



AUGUST 2019

### 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. We are committed to protecting people and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these properties. 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. We conduct 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. The Corps partners with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local governments, regulatory and environmental agencies, and affected property owners.

### BACKGROUND

In 1942, the City of Sanford in Seminole County about 18 miles northeast of Orlando, deeded their airfield to the U.S. Navy for a Naval Air Station. The Navy acquired additional land over the years, eventually bringing the total to 1,813.64 acres. The Navy constructed buildings and other improvements, many of which remain. During World War II, the Navy used the site for dive-bomber and fighter training. Following the end of the World War II, the federal government decommissioned Naval Air Station Sanford, but the Navy reacquired it during the Korean Conflict. Between 1951 and 1968, the Navy used it as a training base for fighter, attack and reconnaissance aircraft. In the late 1960s, the Navy returned the property to the City of Sanford. It is now the Orlando Sanford International Airport.



### ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

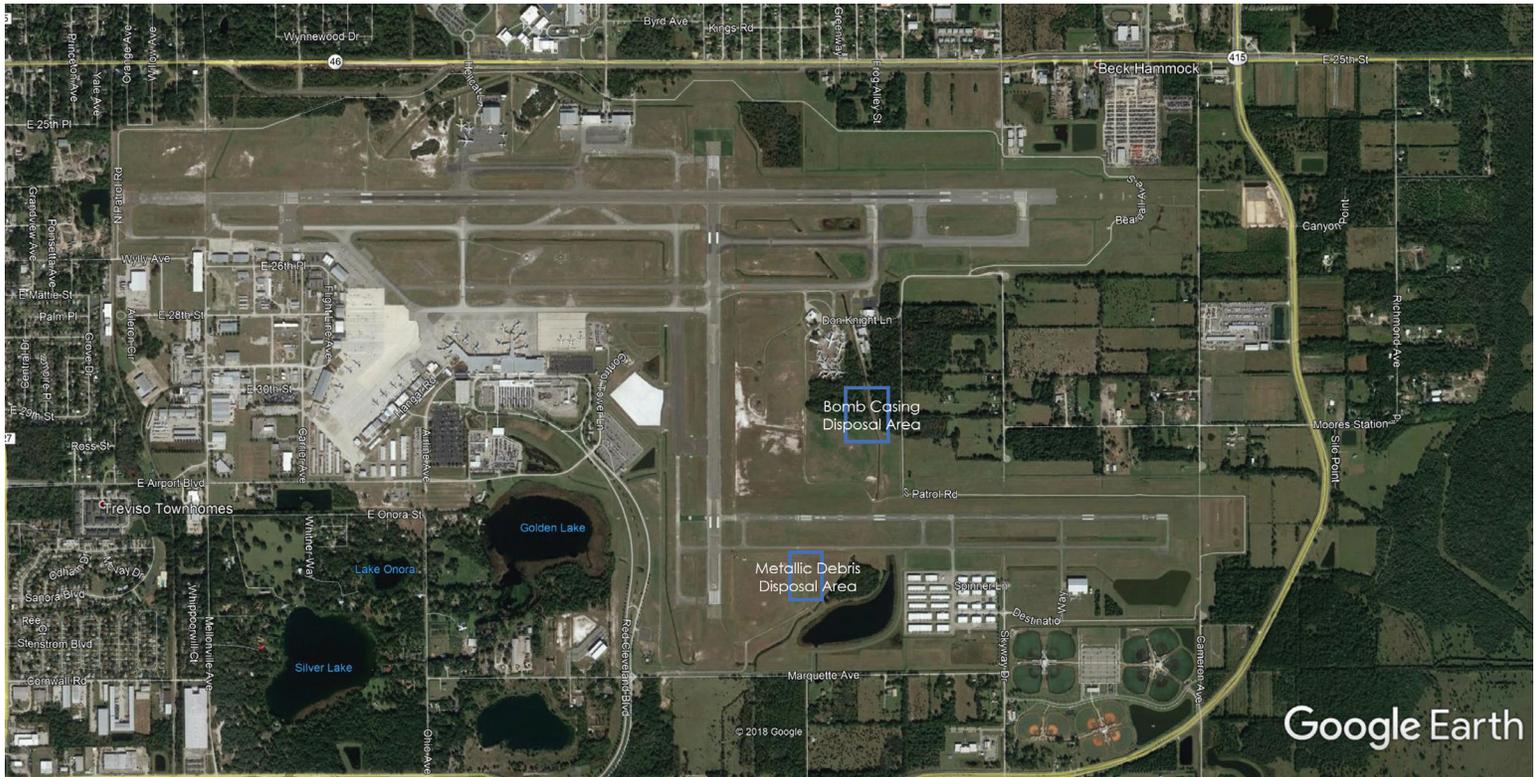
The Corps has evaluated the site several times over the years to determine if anything remains from the military's use. Through historical research and sites visits, the Corps identified the areas that were used for debris disposal areas. In 2010, the Corps completed a Site Inspection to determine if further evaluation of the site may be necessary based on the past military use of the

# FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Naval Air Station Sanford

property. No munitions or munitions debris (expended small arms and/or pieces of munitions) was found at the site. Munitions debris does not pose an explosive hazard, and no munitions or explosive materials have been identified within the former Sanford Airport. However, because safety is our primary concern, the Corps will conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study to determine what may be present 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 Sanford Airport. 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. The Corps has not scheduled the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for Sanford Airport due to its lower prioritization score, but we will notify the public when we anticipate initiating further studies.

While the possibility of encountering munitions is low, always use caution in areas where the military has trained. Remember and follow the 3Rs of Explosive Safety. **Recognize** the object you found could be dangerous. **Retreat** from the area without touching the object, but make note of its location. **Report** it by calling 9-1-1.



## SAFETY FIRST: REMEMBER THE 3Rs

If you are on a Formerly Used Defense Site, do not pick up anything that you did not put on the ground. Because of previous military training, munitions may potentially be present. These could be dangerous and may not be easily recognizable. Never touch, move or disturb something you think may be a munition. Remember the 3Rs of explosive safety.

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

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

**REPORT** - Call 9-1-1 immediately.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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[www.saj.usace.army.mil/FormerlyUsedDefenseSites/](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/FormerlyUsedDefenseSites/)

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