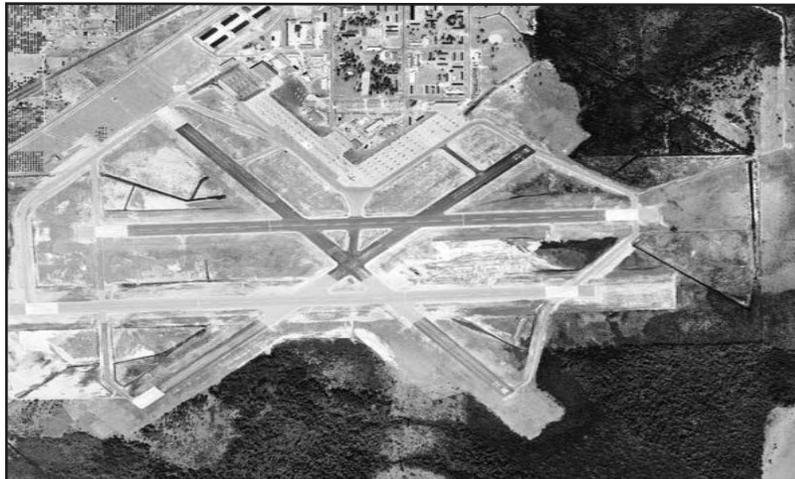


NOTIFICATION AND SAFETY EDUCATION INITIATIVE



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

During World War II, the military leased approximately 1,600 acres from the Bartow Municipal Airport and established Bartow Army Airfield to train combat crews. It was located about five miles northeast of Bartow in Polk County, Florida. In early 1942, the Third Air Force constructed an operational training station for medium bombardment aircraft. In 1943, the Army designated it as the Fighter Replacement Training Station and facilitated a fighter group and two fighter squadrons. Troops began arriving in May 1943.

After World War II, the site was no longer needed and was returned to the City of Bartow in 1947. In 1950, the Air Force contracted out the site as a basic pilot training school. In 1960, the Air Force terminated the contract pilot training program, and the military once again returned Bartow Army Airfield to the City of Bartow. The former Bartow Army Airfield is within the airport, and the Bartow Municipal Airport Development Authority manages it as a local airport and industrial park.

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 suspected to be used as munitions burial and skeet ranges. In 2008, 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 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 Bartow Army Airfield. 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

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Bartow Army Airfield

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 Bartow Army Airfield. 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 Bartow Army Airfield due to its lower prioritization score, but we will notify the public when we anticipate initiating further studies.



Source: Google Earth 2019

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.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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