

# FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range

## REMEDIAL ACTION



AUGUST 2019

## BACKGROUND

Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range comprised about 10,200 acres and was located south of present day Centralia Road (County Road 476), north of Cortez Boulevard (State Road 50), east of Melanie Avenue and west of Citrus Way (County Road 491).

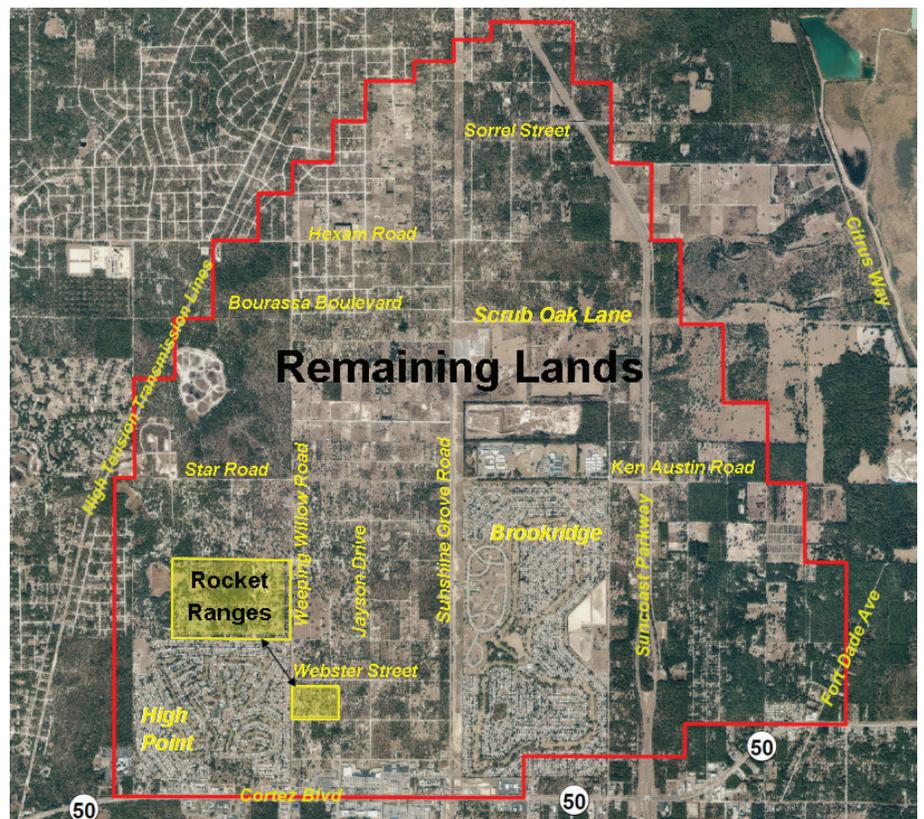
The War Department acquired the site in 1943 for a turret gunnery range to train aerial gunners. The Army constructed a moving target range where a jeep with a target above it went around a track while men fired .50 caliber machine guns at the target. Training activities expanded to include infantry training such as jungle warfare and firing practice with rifles, rifle grenades, machine guns, bazookas (rockets), mortars and antitank guns. After World War II ended, the site was no longer needed, and by November 1946, the government had disposed of the property.

## ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) conducted numerous investigations at the former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range to find and remove munitions. Based on the results of these investigations, the Corps divided the site into two areas, Remaining Lands and Rocket Ranges. No further action is necessary in Remaining Lands where teams did not recover any munitions.

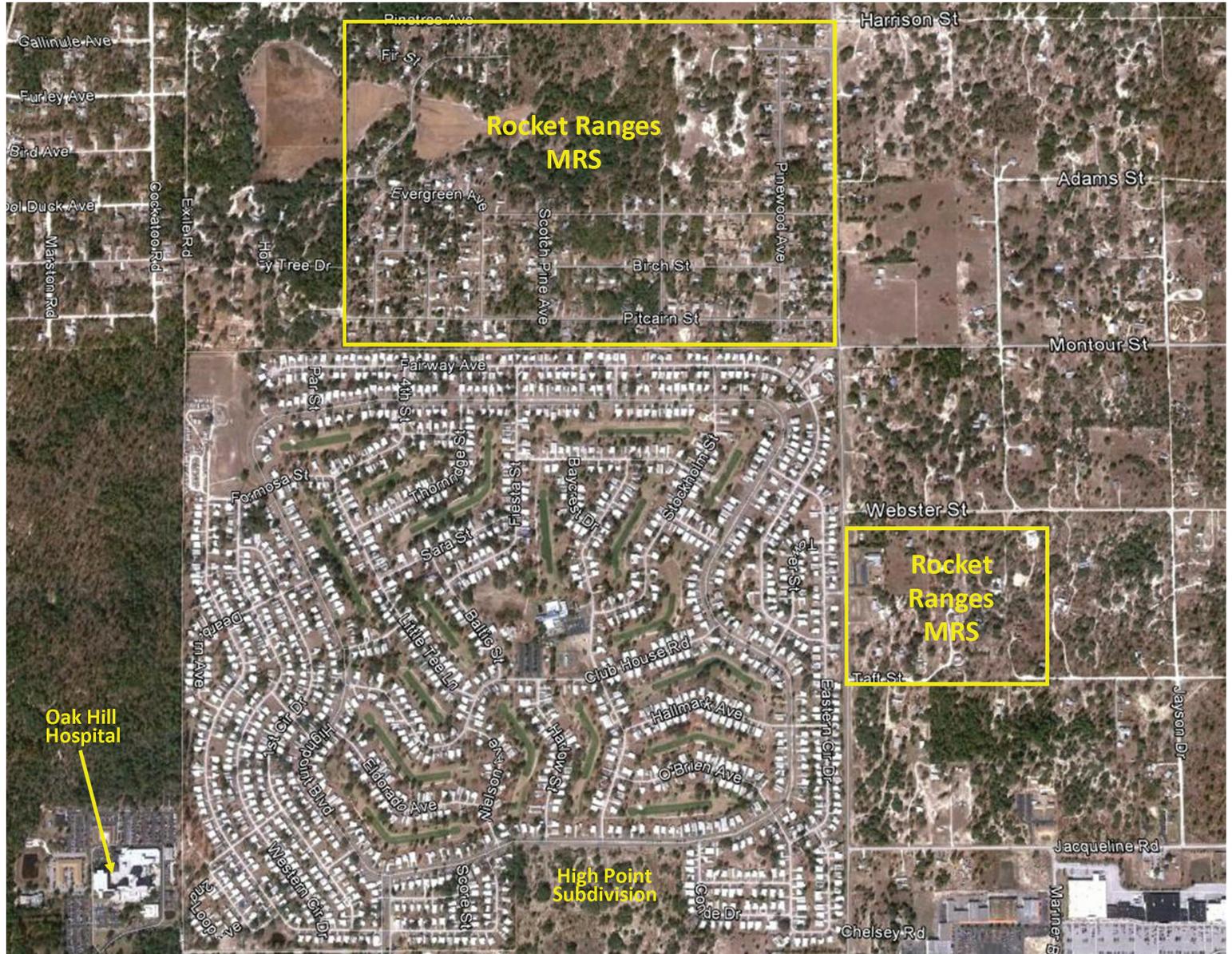
Rocket Ranges includes two, non-contiguous areas. One is the area of Webster and Taft Streets between Weeping Willow Street and Jayson Drive. The other is between Montour Road to the south, Exile Road to the west, Pinetree Avenue/Harrison Street to the north and Weeping Willow Street to the east (see the map on the back). While no munitions were found in Rocket Ranges during the most recent investigation, rockets were found in these areas previously. Therefore, the Corps wants property owners to be aware that munitions could be buried in these areas.

The Corps will continue to let property owners within the Rocket Ranges know how the land was used historically and will re-evaluate the area every five years. One such Five Year Review effort was completed in August 2018. No one reported finding any military munitions



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within the Rocket Ranges, nor have there been any significant changes to how the land is used. The Remedial Alternative, public awareness, continues to be sufficient to protect people from any potential buried munitions.



## SAFETY FIRST: REMEMBER THE 3Rs

Because of how the military trained at the former Brooksville Turret Gunner Range, munitions could still be present. They may be dangerous and not easily recognizable. Never touch, move or disturb something you think may be a munition. Remember the 3Rs: Recognize, Retreat, Report.

**RECOGNIZE** - The item you found could be dangerous.

**RETREAT** - Do not touch it in any way, and leave the area.

**REPORT** - Call 911 immediately.

**Recognize** **Retreat** **Report**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Toll-Free 800.710.5184

FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil

www.saj.usace.army.mil/Brooksville

