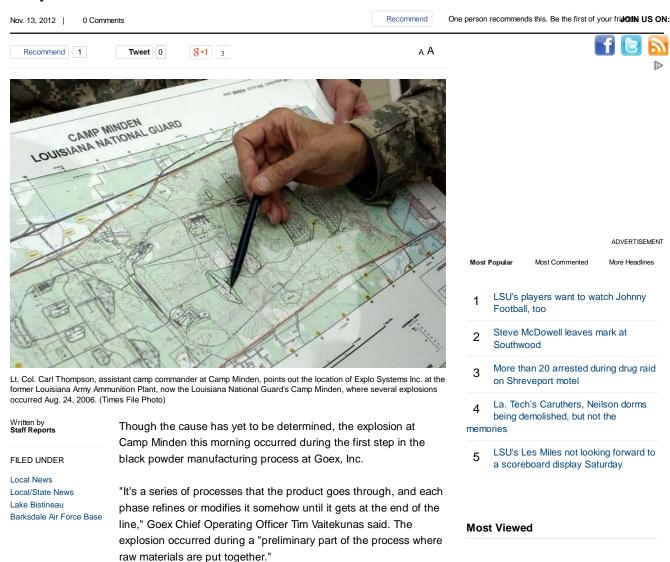
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# **Another explosion at Camp Minden**

Today's blast is at least the seventh at Goex since it moved to the site in mid-1997



#### MORE ABOUT CAMP MINDEN

Camp Minden once was the site of Louisiana Army
Ammunition Plant, a 15 000-acre active military

Some equipment was damaged, but Vaitekunas did not have a dollar amount of how much.

That part of the process occurs in a remote building and is operated by radio control. No employees were present at the time

of the blast, and no injuries were reported.

The blast comes a month after a separate

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John Montgomery, an employee of Goex Inc., waits for a ride home outside the black powder manufacturing plant at Camp Minden after an explosion on a processing line there Oct. 31, 2001. Montgomery, who had worked at Goex for three years at the time, said the explosion left him "shaking like a leaf." (Times File Photo)

explosion that shook many homes throughout North Louisiana. That incident involved a bunker that belongs to Explo, another of the many tenants at Camp Minden that produces explosives. Again, no injuries were reported.

Explo Systems Inc. — a 15-year-old, veteran-owned company - has been in business at Camp Minden for seven years, according to its website. The company dismantles and recycles old military bombs.

Bunkers dotting Camp Minden are used to

self-contained, partially underground and

outward to minimalize damage. Still,

windows in Dixie Inn and Minden were shattered by the blast that happened about

designed to send any blast upward and not

store explosives. The units are

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11:36 p.m. Oct. 15. Some home video surveillance cameras as far as 25 miles away captured the sound of that explosion and a glow in the sky. Reports of the shaking came in from Lake Bistineau, Springhill, Sibley, Barksdale Air Force Base and surrounding areas. In the hours before the source is confirmed, the blast and related flashes of light spur numerous conspiracy theories involving meteorites,

The nature of business at Camp Minden means explosions occur, including some that have resulted in death. Today's blast is

aliens, government cover-ups, earthquakes and even falling ash and debris as possible

at least the seventh at Goex since the black powder manufacturer moved to the reservation in 1997.

causes.

# **TIMELINE**

June 2011: About 1,000 pounds of black powder explode in the Goex corning mill plant. One worker is slightly injured when he slips and falls during the evacuation. Temporary evacuations are ordered in the immediate vicinity.

July 15, 2006: A fire and a "small explosion" cause no injuries at the Goex black powder facility.

Nov. 3, 2004: Goex explosion; no injuries.

Oct. 31, 2001: An explosion at Goex injures two employees and causes \$2.5 million in damage.

Jan. 25, 2000: A flash fire and explosion at Goex burn one employee.

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Nov. 5, 1998: A worker dies in an explosion at Goex.

### OTHER EXPLOSIONS AT CAMP MINDEN

**Oct. 15:** The explosion of a bunker owned by Explo, a 15-year-old, veteran-owned company that dismantles and recycles old military bombs and has been in business at Camp Minden for seven years, shatters windows in Minden and Dixie Inn and can be felt throughout northwest Louisiana. No injuries are reported as a result of the late-night blast.

**Aug. 24, 2006:** Multiple explosions at Explo prompt evacuations of homes, schools and highways in of Doyline. The company loses almost 200,000 square feet of the plant that was divided into two operations. About \$3.5 million is spent relocating from E-line to F-line and constructing buildings.

**2006**: Fire destroys a building at Valentec Systems' flare assembly plant. No injuries are reported, although two firefighters battling the blaze suffer heat exhaustion.

**Aug. 16, 1968:** Six people are killed and nine others are injured when a blast felt eight miles away destroys the government-run "F" line and facilities at the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant.

**Jan. 22, 1963:** A testing ground explosion kills one person at the government-run plant.

**July 31**, **1962**: An assembly line explosion kills three people and injures six others.

**Nov. 27, 1942:** A shell explodes in the "Area F" shipping room, killing five people and injuring one other.

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