



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

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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

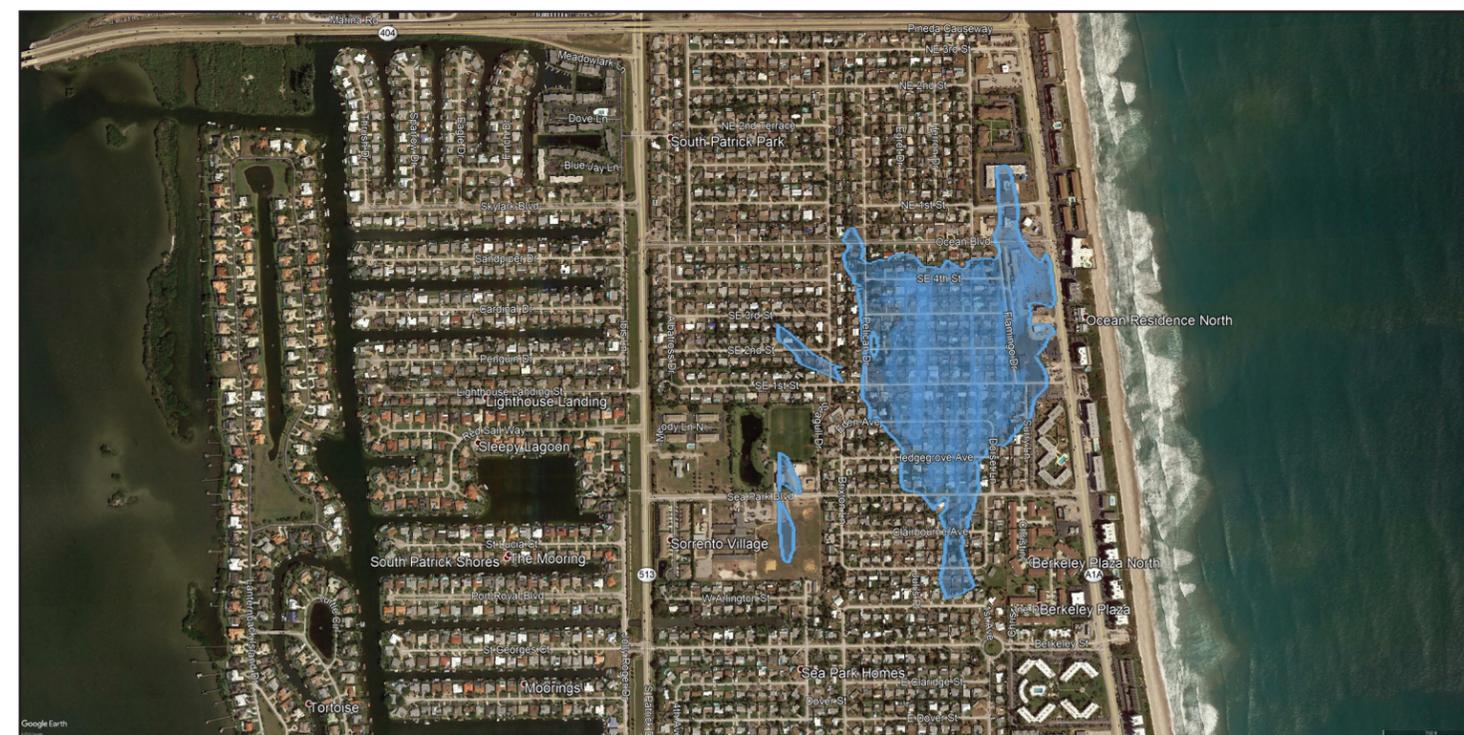
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not digitized any of the documents the team located associated with Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area. The team primarily searched NARA facilities in metropolitan Washington, DC and Atlanta including the following.

- 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).

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

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Toll-Free 800.710.5184

FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil

www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver



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