



JULY 2020

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.

SITE HISTORY

During World War II, the military acquired more than 159,000 acres in Franklin County, Florida to establish Camp Gordon Johnston. The Army constructed a complete military reservation with more than 1,100 buildings and multiple training areas for basic and amphibious training. Amphibious training involved shore-to-shore and ship-to-shore movements. It also included obstacle, grenade and bayonet courses and demolitions training sites. Troops used both practice and live rockets, grenades, artillery rounds, mortars and various materials used to clear obstacles and mine fields. The site surrounds (but does not include) Carrabelle. It extends north to Apalachicola National Forest, south and east to the Gulf of Mexico and west to Tate's Hell Swamp. It also includes Dog Island. After the war, the military released all of the property except 32 acres used for an Air Force radar site. The land that is not within Tate's Hell Swamp and Bald Point State Park is mostly privately owned and includes recreational, residential and commercial areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Corps has conducted a number of investigations over the years, and currently, there are three different projects underway. One project is related to the former motor pool activities. The other two are evaluating training areas for potential munitions. Fieldwork for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was completed in 2013 and 2015. The purpose of the study is to determine what may be present, in what amounts and locations. The Corps is evaluating the data now and will present recommendations for future action once the report is complete. The second munitions project is a Site Inspection; this study was conducted in areas not investigated during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study to determine the presence or absence of munitions or munitions constituents (the explosives and metals that comprise munitions). No evidence of munitions were found in those areas.

A scientific approach was developed to search the former training areas during the Remedial Investigation. It involved using metal detectors to search along "transects" (paths) and "grids" (square or rectangular areas) and collecting soil and water samples

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Camp Gordon Johnston

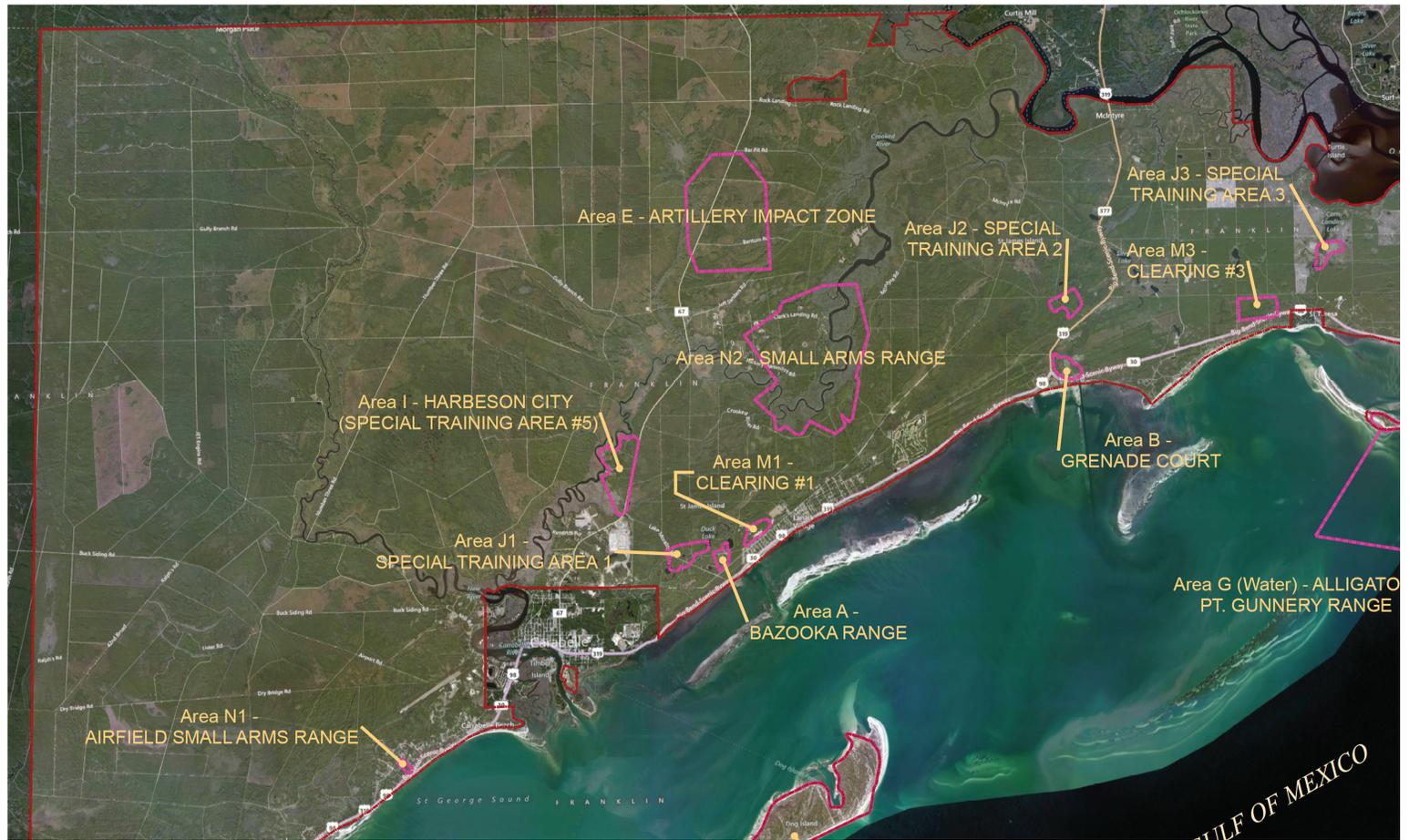
to test for explosives and metals (the materials that comprise munitions). Technicians identified metallic objects in the ground, and in some places, they dug up the metallic objects to determine if they are munitions-related.

The focus of the investigation was the specific areas where munition could potentially be present. They are as follows.

A Bazooka Range	B Grenade Court	E Artillery Impact Range
F Dog Island	G Alligator Point Gunnery Range	H Red, White and Green Beaches
I Harbeson City (Special Training Area 5)	J1 Special Training Area 1	J2 Special Training Area 2
J3 Special Training Area 3	J4 Special Training Area 4	M Cleared Lands
N1 Airfield Small Arms Ranges	N2 Small Arms Range Complex	

The teams finished the fieldwork and are finalizing the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study report which will include recommendations about future action. These recommendations could range from educating the public about the potential dangers to conducting a complete removal action in certain areas. The report and its recommendations will be summarized in a Proposed Plan. The plan will be presented to the public for a review and comment period of at least 30 days.

Always use caution in areas where the military has trained; munitions could be present and may be dangerous. 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 911.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit:

Project documents can be viewed at:
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