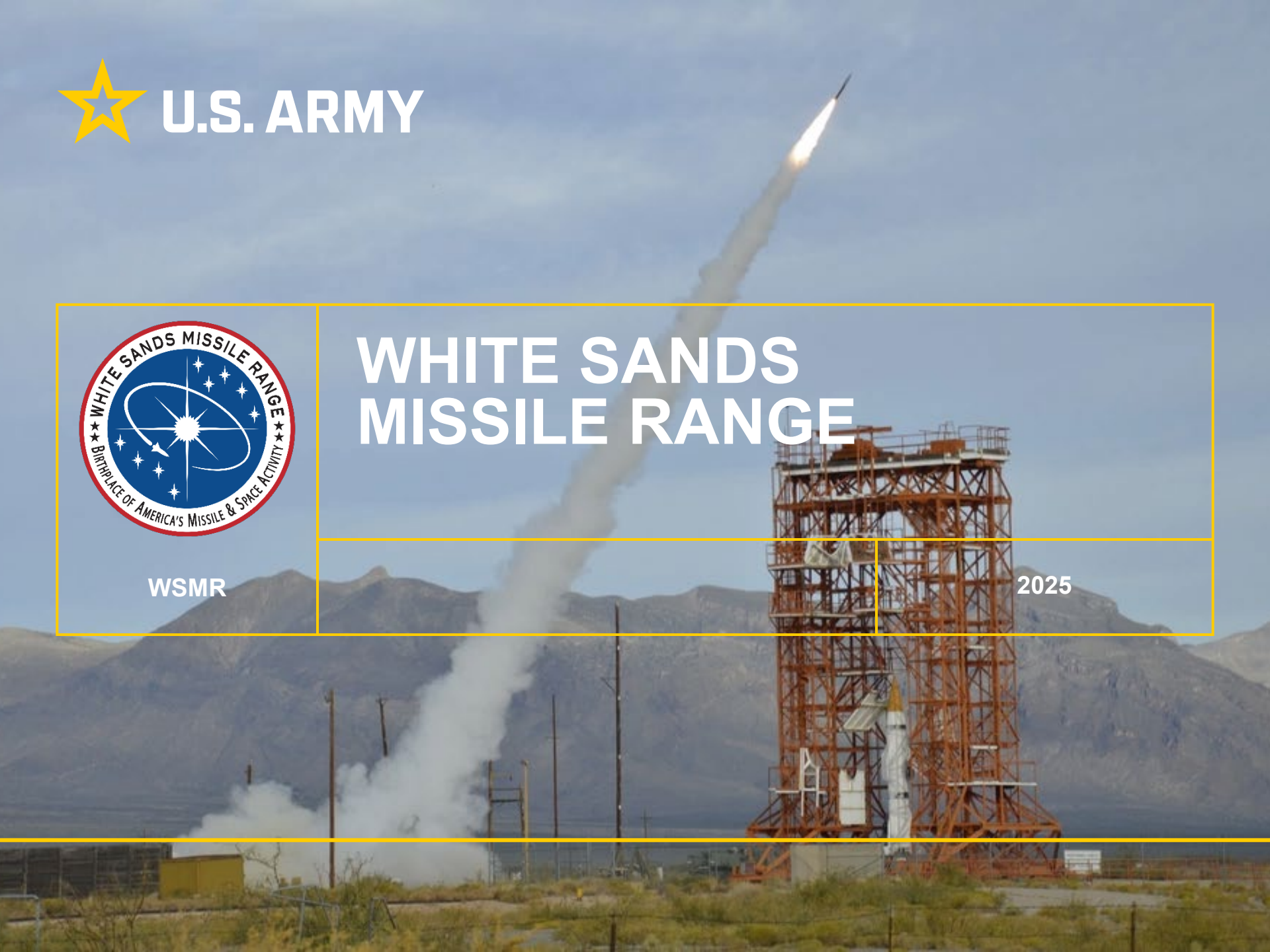




WSMR

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE

2025



MISSION FOCUSED

We are on the critical path to Army Transformation and Joint Force modernization.

COMMUNITY MINDED

We connect the communities of our Range border neighbors: both military and civilian.

Representative Gabe Vasquez Tours WSMR

White Sands Missile Range Senior Commander Col. Andrew Morgan hosted Representative Gabe Vasquez (D-NM-2) for an office call visit and a tour of White Sands Missile Range on July 29, 2025. The focus of the visit was an overview briefing and a tour of the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) Museum and the White Sands School.



Museum Tour

- Established in 1994
- Captures the History and Heritage of WSMR
- Birthplace of Ages – Atomic, Missile, and Space
- Collect, Preserve, and Interpret the History of the Greater White Sands Area



WSMR Command Team

- Quality of Life Improvements
- Efforts to Improve On-Post Housing for Remote and Isolated Installations
- National Security Posture
- Funding Levels
- Revitalize the WSMR Infrastructure



White Sands School

- Important Part of Bringing Families to WSMR and Helping them Feel Comfortable
- 70-Year-Old Facility, Built in 1951
- No Longer Suitable for Technological Enhancements
- Awarded National Blue Ribbon School in 2024

White Sands School



White Sands School

It's a great day to be a Sun Chief

1961

64 Years

2025

Original Construction Year: **1951**

Student Population: **281**

Grades: **PreK-8**

Replacement Value/New Construction: **\$60M**



PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS (PSMI)

#81 on the SECRETARY OF DEFENSE's PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS (PSMI) PRIORITIZED List

- The Public Schools on Military Installations Program invited schools 1-71 on the Deputy Secretary of Defense's Priority List.
- No funding was provided to Program in Fiscal Year 2024.

Current Patchwork Floorplan



White Sands School Challenges



- During the rainy season, the library floods and the carpet is very damaged, bookshelves on pallets so the books will not get damaged
- Extensive and costly roof damage (full replacement required)
- Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) ceiling tiles present (10,650 S.F.) and damaged in some locations
- Possible ACM materials in flooring (Old Main Building)
- Chalkboards and fire doors are assumed to contain ACM
- Two storage buildings un-usable (dirt floors and extensive ground squirrel damage)
- Building no longer suitable for technological enhancements (retrofit incompatible)

2024 Awardee



National Blue Ribbon Schools Program
Nomination category: **Exemplary High Performing Schools**

NM Vistas Report Card



Schools scoring above the 90th percentile on any indicator, pursuant to Section 22-2F-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. School Support and Accountability Act.

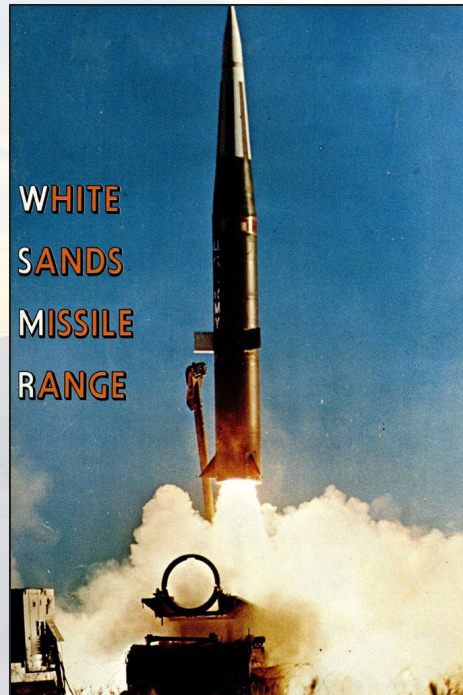


WSS has an overall index score above the 75th percentile and is among the highest-performing schools.

Museum and Las Cruces Gate

White Sands Missile Range Museum

The Museum was established in 1994 to collect, preserve, and exhibit artifacts and other materials relating to the history of WSMR and the Tularosa Basin. Over time, we have changed and expanded our mission, scope of exhibition, and supporting functions to include the history of the surrounding lands' native peoples and cultures, its flora and fauna, and natural geology and landscapes.



Facts and Figures

- New Mexico's only federal military museum
- Foot traffic for CY2024 was 35K on pace for 43K in CY2025
- Total global reach, including all media, over 414K CY2024, down this year due to a moratorium on social media
- 65 events (tours/staff rides) CY2024 and provided archival materials to over 30 researchers from around the world
- Developing two Google Earth Projects: Bataan and the Manhattan Project and have explored the possibility of completing one on U.S. Space history.
- Basic supply and material costs are \$10K/year + employees (2) salary

Challenges

- Currently on the list of Army museums forecasted to close (paused 28JUL pending further guidance)
- Moratorium on social media
- Required to borrow vehicles from other organizations to conduct off site tours and events

Access Control Point Las Cruces Gate

Construct a new Access Control Point (ACP) for the Las Cruces Gate for installation entry. This project will modernize and bring the ACP up to Army standards.



Annual Events at White Sands Missile Range

Trinity Site – Open House Tour

80th Anniversary – Saturday, October 18, 2025

Trinity Site is where the first atomic bomb was tested at 5:29:45 a.m. Mountain War Time on July 16, 1945. The 19-kiloton explosion not only led to a quick end to the war in the Pacific but also ushered the world into the atomic age. All life on Earth has been touched by the event which took place here.

The 51,500-acre area was declared a national historic landmark in 1975. The landmark includes base camp, where the scientists and support group lived, ground zero, where the bomb was placed for the explosion, and the McDonald ranch house, where the plutonium core to the bomb was assembled. Visitors to a Trinity Site Open House see ground zero and the McDonald ranch house. In addition, one of the old instrumentation bunkers is visible beside the road just west of ground zero.



The 80-year journey of White Sands Missile Range is an excellent opportunity to reflect on its significant evolution and anticipate the exciting future ahead. On Saturday, October 18, 2025, White Sands Missile Range will host a commemoration of the historical landmark at the Trinity Site Open House from 8:00am-2:00pm.



Bataan Memorial Death March

Saturday, March 21, 2026

The Army ROTC Department at New Mexico State University began sponsoring the Bataan Memorial Death March in 1989. The memorial march was to mark a page in history that included many native sons and affected many families in the state. In 1992, White Sands Missile Range and the New Mexico National Guard joined in the sponsorship and the event was moved to White Sands Missile Range.

On March 16, 2025 White Sands Missile Range hosted the 36th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March with a remarkable 4,603 participants live and 410 participants virtually. This event honors approximately 75,000 U.S. and Filipino service members who became prisoners of war in the Philippines during World War II, serving as a tribute to their enduring memory.



The highly anticipated 37th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at White Sands Missile Range. For more information on how to register, volunteer, or become a sponsor please visit the link below:

<https://bataanmarch.com>

