center (TRAC):** Conducts high-resolution analyses of brigade and battalion operations, life cycle costs of new equipment, and training effectiveness.

» **National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA):** Two NASA organizations are located on WSMR. The White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) conducts rocket propulsion, hypervelocity, propellants, aerospace fluids and composite pressure vessel testing. The Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) site is a ground tracking station for the NASA Space Network, capable of providing near continuous high bandwidth telecommunications services for low earth orbiting user spacecraft and expendable launch vehicles, including the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station.

For more information, please see < **http://www.wsmr.army.mil** >

Above: White Sands Missile Range hosts the annual Bataan Memorial Death March (U.S. Army photo)

COMMANDER RANK

Brigadier General

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

» The U.S. Army's largest over-land test installation
» Testing ground for the Trinity project, 49,000 acres of which is a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places
» Testing ground for the V-2 Project, a National Historic Landmark
» Highly diverse, natural environment with most terrain types, to include high desert sands and grasslands (4,000 ft.) to high wooded mountains (9,000 ft.).
» Home of the WSMR Museum
» WSMR is rich with fossil tracks from mammoths, camels, and other Plio-Pleistocene era species
» The White Sands Pupfish is an endangered fish species, native to the Tularosa Basin which is located in the center of the missile range.
» In the 1960's, New Mexico released Oryx (an African antelope) on WSMR and currently about 3,500 roam the installation.
» Site of the San Andres Wildlife Refuge