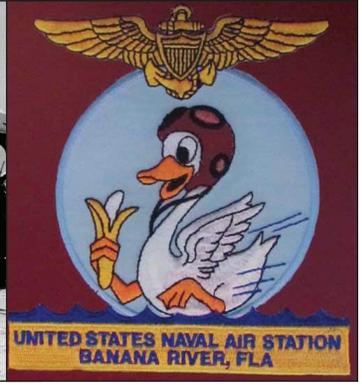


SITE SUMMARY



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.

BACKGROUND

The Navy acquired 1,823 acres of land between the Banana River and the Atlantic Ocean and began constructing a seaplane base in 1939. The Navy commissioned the base Naval Air Station Banana River on October 1, 1940. With the United States entrance into World War II, air crews began anti-submarine patrols of the Atlantic Ocean, and in March 1942, the Navy established a photographic laboratory and a navigation school. Naval Air Station Banana River was also home to a blimp squadron which conducted search and rescue along Florida's east coast. During this time, the Navy utilized land south of the base for disposal activities. After World War II ended, the base continued limited operations as a support facility but was deactivated August 1, 1947. The Navy transferred Banana River to the Air Force on September 1, 1948; it is now Patrick Air Force Base and is not eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program. The Off-Base Disposal Area is eligible.



Naval Air Station Banana River was also home to a blimp squadron which conducted search and rescue along Florida's east coast. During this time, the Navy utilized land south of the base for disposal activities. After World War II ended, the base continued limited operations as a support facility but was deactivated August 1, 1947. The Navy transferred Banana River to the Air Force on September 1, 1948; it is now Patrick Air Force Base and is not eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program. The Off-Base Disposal Area is eligible.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

To be eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, the site must have been under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense and owned, leased, or otherwise possessed by the United States (including governmental entities that are the legal predecessors of the Department of Defense or its Components) that were transferred from the military's control prior to October 17, 1986. In the summer of 1991, following a request from a congressional representative, the Corps visited the South Patrick Shores Subdivision and prepared an Inventory Project Report. During the course of the Inventory Project Report investigation, the team did not locate any records indicating the Department of Defense purchased, leased, or used the property which is now the South Patrick Shores Subdivision. Therefore, the property was determined to be ineligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, based on information available at the time.

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area

In October 2018, the Corps began re-evaluating a portion of the property now known as the South Patrick Shores Subdivision to determine if the military acquired or used any part of the area. Research teams visited numerous National Archives facilities in three states, and teams were able to locate various letters and memoranda not previously available. Recently located records (not available during the investigation conducted in 1991) indicate that during the construction of the base, the Navy began using an area south of the base for disposal activities. As the Navy prepared to deactivate the base, teams from the public works department sought to restore the disposal area to the property owner's satisfaction. They burned all of the trash and other debris and buried what remained. In 1948, the property owner indicated he was satisfied with the restoration process.

These recently identified historical records indicate that while the Navy did not own the property, the Navy did "otherwise possess" it which makes the Off-Base Disposal Area eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program. The Corps determined the size and shape of the Disposal Area based on an analysis of aerial photographs taken between 1943 and 1953. During the Preliminary Assessment, the U.S. Army Geospatial Center completed a Historical Photographic Analysis, and based on their analysis, it appears the area potentially impacted could be approximately 52 acres. We will further refine the boundaries during the course of our investigations. The Off-Base Disposal Area is in an unincorporated community about 52 miles southeast of Orlando between Patrick Air Force Base and Satellite Beach. The area is generally between NE 1st Street to the north, 1st Avenue to the south, Pelican Drive to the west, and Highway A1A to the east.

We are working in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Brevard County, and other appropriate agencies and will follow the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process to evaluate the Off-Base Disposal Area. The Corps signed the documentation that makes the Off-Base Disposal Area eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program on August 24, 2019. We completed a Preliminary Assessment in March 2020 and concluded that further investigations are warranted. Corps leadership signed the project approval documentation July 25, 2020, so we are now moving forward with seeking funding for and awarding a contract to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is to characterize the nature and extent (what, where, in what amounts) of environmental impacts attributable to the Navy.



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/BananaRiver

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

