



Franklin County, Florida

# FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES Camp Gordon Johnston

## Site Summary

April 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.

The government acquired approximately 159,348 acres in 1942 to create an Army Amphibious Training Center. The site surrounds the Town of Carrabelle and is bounded to the north by the Apalachicola National Forest, the Gulf of Mexico to the south and east (all the way to Alligator Point and Bald Point State Park) and Tate's Hell Swamp (excluding the City of Carrabelle) to the west. It also includes Dog Island.

The mission of the Training Center was to teach all phases of amphibious operations involving a shore-to-shore movement and to outline the basic principles of ship-to-shore movements. The site also included special training areas with obstacle, grenade and bayonet courses and demolitions training sites.

Other training areas involved the use of live ammunition. Ordnance used included rockets, grenades, artillery rounds, mortars and various materials used as obstacles and mine field clearing devices.

As World War II ended, the military no longer needed the site, and by 1948, the military had transferred all of the property into private ownership. Now, the former Camp lands are mostly privately owned with recreational, residential and commercial areas as well as large portions of undeveloped land.

A number of studies and removal actions have been completed over the years, and of the total acreage, only a fairly small percent was used by the military in such a way as to have a potential for contamination. On the acreage actively used, the Corps is concerned about the potential for remaining munitions from the training areas and potential soil and groundwater contamination associated with storage tanks and the related underground pipes, maintenance and motor pool areas.

The underground storage tanks have been removed, but the Corps needs to test the soil and water in areas where the tanks were, as well as in the former maintenance and motor pool areas.

In 2003 and 2006, teams cleared munitions from known ranges. Now the Corps is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine if there are any other areas that may have been impacted as by the military's use of the site.

### 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

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