



# FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES Camp Gordon Johnston

## Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

May 2012

### Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)

Across the country, the Department of Defense (DoD) 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 (FUDS) can range from privately-owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, industrial and educational properties. DoD is committed to protecting human health and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these properties. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) was established to evaluate and if necessary, to remediate FUDS. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manages the FUDS program on behalf of DoD.

Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund, in 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in 1986. It is this law that gives DoD the authority for certain cleanup activities at FUDS and dictates the process USACE must follow. USACE conducts investigations to determine the potential risk to human health and the environment from contamination resulting from the military's use of the property. Public involvement and community participation are important components of the process. USACE partners with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local regulatory and environmental agencies and affected property owners.

During World War II, the military acquired over 159,000 acres for basic and amphibious training. The site became known as Camp



*Landing Craft Approaches Beach*

Gordon Johnston. 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 is now mostly privately owned with portions largely undeveloped in addition to recreational, residential and commercial areas.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has investigated the site several times over the years. An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis in 2001 determined there were areas where specially trained technicians needed to search for and remove munitions. A removal action was completed in 2003 on an area near Summer Camp called Area B Grenade Court and Area J4 Special Training Area near Lanark Village. In 2004, a removal action was completed on Area A Bazooka Range near Lanark Village. (Please see the map on the back.) Dog Island was the focus of a removal action that was concluded in 2006.



*Soldier on Firing Range*

To ensure the entire area is safe and to comply with Army regulations issued in 2004, the Corps is now doing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the former trainings areas, including where removal actions have been completed. The purpose is to determine where and what types of contamination may be present as a result of the military's use of the property during WWII. This is known as characterizing the nature (what it is) and extent (where is it) of the potential contamination.

A scientific approach has been developed to search the former training areas. It involves two different types of metal detectors searching "transects" and "grids." It also includes collecting samples of soil and water to test for explosives and metals (the materials that comprise munitions). Technicians will walk along paths, called transects, with metal detectors to identify areas with metallic objects in the ground. In some places, crews will dig the metallic objects as they are found to see if they are munitions-related. In other areas, once crews have found sections with a lot of metal in one place, crews will search again using a digital metal detector to create an image of the metallic objects underground (called digital geophysical mapping). The teams will use the data to make maps showing the location and amount of buried metal.



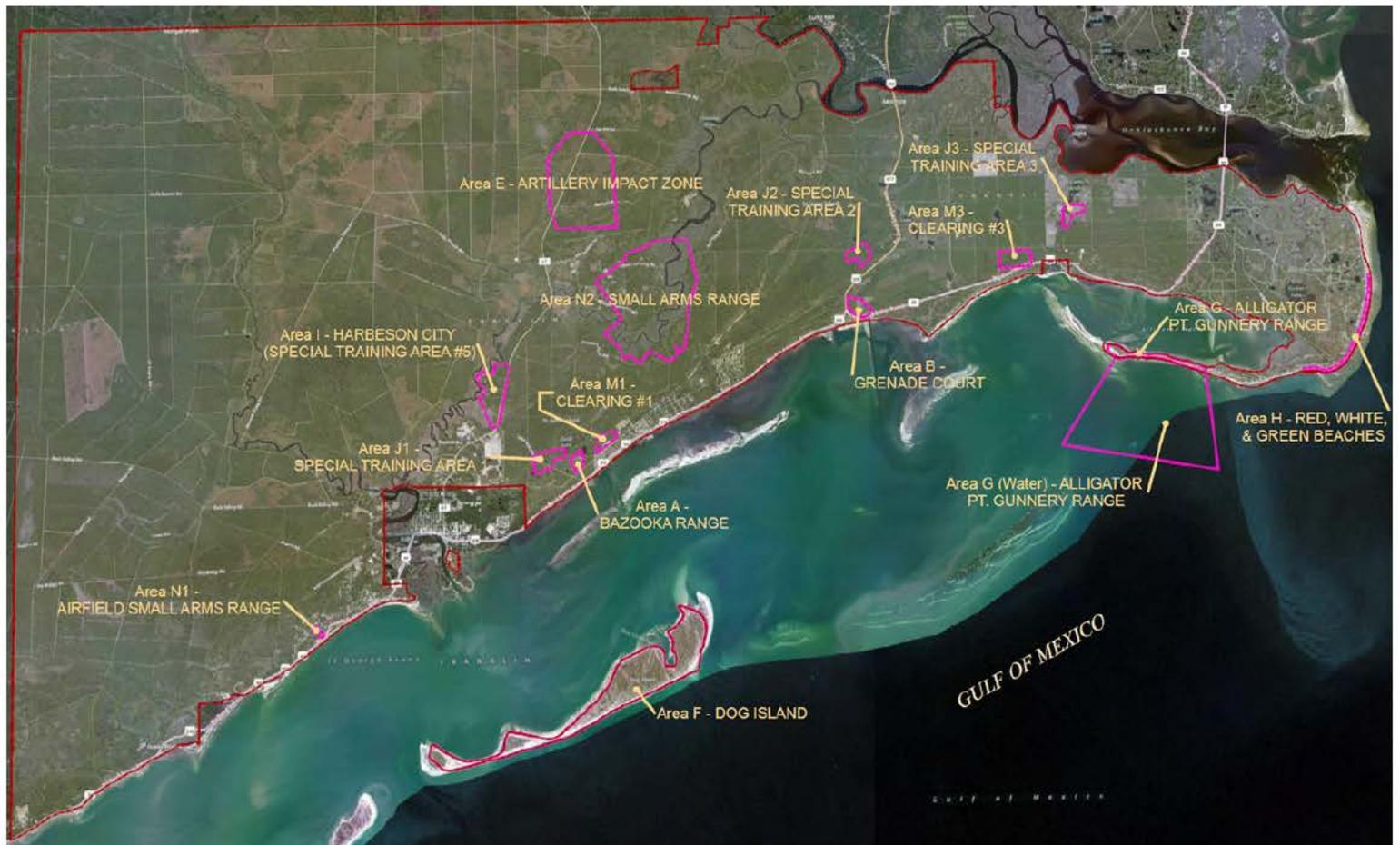
*Digital Metal Detector*

These are called density maps. The maps will identify where crews need to place “grids” based on the amount of metal in the ground (low, medium and high). Grids are square or rectangular areas of various sizes (such as 25’ x 25’ or 50’ x 100’) where munitions experts will dig the metallic objects to determine what they are.

The focus of the investigation is those 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	

Once the field work is complete, the contractor will analyze the data and write a report. The report 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 Corps will not know what is appropriate until the field work is complete, and the data analyzed. 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.



### Remember the 3Rs

Because of how the military used the site, there could be buried munitions. These could be dangerous and may not be easily recognizable. Never touch, move or disturb something you think may be a munition. Remember the Three Rs.

- **RECOGNIZE** - The item you found could be dangerous.
- **RETREAT** - Do not touch it in any way, and leave the area.
- **REPORT** - Call 911 immediately.



### For More Information

Contact:

US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Toll-Free: 866-279-4880

FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil

<http://fuds.saj.usace.army.mil>

Visit:

Project documents are available for viewing at the  
Franklin County Public Library, Carrabelle Branch

311 St. James Avenue

850.697.2366