

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.

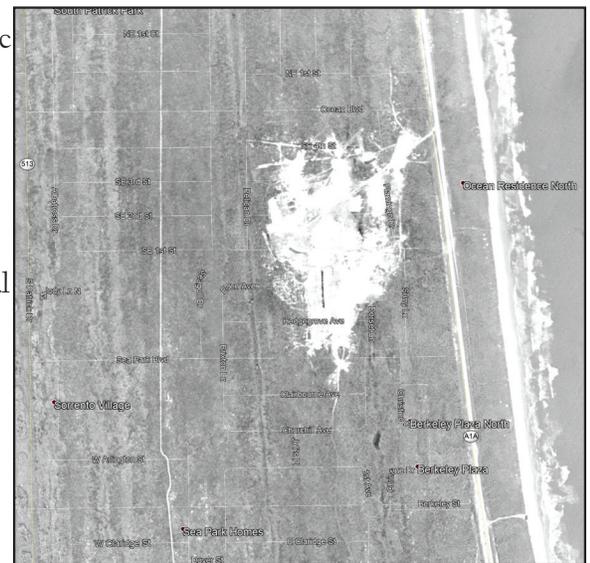
Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, in 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986. These laws give the Corps the authority for certain cleanup activities and dictate the process we must follow. The 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.

### ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

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 were able to locate various letters and memoranda not previously available indicating 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 Navy's 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. Those documents show that while the Navy did not own the property, the Navy did "otherwise possess" it which makes the Off-Base Disposal Area



December 8, 1947 aerial image over current map

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

eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program. (Please see Site Summary and other fact sheets for more information.)

Based on the results of the Preliminary Assessment, concluding further investigation is warranted, we are seeking funding 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. While we will not know the details of how the investigation will be completed until the contract is awarded and the Work Plan is finalized, we can provide general information for what to expect.

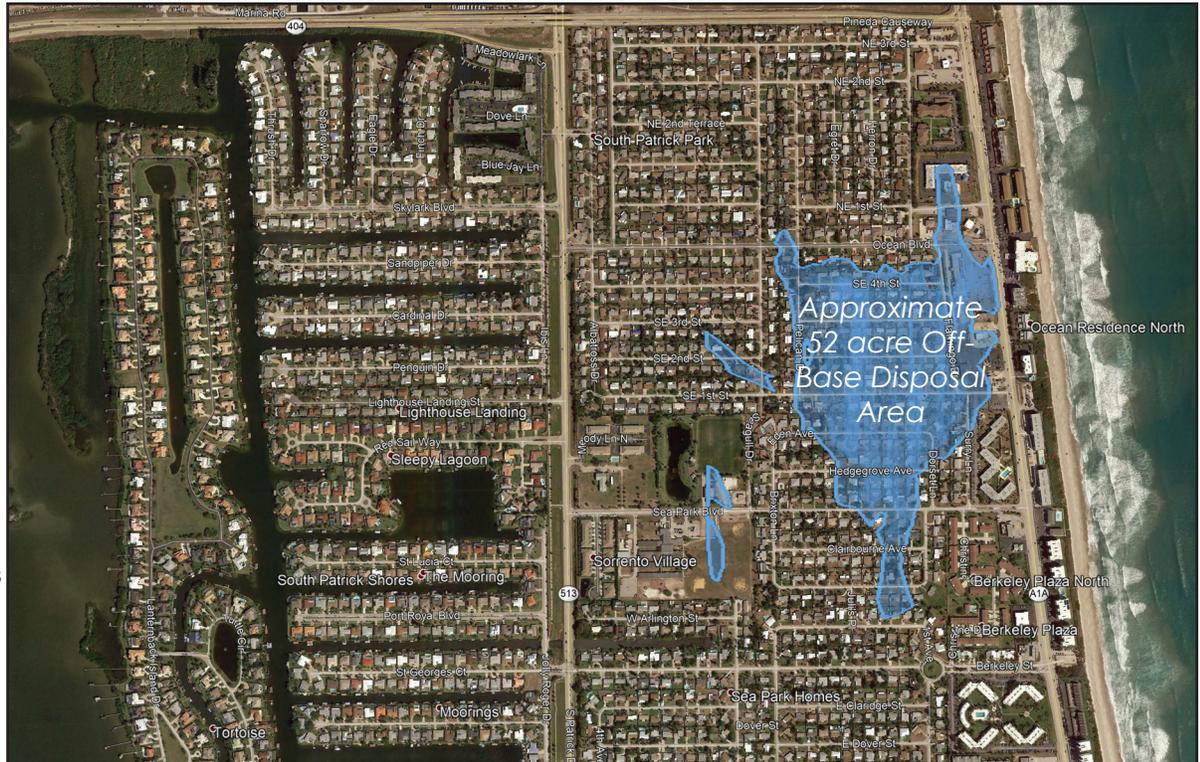
The Corps will need permission from individual property owners to investigate and will send a right-of-entry form to all the property owners within the 52-acre area. Once we have sufficient rights-of-entry to adequately characterize the site, we can plan how to do the fieldwork. We anticipate fieldwork will include some type of geophysical investigation to determine what may be in the ground as well as environmental sampling such as collecting soil and water samples. We may also collect air samples, depending upon the results of the geophysical investigation and soil sampling. Geophysical investigations use equipment over the grass/ground surface to digitally map what is in the ground. The investigation would be conducted in open areas (not under houses). Teams may also need to dig up items detected from geophysical investigations to identify what they are. Regardless of the work done in your yard, the crews will leave the property in the same condition they found it.

The historic photographic analysis indicates possibly up to 52 acres were impacted by the Navy's disposal activities. This does not necessarily mean that debris is buried throughout the 52 acres, nor does it mean that is the only area we will investigate. To ensure that nature and extent is properly characterized, the team will evaluate if we need to "step out" beyond those boundaries to determine if Navy related impacts extend beyond the area previously identified.

Once the fieldwork is finished, the team will analyze the data, complete risk assessments, and prepare a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study report. We will summarize the report in a Proposed Plan which will present the Corps' Preferred Alternative to address the results of the investigation. The alternatives can range from No Action (if it is determined there is no risk to people or the environment) to various types of remedial actions. The community will have a minimum of 30 days to review and comment on the Proposed Plan and Preferred Alternative(s). Once the public comment period has concluded, the Corps will formally accept the alternative in a

Decision Document. Once the Decision Document is signed, the Corps can implement the selected alternative.

Throughout the process, the Corps will continue to communicate with letters, postcards, emails, fact sheets, meetings, and website updates. We will be sure to notify the community at important milestones, such as when the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study contract is awarded, and will provide periodic updates as well.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

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

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS





## 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, remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) manages the program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

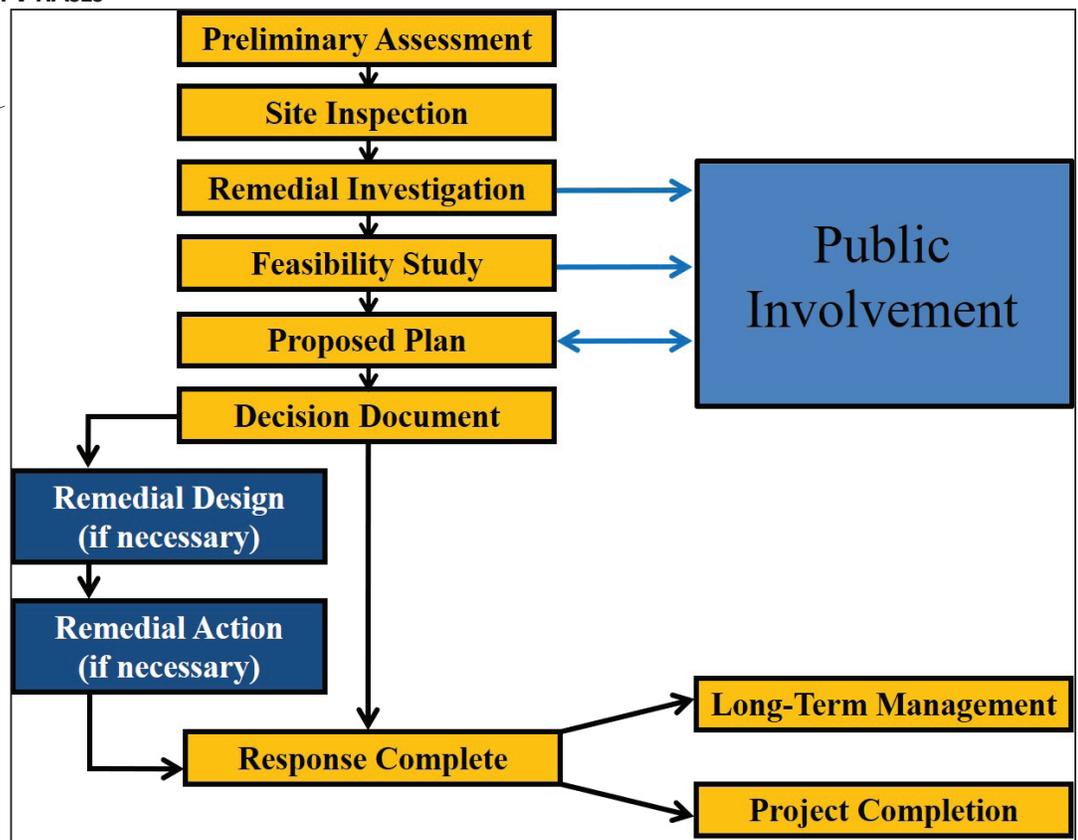
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## FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE PROJECT PHASES

The Formerly Used Defense Site program has three major phases: inventory, study and removal/remediation.

**Inventory:** The inventory phase includes searching real estate records to verify previous Department of Defense use or ownership. A Preliminary Assessment is made to determine the site eligibility, severity of environmental problems and need for cleanup. If there is no contamination, no further action is needed. However, if the property owner or regulators later find military-related contamination, they may contact us to reevaluate the site.

**Study:** The study phase includes a Site Inspection and Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. A Site Inspection is used to confirm the presence or absence of contamination. The purpose of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is to determine what type of contamination may be present as a result of the military's use and where it is located. This is known as



*Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act*

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# FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Program Summary

characterizing the nature and extent of contamination. The selection of the appropriate response to what is found is part of this phase. At sites where numerous parties may have contributed to the contamination, the share of Department of Defense liability is also determined.

**Removal/Remediation:** This phase consists of the engineering design and the necessary action to clean up the site. Sometimes it also includes additional operations and maintenance phases.

After the work is completed and it is confirmed that the site no longer poses a risk to people or the environment, remedial action is considered complete. However, if the property owner or regulatory agency later find military-related impacts, they may contact us to reevaluate the site.

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The Corps manages the Formerly Used Defense Site program on behalf of the Department of Defense. Policies are based on Department of Defense guidance, and funds are allocated to the Corps to do the work. Projects are prioritized based on risk to people and the environment, with the sites posing the greatest potential danger receiving the highest priority. Normally these higher priority projects are located in areas where people live, work or attend school. The project duration depends on the size of the site, the complexity of the cleanup and available funding.

No two projects are ever quite the same. The one constant is the need for strong partnerships among the Corps, regulatory agencies, and stakeholders, and the active involvement of those living or working on the Formerly Used Defense Site.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public values and concerns are an important element of the cleanup process. The Corps works closely with property owners and residents prior to and during the restoration of a site. Personal contacts, small group meetings, workshops and public meetings facilitate the two-way communication that is critical to the decision-making process. The Corps keeps the public informed of the work through various methods including meetings, web sites, and fact sheets.

A Restoration Advisory Board may be established at a site where there is sufficient community interest. The purpose of the board is to review the progress of the restoration activities and to establish a collaborative dialogue among the local community and the government agencies responsible for the cleanup. Restoration Advisory Boards are jointly chaired by representatives from the Corps and the community.



*Looking for Munitions*

## 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 911 immediately.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

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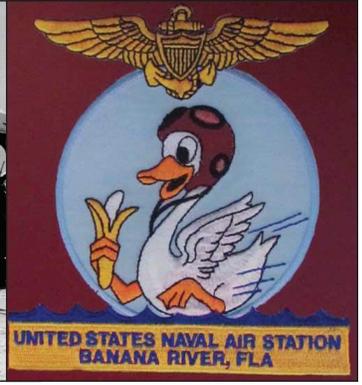
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US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

## SITE SUMMARY



JULY 2020

### DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES

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### 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.



*Cleared and Graded Land in Off-Base Disposal Area on March 22, 1948*

### 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

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August 2020

### ***Why did the Corps say the site was not eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program in 1991 but now it is?***

To be eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, the property must have been under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense and owned by, leased by, or otherwise possessed by the United States (including governmental entities that are the legal predecessors of the Department of Defense or its Components) and that were transferred from the Department of Defense control prior to October 17, 1986. When the Corps assessed the property in 1991, it relied on the information available at the time. The Navy never purchased or leased the property; therefore, there were no real estate documents showing the Navy's use of the site. Since 1991, millions of documents stored in warehouses across the country have been indexed and are more readily available to researchers. In 2018, memoranda and letters were recovered showing the Navy did use the property to dispose of materials from the Naval Air Station. Therefore, the Off-Base Disposal Area is eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program because it was "otherwise possessed by" the military.

### ***What happens now that the Off-Base Disposal Area is eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program?***

The Corps follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act which specifies the steps the Corps must follow to evaluate, and if necessary, remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The first step is a Preliminary Assessment to review site history and the Navy's use of the land and to evaluate if further investigations are necessary. Typically, a Site Inspection, which confirms presence or absence of military-related impacts, would follow a Preliminary Assessment. If, however, potential impacts are documented in the Preliminary Assessment, the Corps can initiate a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study without completing the Site Inspection. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study evaluates what is present, where, and in what amounts; this is known as characterizing the nature and extent of impacts attributable to the Navy. The Corps finalized the Preliminary Assessment in April 2020, and it is posted on the project website ([www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver)). Because the presence of military-related impacts has been confirmed, the Corps will not do a Site Inspection, and will instead, proceed to the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

### ***How soon will you begin your investigation?***

The Corps finalized the Preliminary Assessment in April 2020 and requested approval for a project which leadership granted July 25, 2020. Pending funding, the Corps will initiate a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

### ***How did the Navy use the Off-Base Disposal Area?***

Records indicate the agreement with the property owner was for disposing of burnable materials. However, as the Navy prepared to close the base, it became apparent all types of trash and debris were left there. In an effort to restore the property to the owner's satisfaction, the Navy buried the materials and graded the site. The documents do not specify what was buried or disposed of in this area.

### ***Where is the Off-Base Disposal Area?***

The Corps determined the size and shape of the Disposal Area based on an analysis of aerial photographs taken between 1943 and 1953. These images indicate the apparent maximum extent of the Disposal Area, based on ground disturbances, is 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.

### ***Other organizations have conducted tests in this area. What will you do with that information?***

The Corps has copies of the test results and reports. Chemists and other subject matter experts will evaluate the data, and we

will use the information as we plan the scope of work for our investigations.

### *Will you buy my property?*

The Formerly Used Defense Sites program is not authorized to purchase property.

### *How can I make sure you investigate my property?*

Should the Corps receive funding for the Remedial Investigation, if your property is within the boundaries of the Off-Base Disposal Area, you can sign a right-of-entry form authorizing the Corps to investigate your property.

### *What happens after you investigate my property?*

Once the Corps completes the fieldwork, we will send a letter letting you know what we found. We will also hold a community meeting to share the results of the investigations with the public.

### *How will the Corps address PFOS and PFOA at the Off-Base Disposal Area?*

The Corps is addressing the Off-Base Disposal Area under the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program. Under this program, the Corps can only address impacts associated with the Navy's historical use of the property. The Navy ended activities at the Disposal Area decades before the military began using aqueous film forming foam that contained PFOA and PFOS.

While these activities are not eligible under the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, the Department of Defense is taking a holistic approach to address PFOA and PFOS. Additional information related to the Air Force's response at Patrick Air Force Base is available at [www.patrick.af.mil/Perfluorinated-Compounds](http://www.patrick.af.mil/Perfluorinated-Compounds). Additional information on Department of Defense-wide efforts is available at [www.defense.gov/PFAS](http://www.defense.gov/PFAS).

### *We are concerned about the number of people with cancer who live in or went to school in this area. What are you doing about that?*

Evaluating cancer clusters is outside the Corps' expertise and authority; there are other governmental entities that are equipped to do such analysis. We will, however, analyze all data available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Brevard County in addition to data from the Corps' investigation and will complete a Human Health Risk Assessment as part of the Remedial Investigation. The Corps will determine the most appropriate response based on the analysis of the data.

### *Will being considered within a Formerly Used Defense Site impact my property values?*

The Corps cannot speak to the value of any specific property, but generally, parcels within Formerly Used Defense Sites sell at comparable rates and values of other properties nearby that are not within the Formerly Used Defense Site.

### *How can you be sure your investigation will not cause more harm to the environment and those living in this area?*

The Corps will coordinate with state and local agencies and will take appropriate precautions when conducting the investigation to minimize impacts to the environment and people living in the area.

### *Is the water in this area safe to drink?*

Yes, drinking water in this area is provided through a regulated utility and is safe to drink.

### *Is the water in this area safe to use?*

Based on the analysis of data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Brevard County, the water is safe for irrigation and other related uses.

### *How can I find out more about the history of Naval Air Station Banana River and the Off-Base Disposal Area?*

The history of Naval Air Station Banana River and information about the Off-Base Disposal Area are summarized in the Site Summary Fact Sheet. Project documents and other information are available on our website ([www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver)).

### *Will the coronavirus pandemic impact the Corps' investigation?*

The Corps continues to monitor the situation, and currently, travel is limited. Until further notice, we will be unable to hold in-person meetings but will share information through letters, email, the project website, and social media. Should we receive funding for the Remedial Investigation, the contractor will be given approval to travel as essential workers.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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August 2020

### ***What happens if a project is approved and the Corps has funding for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study?***

The Remedial Investigation evaluates what is present, where, and in what amounts; this is known as characterizing the nature and extent of impacts attributable to the Navy at the Off-Base Disposal Area. Fieldwork for the Remedial Investigation will include soil and water sampling. The Feasibility Study will evaluate alternatives to address (if necessary) the results of the Remedial Investigation. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report will be summarized in a Proposed Plan which will present the Preferred Alternative. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will present the results of the investigation and the Proposed Plan at a public meeting, and the public will have at least 30 days to comment on the Proposed Plan.

### ***Will you be cleaning up the debris in people's yards during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study?***

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation is to determine potential environmental impacts associated with the Navy's activities and to further refine the boundaries of the Off-Base Disposal Area. We will not be cleaning up or removing anything at this point; rather, it will determine what future actions are appropriate.

### ***I've heard there are bombs in this area. Is that true?***

Currently, the Corps does not have any documentation indicating bombs or "live" munitions are present. We have seen reports of expended three-pound practice bombs which are a solid piece of metal. We have not seen anything that leads us to believe this area was used as a target for bombing or training with munitions. It is possible that practice bombs or other pieces of munitions debris without an explosive hazard were buried in the disposal area. We will evaluate the potential presence of munitions in the Off-Base Disposal Area during the course of the Remedial Investigation.

### ***Is this a Superfund site?***

No, this is not a Superfund site. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency uses a Hazard Ranking System to determine if a site should be placed on the National Priorities List, and the agency has not determined this site should be on the National Priorities List.

Based on the soil and groundwater sampling data from other agencies (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Brevard County), there does not appear to be an imminent risk to people or the environment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will, however, conduct sampling as part of the Remedial Investigation, should we receive funding for the investigation of the Off-Base Disposal Area.

### ***What will you do after the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study?***

We will summarize the results of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study report in a Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan will also include an evaluation of alternatives to address the results of the Remedial Investigation. We will present that at a public meeting, and the public will have a minimum of 30 days to comment on the Proposed Plan. Following the public comment period, the Corps will address comments in the Responsiveness Summary section of

a Decision Document. The Decision Document will formally accept the selected alternative. After that document is signed, the Corps can implement the selected alternative.

It is too soon to speculate on what the alternative may be. The Formerly Used Defense Sites program evaluates the potential risk to people and the environment and determines the appropriate action based upon the level of risk.

### ***Why haven't you started working now?***

The Corps is required to follow a methodical process of evaluating if a property is eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program and determining what, if any, actions are warranted. The property was not eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program until late August 2019. Once the eligibility was signed, the Corps began the Preliminary Assessment to determine if further investigations are necessary. The Preliminary Assessment report recommended additional investigations, and we requested project approval, which was granted July 25, 2020. We are now seeking funding for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and are preparing a scope of work so that we will be ready to move forward with awarding a contract should we receive funding.

### ***Will your investigation stop at the boundaries shown on the map?***

The Corps will characterize the nature (what) and extent (where) of impacts attributable to the Navy's actions at the Off-Base Disposal Area. If we find something near the edge of the boundary, we will "step out" until we have determined the extent of the site. Our investigation may determine the site to be potentially larger or smaller than the approximate boundary shown on our map, which is based on analysis of historical aerial photographs.

### ***Is your investigation associated with Patrick Air Force Base?***

While we are sharing our information with the base, the Off-Base Disposal Area is not associated with Patrick Air Force Base. Our investigation will focus on impacts attributable to the Navy's use of the Off-Base Disposal Area.

***We have heard there are (or were) drainage ditches from Patrick Air Force Base that may have caused contamination to drain off of the base to the Off-Base Disposal Area and other parts of South Patrick Shores.***

### ***Will your investigation address that?***

The Corps will evaluate all potential sources of contamination associated with the Off-Base Disposal Area. If our investigation reveals contamination that may have originated from a source other than the Off-Base Disposal Area, the Corps will provide that data to the appropriate organization or agency.

### ***What happens with the information we provide to the Corps about what we have found on our property?***

The Corps logs all of the information residents provide regardless of where the property is located and how the information is reported (i.e. telephone, interview, email). That data was shared with the team preparing the Preliminary Assessment report and those preparing the scope of work for the Remedial Investigation. The company conducting the Remedial Investigation may use that data to plan their fieldwork activities.

### ***Why did the Corps limit who received a letter about the Formerly Used Defense Site?***

The Corps typically sends letters about Formerly Used Defense Sites to the property owners within the boundaries of the Formerly Used Defense Site or the project area. Many property owners outside of the boundaries or project area do not want to receive a letter they perceive as potentially having negative implications. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please provide your email and/or postal address to us.

We do not (and did not) rely exclusively on the letters to let the community know about the Formerly Used Defense Site designation. We contacted community groups and requested they share the information with their members and/or on social media, and we also met with representatives from Patrick Air Force Base, Brevard County and the City of Satellite Beach to request they share information about the Formerly Used Defense Site designation and to let residents know how to reach us. Additionally, we have conducted a number of interviews with various media outlets.

Please let us know if you have ideas about ways we can better communicate with the community.

### ***How will you clean up the property?***

Until we conduct the Remedial Investigation, we do not know what, if anything, may be in the soil or groundwater. Without that information, we cannot know what remedial alternatives would be appropriate. There are a number of

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

technologies and methods to address soil and groundwater contamination, and we, with input from the community, will determine which action to take, if necessary.

### *What is your timeline for what is next?*

The Corps finalized the Preliminary Assessment in April 2020. We then requested project approval which was granted July 25, 2020. We are now seeking funding for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. While we waiting for funding, we are developing the materials necessary to award a contract including developing the scope of work and coordinating with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the lead regulatory agency for this site. After funding is approved it will take several months to award a contract to conduct the work and develop a sampling plan. Until the funding is approved and the contract awarded, we cannot determine a specific schedule.

### *Why didn't you find the documents about the Navy's use of the property previously and how did you find them now?*

To be eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, the Department of Defense or its predecessor components must have owned, leased, or otherwise possessed the land and no longer owned or used the property prior to October 17, 1986. The Corps primarily determines eligibility by reviewing real estate records for Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps installations. In 1991, the Corps reviewed real estate records, but there was not any information about the Navy's purchase, lease, or formal acquisition of the land south of the base because there was not a written agreement. When the team began reevaluating eligibility in 2018, the Corps' Research and Technical Services Section of the St. Louis District poured over materials in various National Archives facilities that were not readily available in 1991 and were able to find memoranda and letters that documented that the Navy had a verbal agreement with the property owner to use the land. A further description of the process of finding the records follows.

When written real estate records are not available, such as at this site, confirmation of eligibility relies on locating non-real estate records typically found within National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facilities. NARA is an independent Federal agency charged with preservation and documentation of government and historical records. The size and scope of NARA makes locating records more challenging than one might expect. NARA is responsible for approximately 10 billion pages of textual records; 12 million maps, charts, and architectural and engineering drawings; 25 million still photographs and graphics; 24 million aerial photographs; 300,000 reels of motion picture film; 400,000 video and sound recordings; and 133 terabytes of electronic data. There are archives locations in 17 states, from coast-to-coast, and 16 Federal Records Centers. (<https://www.archives.gov>)

The vast majority of NARA records have not been digitized. NARA has committed to digitize 500 million pages of records by October 1, 2024; this will still leave billions of pages not digitized. NARA prioritizes the most requested items, so individual letters and memoranda that are of less interest to the general public will be the last to be digitized. NARA has made an effort to index the contents of boxes to make them easier to locate. It is a challenge to search historical records of interest to the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, as they are not in general demand beyond our program. For example, while D-Day and other World War II records of the 101st Airborne Division ("Screaming Eagles") are of high interest, the real estate records associated with the Camp Toccoa Formerly Used Defense Site and Currahee Mountain where some of the 101st Division regiments trained, are not.

Since 1992, the Corps' Research and Technical Services Section of the St. Louis District has specialized in locating historical records for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program. Their team has multiple members with over 10,000 hours each at NARA facilities locating relevant documentation to confirm eligibility. This expertise now covers familiarity with hundreds of NARA Record Groups, specific series within those Record Groups, and the review of hundreds of thousands of boxes of potentially relevant material. The Corps did not possess this expertise in 1991.

The Research and Technical Services team searched paper, photographic and microfilmed documents in boxes housed in a number of record repositories and warehouses. NARA had



*A National Archives staff member retrieves a documents*

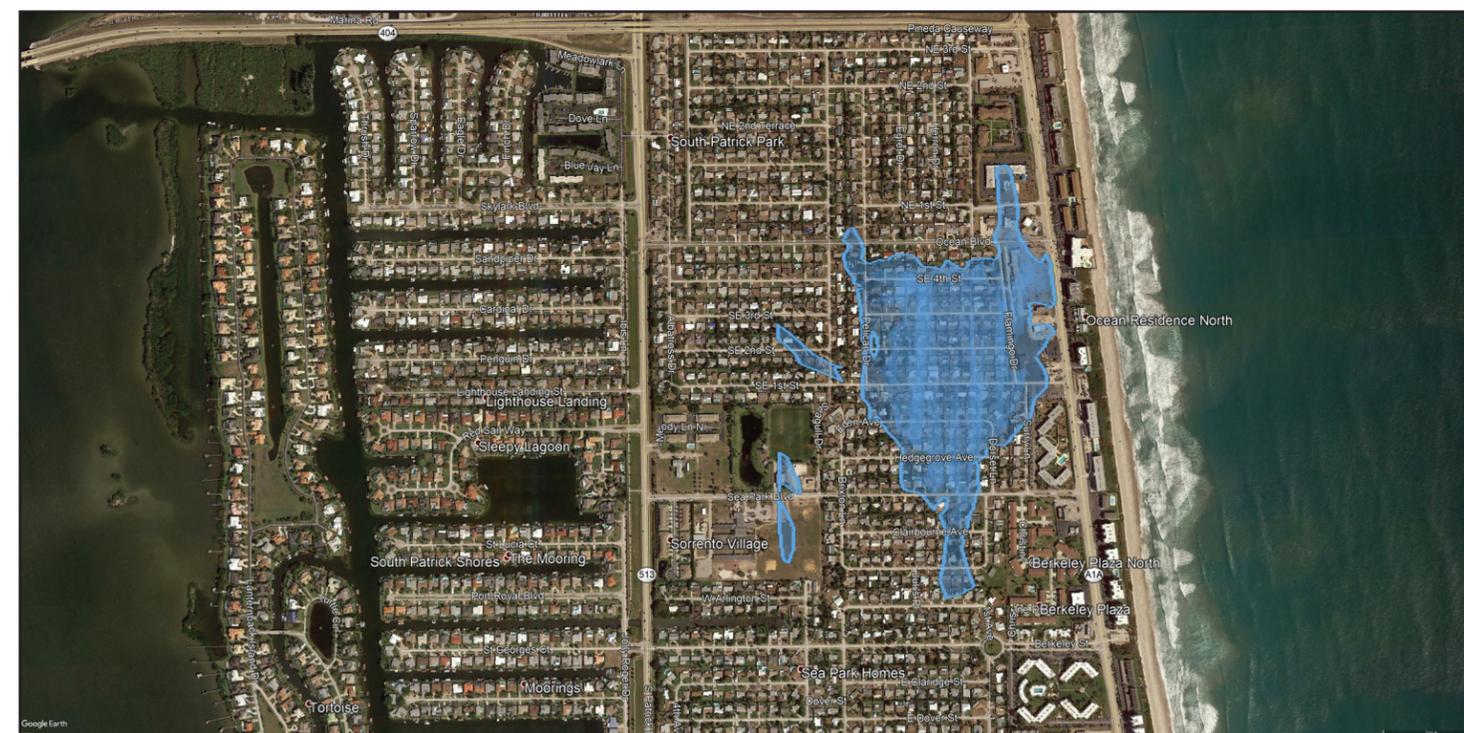
## FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area

not digitized any of the documents the team located associated with Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area. The team primarily searched NARA facilities in metropolitan Washington, DC and Atlanta including the following.

- National Archives in Washington, DC
- National Archives at College Park, Textual Records
- National Archives at College Park, Cartographic and Architectural Branch
- National Archives at College Park, Still Pictures Branch
- National Archives at Atlanta

The team's experience allowed them to focus the search, but it still involved reviewing records in more than 150 boxes, multiple rolls of microfilm, and scores of maps. Whenever the team located a pertinent record, they digitally scanned the materials for analysis. The documents relied upon for the new Findings and Determination of Eligibility are posted on our website ([www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver)).

The records where the Corps' researchers found some of the most relevant material on the Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area were within the NARA holdings, specifically Record Group 71 (Records of the Bureau of Yards and Docks), Entry 1001 Naval Property Case Files, 1941-1958 which contains over 1,500 boxes or 667 linear feet of records. Record Group 71 at NARA archives has over 9,500 cubic feet of material. The Navy transferred the Entry 1001 records to NARA in 1989 from a separate naval records holding facility, and NARA eventually transferred the records to the National Archives at College Park. The team found additional material within the 790 box series of Record Group 72 (Records of the Bureau of Naval Aeronautics, Entry 1001A Unclassified General Correspondence 1948-1949). Box 434 contained correspondence for Naval Air Station Banana River.



*Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area Approximately 52 Acres*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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