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DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES

Across the country, the Department of Defense acquired properties, often during times of war, to use for military training, testing and demonstrations. When no longer needed, many of these properties were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other owners such as private individuals or other government entities. These Formerly Used Defense Sites can range from privately owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, industrial and educational properties. The Department of Defense is committed to protecting people and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these sites if hazards from the former military operations remain. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites was established to evaluate and, if necessary, to remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) manages the program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, in 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986. These laws give the Corps the authority for certain cleanup activities and dictate the process we must follow. The Corps conducts investigations to determine the potential risk to people and the environment from the military's use of the property. Public involvement and community participation are important components of the process. We partner with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local governments, regulatory and environmental agencies, and affected property owners.

BACKGROUND

During World War II, the military leased about 5,029 acres to establish an auxiliary bombing target for crews from Sarasota Army Airfield. The target, in Sarasota County about five miles north of Venice, consisted of three concentric rings centered within a hexagonal warning marker. The original mission of the Sarasota Army Airfield was to train B-17 bomber crews, but it became a fighter combat crew training station because of aircraft weight concerns. Crews used Osprey Bombing Range for low altitude glide and dive bombing, dropping practice bombs and incendiary bombs.

Following World War II, the Army no longer needed the target for training, so the target was removed, and the leases were terminated. The I-75/681 interchange is in the middle of the former target area. The property not owned by the Department of Transportation is privately owned and is used for cattle grazing.



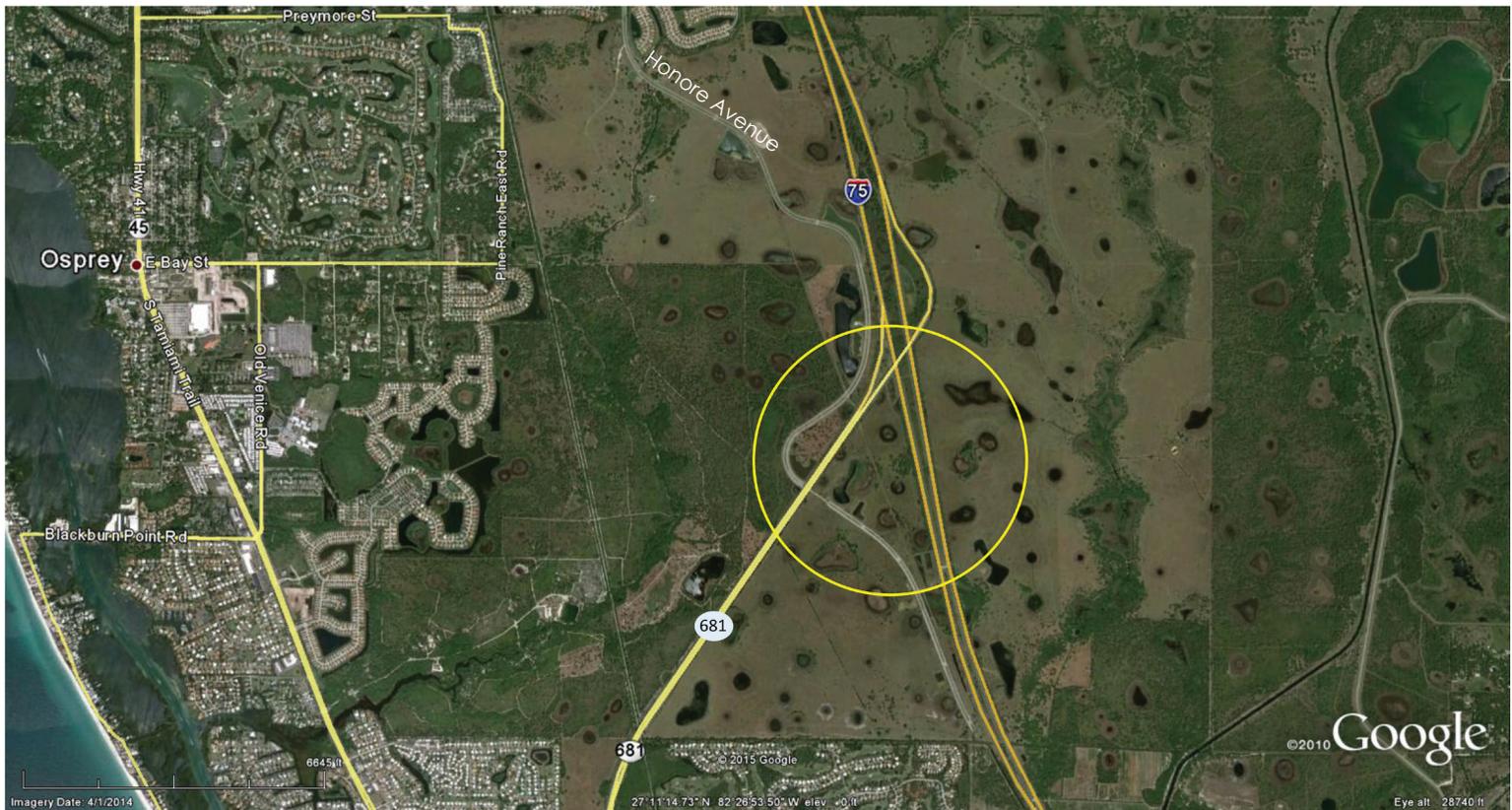
ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Corps has evaluated the site several times over the years to determine if anything remains from the military's

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Osprey Bombing Range

training. Based on historical research, the Corps established a 640 acre target area which includes the target location and a buffer around it. In 2010, the Corps completed a Site Inspection to determine if further evaluation of the site was necessary based on the past military use of the area. While no munitions or munitions debris (pieces of munitions) were found during the Site Inspection, the Corps will conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study to determine if anything remains in the area from the Army's training, and if so, in what amounts and locations. This is known as characterizing the nature and extent of potential military-related materials.

The Corps uses a tool called the Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol to evaluate the risk to people and the environment at Formerly Used Defense Sites, such as the former Osprey Bombing Range. This tool helps the Department of Defense prioritize studies or remediation (if necessary) for properties across the country. Sites that have a higher potential risk to people and the environment are addressed first. Since the potential risk at the former Osprey Bombing Range is low, the Corps has not scheduled the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, but we will notify the public when we anticipate initiating further studies.



Approximate Location of Osprey Bombing Range

SAFETY FIRST: REMEMBER THE 3Rs

If you are on a Formerly Used Defense Site, it is vitally important, in the unlikely event that potential munitions are encountered, to follow the simple 3Rs of explosives safety: Recognize, Retreat, Report.

RECOGNIZE - The object you found could be dangerous.

RETREAT - Leave the area without touching or moving the object.

REPORT - Call 9-1-1 immediately.

Recognize **Retreat** **Report**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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