



JUNE 2019

### Why is the US Army Corps of Engineers investigating Fort Taylor?

Fort Taylor, a Formerly Used Defense Site, was utilized for coastal defense beginning in 1845. By the end of World War II, the fort and the gun batteries were obsolete, and the Army deactivated it. The Corps manages the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites at properties across the country, and the Corps investigates these sites to determine if the military left anything behind. If so, the Corps determines what appropriate action should be taken.

### How did the military use the area?

The Army used Fort Taylor for harbor defense. During the Civil War, a number of cannons were placed around the fort. The fort was modernized prior to the Spanish-American War, and the weapons were updated and modernized over the years. It is possible the military fired at targets in the ocean during training activities. In 1947, the Army deactivated the fort, and by 1979, the federal government deeded the property to the State of Florida to use as a state park.

### Why are you here now?

We do not have evidence of a known problem at Fort Taylor, but to ensure your safety, we evaluate all Formerly Used Defense Sites. The Jacksonville District has the fourth largest inventory of these sites in the nation and currently has the funding available to study this and many other sites in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. We are doing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study to determine what may be present from the military's use, in what amounts and where.

### When will the work be completed?

The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study fieldwork is scheduled to be completed in 2020. Once the fieldwork is complete, the team will evaluate the data and draft a report which will present conclusions and recommendations. The report will form the basis of a Proposed Plan, which summarizes the recommended alternatives to address what may be found. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the Proposed Plan.

### Where will the Corps search?

The Corps will search in several areas of the park as well as in the ocean offshore from the park. We will coordinate with the park to limit any inconvenience to the public while the work is under way.

### Will you be closing any areas of the park?

No. People will need to stay away from the teams while they work, and you may be asked to stay out of an area for a few hours to allow them to work.

### What are you doing to ensure you don't damage the environment, including sensitive habitats and nesting areas?

The Corps is working in conjunction with the park staff, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other state and federal agencies to ensure protection of the environment. In addition, fieldwork is being planned to avoid nesting areas and sensitive habitats.

### Are the park and drinking water safe?

The park and surrounding waters are safe for recreational use, and drinking water is also safe.

### What should I do if I see something unusual?

While it is unlikely the public would encounter munitions in the public areas of Fort Taylor, we encourage you to remember and practice the 3Rs of explosives safety. If you find a suspicious object, **Recognize** you may have found munitions, and munitions are dangerous. **Retreat** without touching or moving the object, noting its location. **Report** your finding to local law enforcement by dialing 911.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Contact:

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### Visit:

Project documents can be viewed at:  
**Monroe County Library**  
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Telephone: 305.295.3368

