

# **Community Relations Plan**

## **Former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range Manatee County, Florida**



**United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-0019**

**May 2015**

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## **1.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) developed this Community Relations Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community living or working within or near the Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range Formerly Used Defense Site and the Corps and to encourage community involvement in site activities. The Corps will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed and provided opportunities to be involved.

This Community Relations Plan addresses the site's relationship to the community and the Corps (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents the Corps' community involvement program (Section 4.0) and provides a listing of available resources. The Corps drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interviews and site files. The Jacksonville District of the Corps will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this plan.

## **2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY**

Across the country, the Department of Defense acquired properties, often during times of conflict, to use for military demonstrations, training and testing. Once the military no longer needed the land, it was transferred to other entities. These Formerly Used Defense Sites can range from privately owned farms to national parks. They also include residential, educational and industrial areas. The Department of Defense is committed to correcting environmental damage caused by its activities and created the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites to evaluate, and if necessary, remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The Corps is responsible for managing the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites on behalf of the Department of Defense.

### **2.1 PROPERTY HISTORY**

Prior to military use, Passage Key, located in Manatee County, was owned by the Department of Interior and managed as one of the first national wildlife refuges. In 1943, the War Department acquired a permit to use the key and surrounding waters as a ground strafing and dive bombing range. The former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range extended from Tampa Bay west into the Gulf of Mexico and comprised 13,147.72 acres. This included Passage Key, which was a 36.37-acre island in the early 1940s. Historical munitions used at the range during training included practice and high explosive bombs and small arms ammunition. The War Department relinquished the permit for the Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range in March 1946, which returned Passage Key back to the Department of the Interior. The site has been managed as the Passage Key National Wildlife Refuge by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service since that time.

Due to erosion and shifting sands, the key is now much smaller and has changed in location and shape over time. The Formerly Used Defense Site property boundary includes the historical (early 1940s) location of Passage Key and the surrounding waters. The focus of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study includes 649 acres, most of which is water, centered on the Formerly Used Defense Site property boundary. Because of its small size and importance to wildlife, Passage Key is closed to all public use. However, there are no signs noting access is prohibited or fences to restrict access and the key and surrounding waters are routinely used by the public for swimming, boating and fishing.

### ***2.1.1 Potential Contaminants***

Since the military's use of the site in the 1940s, there have been a number of visual surveys and inspections to identify and, when found, remove munitions or other explosives associated with the former bombing and gunnery range. While there is no evidence of environmental contamination associated with the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range based on previous investigations, the potential exists that munitions (*e.g.*, high explosive bombs) or other explosives (*e.g.*, bomb fuzes) may still be present in the areas where the military trained.

### ***2.1.2 United States Army Corps of Engineers Involvement***

Shortly after the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites program began, the Corps visited the site, and in 1993, declared it eligible for the program. Refer to Section 2.3.3 for a list and summary of previous studies and investigations conducted for the Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range.

The Corps is now doing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the former bombing and gunnery range. The study will further evaluate areas where munitions and explosives of concern could be present. The purpose of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is to determine what type of munitions may be present, in what amounts and in what location(s). This is known as characterizing the nature and extent of munitions and explosives of concern.

### ***2.1.3 Community Reaction***

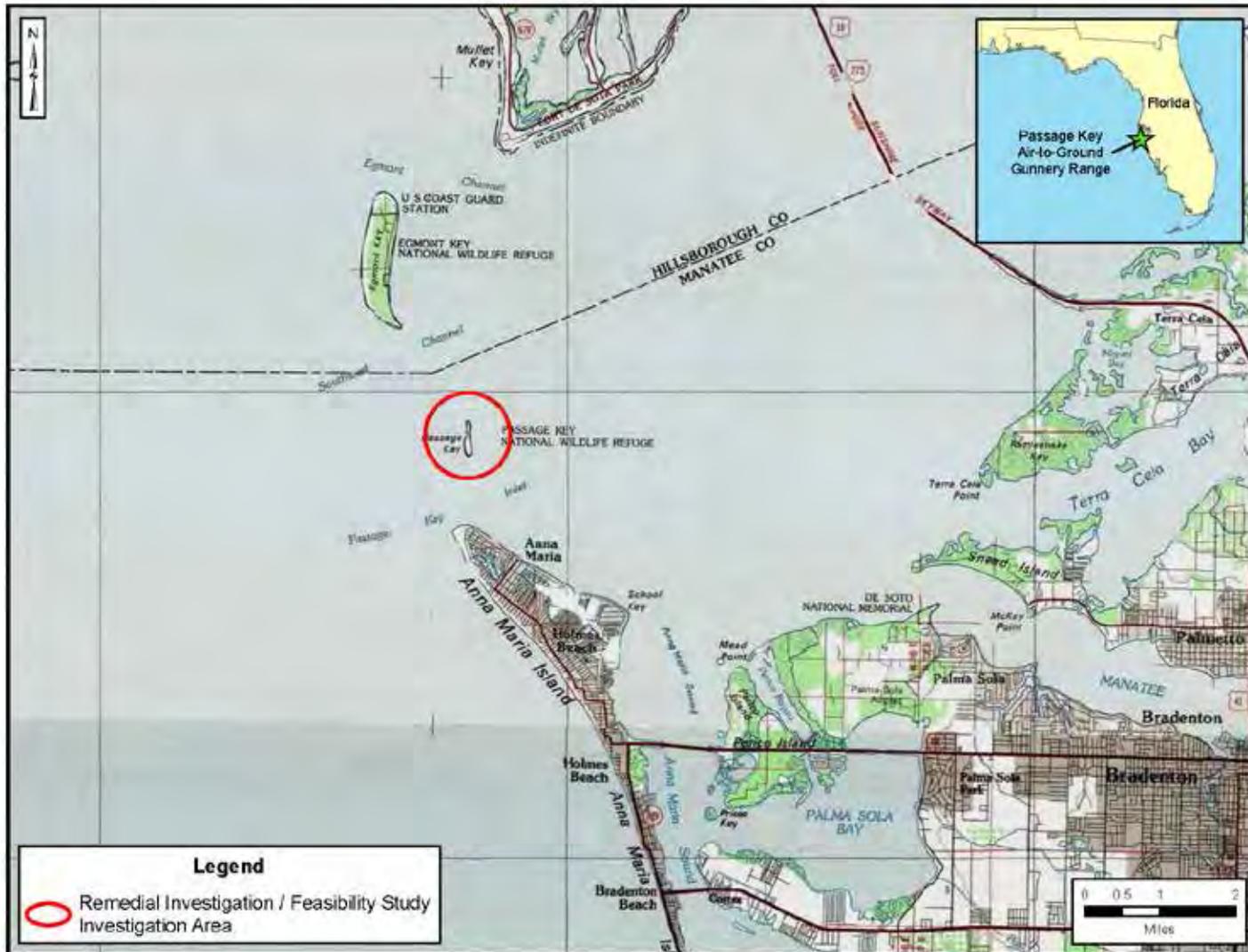
The public is generally aware of the former WWII era military training activities associated with the Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range. Information developed by the Corps is available to the public at the Island Branch Library in Holmes Beach, Florida. Thus far, no community concerns have been raised. The Corps will continue to monitor the community's interest and will address any concerns as they arise.

## **2.2 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**

The former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range is located approximately 10 miles northwest of downtown Bradenton, Florida and one mile north of Anna Maria Island at the entrance to Tampa Bay from the Gulf of Mexico (see Figure 1). The site is currently owned by the Department of Interior and managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as the Passage Key National Wildlife Refuge.

Passage Key, which is only accessible by boat, is a meandering barrier island surrounded by the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. Although once much larger, the key today consists of a small sand bar with no vegetation. While Passage Key is closed to all public use due to its small size and importance to wildlife, the key and surrounding waters are frequently visited by recreational boaters. There are no signs noting access is prohibited or fences to restrict access to the key.

Figure 1: Map Showing the Location of the Former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range



## 2.3 PROPERTY INSPECTIONS AND CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

### 2.3.1 *Known or Suspected Contamination*

Based on the known historical use of the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range and previous investigations, the Corps is concerned about the potential presence of munitions. Historical munitions associated with the range included practice and high explosive bombs and various small arms ammunition. Since the War Department's return of Passage Key to the Department of Interior in 1946, a limited number of munitions have been identified and removed from the site.

### 2.3.2 *Nature of Threat*

Munitions could pose a potential safety hazard to people who touch, pickup or otherwise disturb them. The explosives and metals that comprise munitions could potentially be a risk to people and the environment if they are released to the soil and/or sediment.

### 2.3.3 *History of United States Army Corps of Engineers Inspections and Studies Conducted at the Site*

The previous inspections and studies conducted at Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range are listed in Table 1. Information and findings from each of these reports are summarized below.

**Table 1: Previous Inspections and Studies at the Former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range**

<b>Year Completed</b>	<b>Activity</b>
1993	Inventory Project Report (Initial)
2000	Inventory Project Report (Supplemental)
2002	Archives Search Report
2008	Site Inspection Report

#### **1993 Inventory Project Report (Initial)**

The Inventory Project Report, completed in 1993, concluded that the site was formerly used by the Department of Defense and eligible for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites program.

#### **2000 Inventory Project Report (Supplemental)**

The 2002 Inventory Project Report reviewed the initial report and concluded further investigation was warranted after the findings of ordnance items at the site. The 2000 Inventory Project Report recommended that an engineering evaluation/cost analysis be performed at the Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range.

#### **2002 Archives Search Report**

The Corps completed the Archives Search Report in 2002 after reviewing reports, newspaper articles, historical documents, and reference material available that documented the history of the site. This report is the source of most of the historical information pertaining to site activities.

## **2008 Site Inspection**

A Site Inspection was performed in 2008 to confirm the presence or absence of munitions or munitions debris at the site. It included a visit to the site to look for munitions. A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was recommended because munitions have been historically observed at or near Passage Key.

### **2.3.4 Lead Agency**

The Corps is responsible for cleanup activities related to the military's use of the site and is coordinating with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Manatee County and other stakeholders.

## **3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND**

### **3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE**

The former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range lies within the northernmost portion of a large census tract (18). Three other census tracts are contiguous to census track 18 (9900, 12.04 and 17.01), with the 9900 census track comprised of water areas associated with the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. Census tract 18 data is presented in Table 2 since this data represents the closest community to the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range.

On average, the population nearest to the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range is older, is mainly white, has a greater percentage of individuals over 25 with a high school diploma, and has a higher mean household income than others in Manatee County. When selecting meeting locations, the Corps will be mindful that a small percentage of the population (less than 9 percent) does not have a vehicle. Meetings and printed materials will probably not need to be translated since only a small percentage of the nearby community (less than 2 percent) does not speak English well, but the team will monitor the situation and will provide translations as necessary.

**Table 2: Census Data Comparing the Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range Community to the County, State and Nation**

Subject	Census Tract 18		Manatee County		Florida		United States	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total population	4,849		322,833		18,801,310		308,745,538	
White	4,730	97.5	269,932	83.6	14,488,435	77.1	231,040,398	74.8
Black or African American	9	0.2	30,956	9.6	3,200,663	17.0	42,020,743	13.6
Hispanic or Latino	139	2.9	47,955	14.9	4,223,806	22.5	50,477,594	16.3
Median age (years)	61.1		45.7		40.7		37.2	
Owner-occupied housing units	1,930	75.8	96,818	71.3	4,998,979	67.4	75,986,074	65.1
<b>Educational Attainment</b>								
Population over Age 25 without high school diploma	50	1.1	18,345	7.8	1,123,105	8.6	16,820,966	8.2
<b>Place of Birth</b>								
Born in United States	4,523	91.1	280,135	86.2	14,643,581	77.5	265,096,271	85.8
Population born outside the United States	329	6.6	40,230	12.4	3,644,332	19.3	39,784,305	12.9

Subject	Census Tract 18		Manatee County		Florida		United States	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
<b>Language Spoken at Home</b>								
English only	4,544	92.0	255,151	83.2	12,951,107	72.7	229,616,064	79.5
Language other than English	392	8.0	51,412	16.8	4,857,847	27.3	59,384,763	20.5
Speak English less than "very well"	77	1.6	22,490	7.3	2,095,813	11.8	25,081,122	8.7
Spanish	79	1.6	35,927	11.7	3,566,368	20.0	36,836,280	12.7
Speak English less than "very well"	0	0.0	17,018	5.6	1,601,455	9.0	16,386,716	5.7
<b>Income and Benefits</b>								
Mean household income (dollars)	92,299		65,371		66,599		73,034	
<b>% Below Poverty Line</b>								
All families		4.0		10.2		11.4		10.9
With related children under 18 years		23.6		19.1		18.4		17.2
With related children under 5 years only		12.0		20.2		18.7		18.2
<b>Vehicles Available</b>								
No vehicles available	229	8.9	6,630	5.1	491,123	6.9	10,405,375	9.0
Sources: United States Census Bureau, 2010 Demographic Profile Data United States Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates								

### 3.2 HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

There has been some community interest in the Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range project, but the reaction has generally been positive. The Corps will continue to inform the community of site activities and will respond to any concerns that are raised.

### 3.3 KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS

No community concerns have been raised to date, but the Corps will monitor the situation closely as activities are initiated to educate the public and to encourage them to participate in the remedial action process.

### 3.4 RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The Corps will continue public involvement activities and will respond should any concerns arise.

### 3.5 SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION NEEDS

Planned or completed public information activities for this phase of work include mailing a letter with a fact sheet to the property owner of the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range, placing a notice in a local newspaper and hosting community meetings. The Corps will also interview stakeholders and will evaluate their input to determine if additional efforts are required.

## 4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

The overall goal of the Corps' public involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the Corps and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the remedial action process. The Corps will implement

the community involvement activities described below. The following plan is based on concerns frequently expressed by those living near or on a Formerly Used Defense Site.

#### 4.1 THE PLAN

##### Issue 1: Keeping the Public Informed

###### Activity 1A: Designate a Corps public involvement coordinator

- Objective: To provide a primary liaison between the community and the Corps and to ensure prompt, accurate and consistent responses and information dissemination about the site

Method: The Corps will designate a public affairs specialist to handle site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members. The public affairs specialist will work closely with the Corps' project manager.

- Timing: The public affairs specialist dedicated to Formerly Used Defense Site was designated in August 2014 for the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range.

###### Activity 1B: Prepare and distribute site fact sheets and technical summaries

- Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand information about the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range
- Method: Fact sheets will be mailed along with a letter to all property owners and other stakeholders. In addition, copies will be available at the Information Repository and on the Internet. Following the completion of the fieldwork, another mailing will include information on what was found and the recommendations for the future.
- Timing: The Corps will prepare and distribute fact sheets as necessary, but at least at the beginning and end of each phase of work.

###### Activity 1C: Provide a toll-free telephone number for the community to contact the Corps

- Objective: To enable citizens to get the latest information available when they want it, rather than having to wait for a meeting or a fact sheet and without incurring any cost
- Method: The Corps will activate a toll free number and publish it periodically in the local papers and in all fact sheets.
- Timing: The toll free telephone line is currently operational (866.279.4880).

###### Activity 1D: Maintain a mailing list for the site

- Objective: To facilitate the distribution of site-specific information to everyone who needs or wants to be kept informed about the site
- Method: The Corps will create a mailing list that includes all identified stakeholders as well as all of the property owners within the boundaries of the Formerly Used Defense Site.

- Timing: The Corps has compiled the mailing list and will periodically review/revise it to keep it current.

Activity 1E: Establish and Maintain an Administrative Record file

- Objective: To provide residents with all documents and resources used by the project delivery team in reaching decisions about the site and restoration activities in a convenient location where residents can go to read and copy official documents and other pertinent information about the site
- Method: The Administrative Record file is a collection of site information. The Corps will work with a local contact to find a suitable location (known as an Information Repository) to house the Administrative Record. This repository will be accessible to the physically challenged, will have copier facilities, and will be available to residents during normal business hours and at least some evening and/or weekend hours. The Corps will provide at least two sets of the Administrative Record file for the site, one at the Corps' Jacksonville, Florida office and one in the local Information Repository near the site.
- Timing: The Administrative Record was opened when the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study began, and it will remain open until the Decision Document is signed. The Information Repository has been established at the Island Branch Library located at 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, Florida 34217.

Activity 1F: Provide project information on the internet

- Objective: To provide site and project information as well as general Formerly Used Defense Site information
- Method: Site and Formerly Used Defense Site information can be found at [www.saj.usace.army.mil](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil).
- Timing: Project information and related documents are in the library, and reports on the on-going activities will be added as they are completed.

Issue 2: Provide Adequate and Meaningful Opportunities for Community Involvement

Activity 2A: Hold public meetings and special events

- Objective: To update the community on site developments and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments
- Method: Community meetings and other related activities, as necessary, will be hosted at appropriate times during this phase of work. The Corps will schedule, prepare for and attend all announced meetings. The Corps will provide at least a two-week notice of the scheduled meeting.
- Timing: Meetings or workshops may be hosted as the work progresses to explain the history of the site and the work the Corps is doing. An additional meeting may be held after the fieldwork is complete.

#### Activity 2B: Solicit interest in a Restoration Advisory Board

- Objective: To provide citizens with a meaningful way to become actively involved and to provide the project delivery team with a viable means of learning citizen concerns and attitudes
- Method: The Corps will solicit interest in a Restoration Advisory Board and will provide support as appropriate to facilitate its formation. If formed, the Corps will provide administrative support, and the Corps' project manager will serve as co-chair along with a representative elected from among the community representatives on the board.
- Timing: The Corps has begun soliciting interest in a Restoration Advisory Board; the solicitation process will continue throughout this phase of work.

#### Activity 2C: Make informal visits to community

- Objective: To help keep community members informed about the site while providing the Corps with feedback about site activities and the community's opinions
- Method: The Corps will establish a presence in the community through informal visits.
- Timing: Periodic visits will be made as necessary throughout the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study phase.

#### Activity 2D: Solicit comments during a public comment period

- Objective: The objective is to give community members an opportunity to review and comment on various Corps documents, especially the Proposed Plan. The review period provides an opportunity for the citizens to have meaningful involvement in the process while giving the project delivery team valuable information from the community.
- Method: The Corps will announce each comment period separately, if necessary. Announcements will appear in local newspapers and fact sheets. Information on the duration and how and where to submit comments will be included. The Corps will seek comments on the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study recommendations along with the potential remedies.
- Timing: The public comment period will be a minimum of 30 days and is required when the Proposed Plan is released.

#### Activity 2E: Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary

- Objective: To summarize comments received during comment periods, to document how the Corps has considered those comments during the decision-making process and to provide responses to major comments
- Method: The Corps will prepare a Responsiveness Summary as a section of the Decision Document. The Responsiveness Summary will include four sections: 1. Overview; 2. Background on Community Involvement; 3. Summary of Comments Received and the Corps' Responses; 4. Remedial Design/Remedial

Action Concerns. All information, both technical and nontechnical, will be conveyed in a manner that is easily understood.

- Timing: The Responsiveness Summary is part of the Decision Document.

Activity 2F: Revise the Community Relations Plan

- Objective: To identify and address community needs, issues or concerns regarding the site or the cleanup remedy that are not currently addressed in this Community Relations Plan
- Method: The revised plan will update the previous version.
- Timing: The Corps will revise the plan as community concern warrants or at least every three years until the site is closed out.

**4.2 PROJECTED SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Designate a Corps community involvement coordinator	At start of phase of work
Prepare and distribute site fact sheets and technical summaries	At beginning of phase of work and as required throughout the phase of work
Provide a toll free number	Currently in operation
Maintain a mailing list for the site	Ongoing
Establish and maintain Information Repositories	Ongoing, update as needed
Provide site and Formerly Used Defense Site information on the internet	Ongoing, update as needed
Establish and maintain the Administrative Record	Ongoing, update as needed
Conduct special events	As needed
Hold public meetings	When Proposed Plan is available and as needed throughout phase of work
Solicit interest in a Restoration Advisory Board	Ongoing
Make informal visits to community	As needed
Solicit comments during a public comment period	As needed and required
Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary	Following public comment period
Revise the Community Relations Plan	As needed

**5.0 REFERENCES**

The Florida Senate. [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

Florida House of Representatives. [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

United States Army Corps of Engineers. *Public Participation Requirements for Defense Environmental Restoration Program* Engineer Pamphlet 200-3-1. September 30, 2011

United States Army Corps of Engineers. *Environmental Quality – Formerly Used Defense Sites Program Policy*. ER 200-3-1. May 10, 2004.

United States Census Bureau. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

## APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY SURVEY

The United States Army Corps of Engineers is investigating portions of the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range in Manatee County, Florida. We are trying to learn more about the community so we will know what is important to you and how to share information with you. Please help us by taking a few moments to answer the questions below. Thank you!

1. Do you work or live near the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range? If yes, how long?
2. Are you familiar with how the land was used during World War II?
3. Have you ever found anything that the military may have left, such as munitions debris?
4. Do you use the Internet?
5. Would you come to meetings to hear about our investigation? If so, please let us know how to contact you (telephone number, mailing or email address). Where would you suggest we hold the meeting(s)?
6. Would you like to be on a mailing list to learn more about our work? (If so, please provide an email or mailing address.)
7. How would you suggest we notify people about our work and/or meetings (i.e. radio, television, newspapers, website)? Which one(s)?
8. Are there local religious/civic/service organizations that you rely on to receive information?

On behalf of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District at 1-866-279-4880.

## APPENDIX B: MEDIA CONTACTS

### Television Stations:

Station	Channel	Address	Telephone
WFTS – ABC Action News	28	WFTS ABC 28 4045 North Himes Avenue Tampa, Florida 33607	(813) 354-2828
WWSB – ABC 7	40	ABC 7 1477 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Sarasota, Florida 34236	(941) 552-0777
WFLA – NBC	8	Channel 8 WFLA NBC 200 South Parker Street Tampa, Florida 33606	(813) 228-8888
WTSP – CBS	10	WTSP-TV 11450 Gandy Boulevard North St. Petersburg, Florida 33702	(727) 577-1010
WEDU - PBS	3	WEDU PBS Channel 3 1300 North Boulevard Tampa, Florida 33607	(813) 254-9338
Bay News 9	9	Bay News 9 Manatee Bureau 5413 State Route 64 East Bradenton, Florida 34205	(727) 329-2300
FOX13	13	Fox13 3213 West Kennedy Boulevard Tampa, Florida 33609	(813) 876-1313
WRMD – Telemundo	49	Telemundo Promotions 4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 260 Tampa, Florida 33607	(813) 319-4949
Univision	62	2610 West Hillsborough Avenue Tampa, Florida 33614	(813) 872-6262

### Newspapers:

Name	Address	Telephone
The Bradenton Herald	1111 Third Avenue West Bradenton, Florida 34205	(941) 748-0411
The Bradenton Times (online-only)	405 26 Avenue Bradenton, Florida 34205	(941) 869-7857
Sarasota Herald Tribune	1741 Main Street Sarasota, Florida 34236	(941) 953-7755
Tampa Bay Times	490 First Avenue South St. Petersburg, Florida 33701	(727) 893-8111
The Islander	5604B Marina Drive Holmes Beach, Florida 34217	(941) 778-7978
Anna Maria Island Sun	9801 Gulf Drive Anna Maria, Florida 34216-1189	(941) 778-3986

**Radio Stations:**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
WWPR	1490 AM	News/Talk	5910 Cortez Road West, #130 Bradenton, Florida 34210	(941) 761-8843
WBRD	1420 AM	International	1915 53rd Avenue East Bradenton, Florida 34203-4242	(941) 955-1420
WHPT	102.5 FM	Talk	11300 4 <sup>th</sup> Street North Suite 300 St. Petersburg, Florida 33716	(727) 579-2000
WCTQ	106.5 FM	Country	1779 Independence Boulevard Sarasota, Florida 34234	(941) 552-4800
WMNF	88.5 FM	Public Radio	1210 East Martin Luther King Boulevard Tampa, Florida 33603	(813) 238-8001
WUSF	89.7 FM	Public, Classical	4202 East Fowler Avenue, TVB100 Tampa, Florida 33620	(813) 974-8700
WCIE	91.5 FM	Religious	6214 Springer Drive Port Richey, Florida	(727) 848-9150
WYUU	92.5 FM	Spanish	9721 Executive Center Drive North, Suite 200 St. Petersburg, Florida 33702	(813) 932-9250
WLLD	94.1 FM	Hip Hop and R&B	9721 Executive Center Drive, Suite 200 St. Petersburg, Florida 33702	(727) 578-9941
WHFS	98.7 FM	Sports	9721 Executive Center Drive North, Suite 200 St. Petersburg, Florida 33702	(727) 579-1925
WFLZ	93.3 FM	Top 40	4002 West Gandy Boulevard Tampa, Florida 33611	(813) 832-1000
WBTP	95.7 FM	Hip Hop		
WXTB	97.9 FM	Rock		
WMTX	100.7 FM	Variety		
WTBT	103.5 FM	Country		
WDAE	620 AM	Sports		
WFLA	970 AM	News/Talk		
WWRM	94.9 FM	Adult Contemporary	11300 4 <sup>th</sup> Street North, Suite 300 St. Petersburg, Florida 33716	(727) 579-2000
WPOI	101.5 FM	Top 40	3551 42 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Suite B-106 St. Petersburg, Florida 33711	(727) 865-1591
WXGL	107.3 FM	Classic Hits		
WXRJ	96.5 FM	Religious		
WRXB	1590 AM	Gospel		

## **APPENDIX C: POTENTIAL MEETING LOCATIONS**

### **Island Branch Library**

5701 Marina Drive  
Holmes Beach, Florida 34217  
Telephone: (941) 778-6341

### **Anna Maria Island Community Center**

407 Magnolia Avenue  
Anna Maria, Florida 34217  
Telephone: (941) 778-1908

## **APPENDIX D: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TOOLS**



NOVEMBER 2014

### DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM (DERP) FOR FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)

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 (FUDS) can range from privately-owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, industrial and educational properties. We are committed to protecting people and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these properties. 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 (CERCLA), also known as Superfund, in 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in 1986. These laws give the Corps the authority for certain cleanup activities and dictate the process we must follow. We conduct 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. The Corps partners with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local governments, regulatory and environmental agencies, and affected property owners.

### BACKGROUND

During World War II, air crews assigned to the Sarasota Army Airfield used Passage Key for a strafing and skip bombing range. There were two banks of targets facing north and south about 500 feet apart, and each bank had six targets. Crews trained with machine guns and practice and live bombs. The targets are now completely submerged.

The Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range Formerly Used Defense Site in Manatee County comprises 13,146.72 acres most of which is the water around Passage Key in Tampa Bay. The US Fish and Wildlife Service owns the island and manages it as the Passage Key National Wildlife Refuge. It is not open to the public.

### ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Corps has completed a number of studies of the island, and while no munitions were identified during our investigations, in 1998, three bombs were found in the water near the island, and one was found on the island. Therefore, to ensure the public's safety, the Corps is following the process required by law to evaluate the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range.

Currently, we are doing a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study that involves a number of steps designed to identify the target locations and to determine if anything remains from the military's training. Crews will use digital metal detectors on paths (called transects) to map metallic objects primarily in the water. Technicians will analyze the data to identify potential target

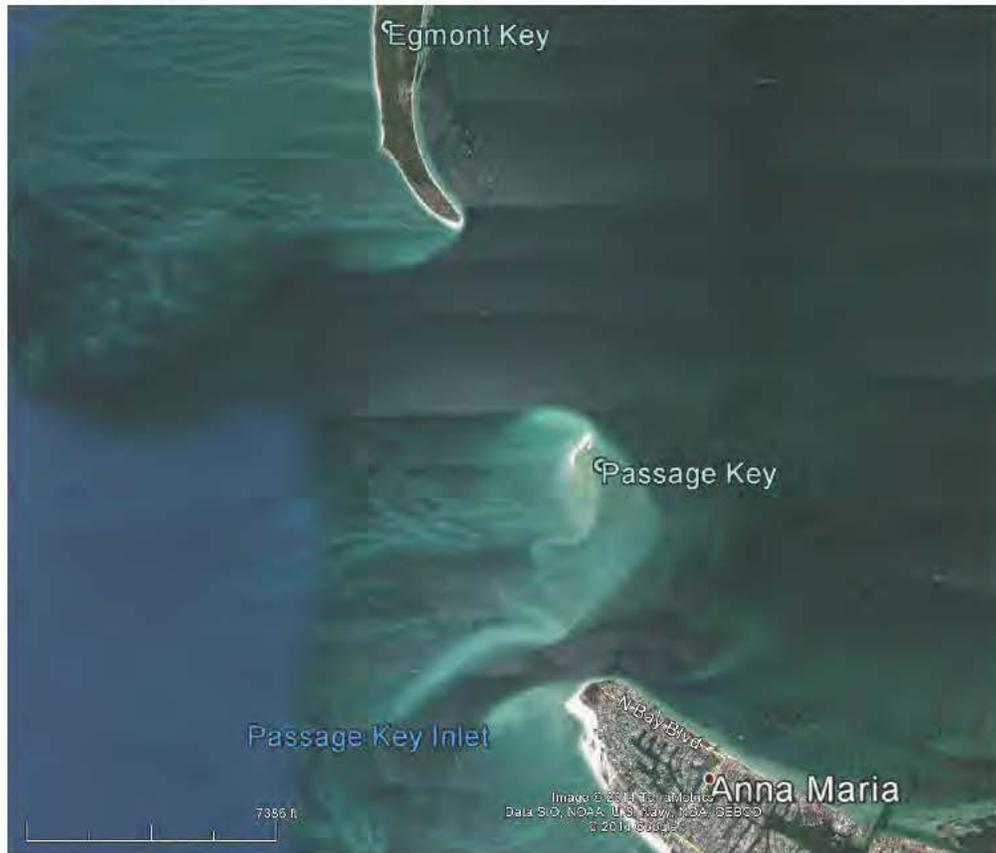


## FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range

locations. Based on the analysis, teams will further investigate the metallic objects that appear to be munitions-related. Teams may also investigate “grids” (square or rectangular areas of various sizes) where they will collect additional data.

The Corps is working in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other appropriate agencies to ensure the investigation does not cause any damage to the environment. Crews will monitor marine mammals during their investigations to avoid them as well as nesting areas and other sensitive habitats.

Once the fieldwork is complete, the team will analyze the data, draft a report and make recommendations. The results will be summarized in a document called a Proposed Plan which will present the alternatives for addressing what, if anything, remains on the site. The alternatives can range from no further action being necessary to educating the public about the site to remedial action. When the Proposed Plan is ready, the Corps will present it at a public meeting, and the public will have at least 30 days to review and submit comments on the plan.



### SAFETY FIRST: Remember the 3Rs

There could potentially be munitions on the beach and in the water. 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.

**RECOGNIZE** - The item you found could be dangerous.

**RETREAT** - Do not touch it in any way, and leave the area.

**REPORT** - Call 911 immediately.

**Recognize** **Retreat** **Report**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit:

Project documents can be viewed at:

Island Library

5701 Mariana Drive, Holmes Beach, FL 34217

Telephone: 941.778.6341

Contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Toll-Free 866.279.4880

FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil

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US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

## Former Passage Key

### Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range

### Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the former Passage Key Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range, a Formerly Used Defense Site which is now the Passage Key National Wildlife Refuge. During World War II, the military used the land for bombing and aerial gunnery training. The purpose of the study is to determine if anything from the WWII training is still there. This notice is to let you know:

- ▶ We are conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.
- ▶ Project documents are in the Island Library (5701 Mariana Drive).
- ▶ We are soliciting interest in a Restoration Advisory Board.

It is important for the public to participate in the remedial process, so the Corps is considering establishing a Restoration Advisory Board. These boards include people from the community and government. They review and comment on plans and technical documents related to environmental studies and restoration activities. Members serve as voluntary liaisons between the community and the Corps and receive no compensation. If you are interested in serving, please email [FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil](mailto:FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil) or call 866.279.4880.

### ***For More Information:***

**Visit:** Island Library at 5701 Mariana Drive, Holmes Beach  
or [www.saj.usace.army.mil](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil)

**Call:** 866.279.4880 **Email:** [FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil](mailto:FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil)

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