

**FINAL
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
FOR THE
REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY (RI/FS)
FORMER AVON PARK –ARMY AIRFIELD**

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

**CONTRACT: W912DY-10-D-0028
TASK ORDER: 0008**

Prepared for:

**U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER,
HUNTSVILLE**

by:

**Zapata Incorporated
6302 Fairview Road, Suite 600
Charlotte, NC 28210**

JANUARY 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN1

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY.....1

2.1 PROPERTY HISTORY1

2.2 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION2

2.3 PROPERTY INSPECTIONS AND CLEANUP ACTIVITIES4

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND.....4

3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE4

3.2 HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT5

3.3 KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS6

3.4 RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS6

3.5 SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION NEEDS.....6

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM.....6

4.1 THE PLAN.....6

5.0 REFERENCES.....11

APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY SURVEY..... A-1

APPENDIX B: MEDIA CONTACTS.....B-1

APPENDIX C: POTENTIAL MEETING LOCATIONS..... C-1

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TOOLS D-1

APPENDIX E: STAKEHOLDERS LIST.....E-1

FIGURES

Figure 1: Map of Florida Showing Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park..... 3

Figure 2: Map of Avon Park Army Airfield FUDS with Munitions Response Sites 3

TABLES

Table 1 Community Profile 5

Table 2 Projected Schedule for Community Involvement Activities 10

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

%	percent
ASR	Archives Search Report
ATG	Air to Ground
BGR	Bombing and Gunnery Range
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DEP	Defense Environmental Programs
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DoD	Department of Defense
EE/CA	engineering evaluation and cost analysis
FDE	Findings and Determination of Eligibility
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Site
HE	high explosive
INPR	inventory project report
lb.	pound
MC	munitions constituent
MD	munitions debris
MEC	munitions and explosives of concern
mm	millimeter
MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
MPM	most probable munition
MPPEH	material potentially presenting an explosive hazard
MR	munitions response
MRS	munitions response site
PAO	Public Affairs Office
PFC	Position Firing Course
PIP	Public Involvement Plan
QR	qualitative reconnaissance
PWS	Performance Work Statement
RAC	Risk assessment code
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SI	Site Inspection
TPP	technical project planning
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAESCH	U.S. Army Engineer Center, Huntsville
USAF	United States Air Force
U.S.	United States
USC	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
UXO	unexploded ordnance

1.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) developed this Community Relations Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community living on the former Avon Park Army Airfield and USACE and to encourage community involvement in site activities. USACE 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 USACE (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents USACE's community involvement program (Section 4.0), and provides a listing of available resources. USACE drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interviews and site files. The USACE Jacksonville District will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this Plan.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

All across the country, the Department of Defense (DoD) 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 (FUDS) can range from privately-owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, educational and industrial areas. DoD is committed to correcting environmental damage caused by its activities and created the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) to evaluate, and if necessary, remediate FUDS. The USACE is responsible for managing DERP on behalf of DoD.

2.1 PROPERTY HISTORY

Between 1942 and 1977, the government acquired approximately 218,884 acres in Highlands, Okeechobee and Polk Counties in central Florida to establish Avon Park Army Airfield. The Army used the site during World War II to train pilots and air crews.

The Army constructed over 500 buildings including dormitories, administrative offices, mess halls, chapels and related infrastructure such as roads and utilities. Several practice targets were constructed for crews flying B-26s and B-17s. The targets included a mock 555-acre town on the shores of Lake Arbuckle, a floating water target on Lake Kissimmee, an 8 mile railroad bombardment target, a combination bombing and gunnery range and 2 position firing courses.

Following the War, the full site was not needed. The US Air Force maintained about 106,000 acres west of the Kissimmee River and currently uses it for the Avon Park Air Force Range. Between 1946 and 1983, the military disposed of the remaining 112,771.6 acres of land east of the Kissimmee River in Okeechobee County. That land comprises the FUDS known as Avon Park.

An initial inspection of the property was completed in 1992 as part of the Inventory Project Report (INPR). The area has been re-assessed periodically over the years with the most recent, prior to the current work, being a Site Inspection (SI) in 2008. No munitions were located during the field work, but pieces of munitions known as munitions debris, were identified. Additionally, there have been reports of live munitions being found within the boundaries of the FUDS.

Because the presence of potential explosive hazards has been confirmed, the USACE is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine what type of contamination may be present and where. This is known as characterizing the nature and extent of contamination.

Thus far, the community has not shown any significant concern about the military's former use of the land and the potential munitions hazards.

2.2 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The 112,771.6 acres that comprise the Avon Park Army Airfield FUDS are in Okeechobee County in central Florida approximately 70 miles south of Orlando (please see Figure 1). The western boundary of the FUDS is the Kissimmee River. The FUDS includes almost all of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, and the FUDS and Park northern boundary are coterminous. The southern boundary of the FUDS follows along a straight line at County Road 724/NW 240th Street. The eastern side of the FUDS follows the edge of the Park and then juts out to the east approximately 1.5 miles beyond Dinner Hammock Road/72nd Avenue (please see Figure 2).

Most of the FUDS is undeveloped. The State of Florida owns a large portion of the FUDS property which is now the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. Other portions of the FUDS are used for agriculture. A small area in the south-central portion of the FUDS has been developed for private homes. There are no schools or health facilities within the FUDS.

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park is a 54,000 acre preserve that protects one of the largest remaining stretches of Florida dry prairie. It is home to an array of endangered plants and animals including the endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, the Crested Caracara, Burrowing Owl, gopher tortoises and the American Alligator. Other threatened or endangered species with habitat within the Park include Eastern Indigo Snake, Florida Scrub-Jay, Wood Stork, Snail Kite, Florida Panther and the Whooping Crane. There are a number of rivers and canals throughout the site.

Range types within the FUDS include land skip bombing (MRS R01), combination bombing and gunnery range (BGR – MRSs R02), position firing courses (PFCs – MRSs R03 and R06), practice bombing targets (MRSs R04, R05, R07, and R08), restricted use areas (MRSs R09 and R10) and a water bombing target (MRS R12 - Lake Kissimmee, not included in the RI/FS project). There are 12 MRSs (within three noncontiguous areas) covering a total acreage of 60,342 acres. A small portion of one of the Position Firing Courses (MRS R03) extends beyond the southern boundary of the FUDS. Figure 2 shows the locations and configurations of all MRSs.

FIGURE 1: MAP OF FLORIDA SHOWING KISSIMMEE PRAIRIE PRESERVE STATE PARK

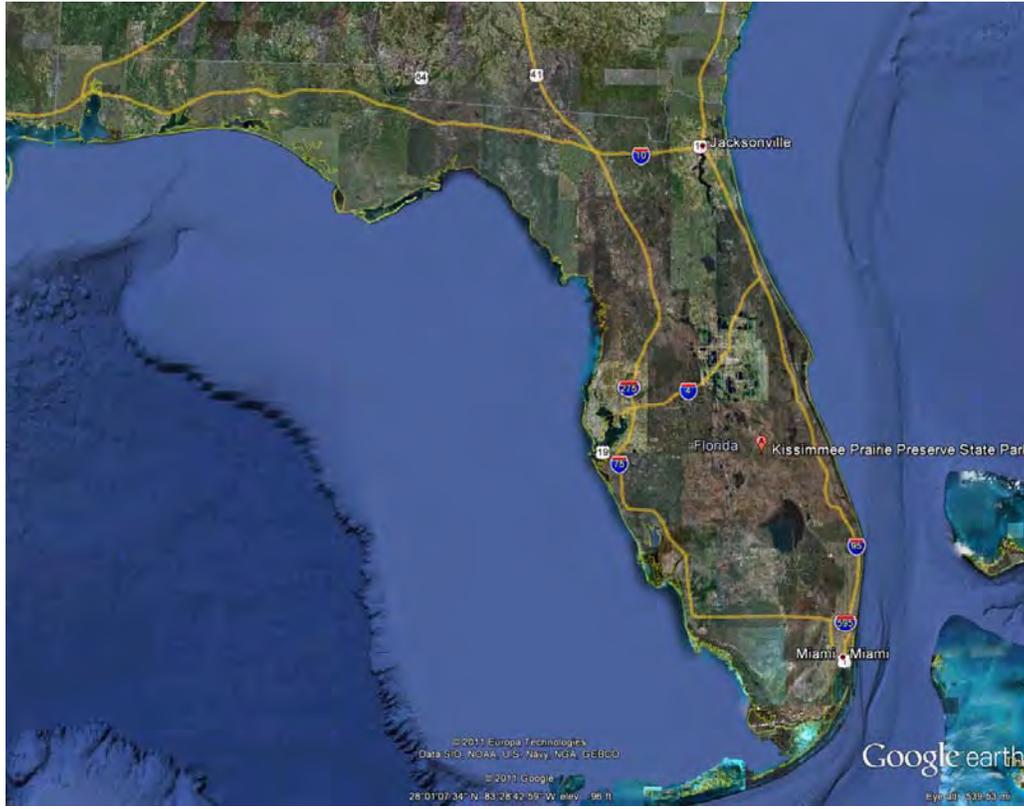
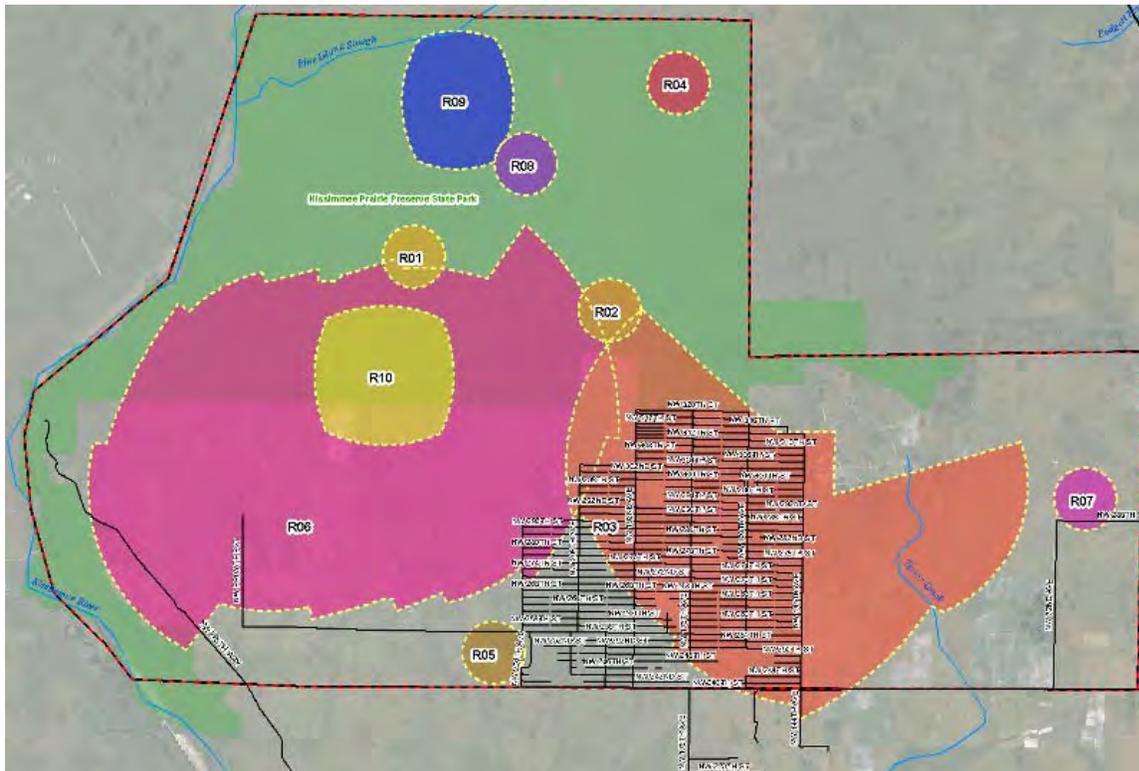


FIGURE 2: MAP OF AVON PARK ARMY AIRFIELD FUDS WITH MUNITIONS RESPONSE SITES



2.3 PROPERTY INSPECTIONS AND CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

2.3.1 Known or Suspected Contamination

Historical reports indicate troops trained using small arms rounds (such as .50 caliber bullets), practice bombs and high explosive bombs. There is also a documented incidence of troops disposing of fuzes in Arbuckle Creek. Additionally, munitions debris that is indicative of munitions with explosive materials (rather than practice munitions) has been identified.

2.3.2 Nature of Threat

Live munitions pose a safety hazard, and the materials contained within munitions (known as munitions constituents [MC]) can be a health and environmental hazard.

2.3.3 History of Inspections and Studies Conducted at the Site

1992 Inventory Project Reports (INPR)

An INPR was completed in 1992. A Findings and Determination of Eligibility (FDE) concluded the site was formerly used by the DoD; and that 112,771.6 acres were eligible for the DERP - FUDS program.

1996 Archives Search Report

The Archives Search Report (ASR) was completed by the USACE in 1996. The ASR was prepared after reviewing reports, newspaper articles, historical documents and reference material available that documented the history of the site. The ASR is the source of most of the historical information pertaining to site operations.

2004 Archives Search Report Supplement

The ASR Supplement, completed in 2004, identified 12 MRSs (11 ranges and 1 disposal area). The report states that the only known munitions used on range property were 100 pound practice bombs, small arms ammunition and flares; however other investigations, and the identification of munitions debris and live munitions, have confirmed that additional munitions were used at this range.

2008 Site Inspection (SI)

A SI was performed in 2008 to confirm the presence or absence of munitions or munitions debris at the site. Qualitative reconnaissance (QR) and MC sampling were performed within 11 of the 12 MRSs (all except the Kissimmee Lake Bombing Target).

2.3.4 Lead Agency

USACE is responsible for cleanup of contamination as a result of the military's use of the site and is coordinating with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Okeechobee County, Florida State Parks and other stakeholders.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The site is in an unincorporated area in Okeechobee County north of the city of Okeechobee in census tract 9101.02. While the percentage of African Americans is less in the census tract than

in the US, state or county, the Hispanic or Latino population is much higher (54.6%) than the county, state or US (23.9, 22.5, 16.3, respectively).

The census data indicates that English is a second language in over forty percent of the households. The first language in most of those homes is Spanish, and 16.5 percent report that they speak English less than very well. Therefore, USACE will need to be prepared to translate all materials and community meetings.

TABLE 1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

	Census Tract		Okeechobee County		Florida		United States	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Total population	4,568		39,996		18,801,310		308,745,538	
White	2,786	61.0%	31,009	77.5%	14,488,435	77.1%	231,040,398	74.8%
Black or African American	298	6.5%	3,431	8.6%	3,200,663	17.0%	42,020,743	13.6%
Hispanic or Latino	2,496	54.6%	9,561	23.9%	4,223,806	22.5%	50,477,594	16.3%
Mexican	2,244	49.1%			629,718	33.0%	31,798,258	10.3%
Median Age (years)	29		40		41		37	
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	699	55.8%	10,184	72.7%	7,420,802	82.5%	75,986,074	65.1%
% over Age 25 without a High School Diploma		34.9%		28.2%		14.5%		14.4%
Born in United States	4,312	82.0%	35,122	87.9%	14,597,170	77.5%	265,166,046	85.7%
Born outside the United States	833	16.0%	4,847	12.1%	3,658,043	19.4%	39,955,854	12.9%
Language Spoken at Home								
English only	2,668	57.8%	28,454	76.9%	12,907,073	72.6%	229,673,150	79.4%
Language other than English	1,947	42.2%	8,556	23.1%	4,868,267	27.4%	59,542,596	20.6%
Speak English less than "very well"	792	17.2%	4,630	12.5%	2,112,083	11.9%	25,223,045	8.7%
Spanish	1,877	40.7%	7,904	21.4%	3,566,655	20.1%	36,995,602	12.8%
Speak English less than "very well"	763	16.5%	4,395	11.9%	1,614,760	9.1%	16,523,718	5.7%
Mean household income (dollars)	39,786		51,759		61,877		68,259	
% Below Poverty Line								
All families		20.6%		15.6%		12.0%		11.3%
With related children under 18 years		25.2%		26.9%		19.5%		17.9%
With related children under 5 years only		0.0%		15.1%		19.6%		19.3%
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over		60.7%		34.2%		27.4%		26.2%
No vehicles available		9.5%		5.6%		7.0%		9.1%

3.2 HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Thus far, there has been very limited community interest in the RI/FS, and the community has not expressed concerns about the potential for contamination as a result of the military's use of the property. This is, in part, because most of the FUDS remains relatively undeveloped.

3.3 KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The community has not expressed any concerns about the site, how it was used or the current work. USACE will monitor this closely as activities are initiated to educate the public and to encourage them to participate in the restoration process.

3.4 RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The only community concerns noted thus far relate to the active bombing range and the potential for crews to practice using larger bombs. This is unrelated to the FUDS, and USACE has no role in the active Avon Park Bombing Range.

3.5 SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION NEEDS

As part of the initiation of the RI/FS on the former Avon Park Army Airfield, USACE will undertake an aggressive public involvement campaign that includes mailing letters with a fact sheet to all of the property owners within the boundaries of the FUDS, hosting community meetings and conducting interviews. USACE will evaluate comments and community feedback to determine if additional efforts are required.

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

The overall goal of USACE's public involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the USACE and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the cleanup process. The USACE will implement the community involvement activities described below. The following plan is based on concerns frequently expressed by those living near or on a FUDS.

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 USACE and to ensure prompt, accurate, and consistent responses and information dissemination about the site.
- Method: USACE will designate a public affairs specialist to handle site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members. Nakeir Nobles is the new public involvement coordinator (replacing Amanda Ellison) for the site, and she will work closely with Mr. William Spence, the project manager.
- Timing: The public affairs specialist dedicated to FUDS was designated in October 2011.

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 Avon Park Army Airfield.
- Method: Fact sheets will be mailed along with a letter to all of the property owners within the boundaries of the FUDS. In addition, copies will be available at the information repository and on the USACE's website. A postcard will be mailed prior to the aerial magnetometer survey to remind property owners that a helicopter will be flying fairly low during the survey. Following the completion

of the field work, another mailing will include information on what was found and the recommendations for the future.

- Timing: USACE will prepare and distribute fact sheets as necessary, but at least at the beginning and end of each phase of work.

Activity 1D: Provide a Toll-Free Telephone Number for the Community to Contact USACE

- 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: USACE will activate a toll free number and publish it periodically in the local papers and in all fact sheets.
- Timing: The line is currently operational (800-291-9413).

Activity 1E: 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: USACE will create a mailing list that includes all identified stakeholders as well as all of the property owners within the boundaries of the FUDS.
- Timing: USACE has completed the mailing list and will review/revise it periodically to keep it current.

Activity 1F: Establish and Maintain Information Repositories

- Objective: To provide a convenient location where residents can go to read and copy official documents and other pertinent information about the site
- Method: The repository is a collection of site information. The Corps will work with a local contact to establish the local repository. 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.
- Timing: The information repository will be established at the Okeechobee County Public Library located at 206 SW 16th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34974, telephone number 863.763.3536.

Activity 1G: Provide Project Information on the Internet

- Objective: To provide site and project information as well as general FUDS information
- Method: Site and FUDS information can be found at <http://FUDS.saj.usace.army.mil>.
- Timing: Project information is available now and reports will be added as they are completed.

Activity 1I: Establish and Maintain the Administrative Record

- Objective: To provide residents with a paper trail of all documents, resources and the like used by the project delivery team in reaching all decisions about the site and its cleanup

- Method: USACE will provide at least two sets of the Administrative Record for the site, one at the USACE Jacksonville District office and one in the local Information Repository near the site.
- Timing: The Administrative Record was opened as soon as site investigation began and will remain open until the last Decision Document is signed.

Issue 2: Provide Adequate and Meaningful Opportunities for Community Involvement

Activity 2A: Hold Public Meetings

- Objective: To update the community on site developments and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments.
- Method: Community meetings and other related activities will be hosted at appropriate times during the RI/FS phase. USACE will schedule, prepare for and attend all announced meetings. USACE will provide at least a two week notice of the scheduled meeting.
- Timing: A meeting will be held in the spring of 2012 prior to field work to explain the history of the site and the work USACE is doing. Other meetings may be held after the field work is complete. Additionally, a public meeting is required during the Proposed Plan comment period (see below)

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: USACE will solicit interest in a Restoration Advisory Board and will provide support as appropriate to facilitate its formation. If formed, USACE will provide administrative support, and the USACE project manager will serve as co-chair along with a representative from the community.
- Timing: USACE began soliciting interest in a RAB at the first Technical Project Planning meeting held in October 2011. The solicitation process will continue through June 2012.

Activity 2C: Make Informal Visits to Community

- Objective: To help keep community members informed about the site while providing USACE with feedback about site activities and the community's opinions
- Method: USACE will establish a presence in the community through informal visits.
- Timing: As necessary throughout the RI/FS 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 USACE documents, especially the Proposed Plan. This provides the citizens with meaningful involvement in the process and also provides the project delivery team with valuable information for use in making decisions.

- Method: USACE will announce each comment period separately, if necessary. Announcements will appear in local newspapers and fact sheets. Information on the duration, how to make comments, and where to submit comments will be included. USACE will seek comments on the RI/FS recommendations along with the potential remedies.
- Timing: The Public Comment Period will be announced as appropriate. A comment period is required in conjunction with the announcement of the Proposed Plan and will last a minimum of 30 days.

Activity 2E: Prepare and Issue a Responsiveness Summary.

- Objective: To summarize comments received during comment periods, to document how the USACE has considered those comments during the decision-making process and to provide responses to major comments.
- Method: USACE 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 USACE Responses; 4. Remedial Design/Remedial Action Concerns. All information, both technical and nontechnical, will be conveyed in a manner that is easily understood.
- Timing: USACE will issue the Responsiveness Summary as 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 Plan
- Method: The Revised Plan will update the information presented in the previous version.
- Timing: USACE will revise the Community Relations Plan as community concern warrants or at least every three years until the site is closed out.

TABLE 2 PROJECTED SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Designate an USACE 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	Will Be Established in January 2012
Provide Site and FUDS Information on the Internet	Currently Available; Update As Needed
Establish and Maintain the Administrative Record	Established, update as needed
Conduct Special Events	As Needed
Hold Public Meetings	When Proposed Plan Is Available and As Required throughout Phase
Solicit Interest in a Restoration Advisory Board	Completed
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

- 2008, Community Involvement Plan Avon Park Air Force Range, Avon Park, Florida.
- Okeechobee County. Internet WWW page at URL <http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=8790>
- Okeechobee County. Internet WWW page at URL <http://www.co.okeechobee.fl.us/>
- Polk County. Internet WWW page at URL <http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=8857>
- Polk County. Internet WWW page at URL <http://www.polk-county.net/>
- The Florida Senate. Internet WWW page at URL <http://www.flsenate.gov>
- Florida House of Representatives. Internet WWW page at URL <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>
- Parsons, 2008. Site Inspection Report, USAF Avon Park Range, Okeechobee, Osceola, and Polk Counties, Florida.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1999, *Public Participation in the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)*. Engineer Pamphlet 1110-3-8.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2004, *Environmental Quality – Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program Policy*. ER 200-3-1. 10 May.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2011. Performance Work Statement Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study at USAF Avon Park, FL.
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2009, Internet WWW page at URL <http://factfinder.census.gov>.
- Zapata Incorporated, 2008, *Quality Manual*.

APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY SURVEY

1. Do you live or work near the former Avon Park Army Airfield (including Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park)?

2. How long have you lived or worked near the site?

3. How often do you visit the site? Daily, Weekly, Monthly?

4. When you visit, what do you do (Hunt, Off-Road vehicles, etc)?

5. Would you come to meetings to hear about our study? If so, please let us know how to contact you (telephone number, mailing or email address). Where would be the best location for a meeting?

6. Would you like to be on a mailing list to learn more about our study? (If so, please provide an email or mailing address.)

7. Can you suggest anyone else (friend, neighbor, group, community leader) that we should contact who might want to be included on a mailing list?

8. How do you hear about local events and news (i.e. radio, television, newspapers)?

9. What are the most popular newspapers, television and radio stations in the area?

10. Do you use the Internet?

11. Other than the mailing list, what other ways can we provide you with information? (e.g. newspaper, radio/TV, hotline, meetings, web site, etc.)

12. Are there local religious/civic/service organizations that could be useful in providing information to you?

13. Would you visit the Okeechobee Library for information about the Corps' study?

14. Have you talked with the Corps of Engineers, state or environmental officials about any previous studies?

15. Is there any other information you would like to share with us about your community?

APPENDIX B: MEDIA CONTACTS

Television Stations:

Station	Channel	Address	Phone
WWSB – ABC	7	1477 10 th Street, Sarasota, FL 34236	941-552-0777
WFLA – NBC	8	200-202 S. Parker Street, Tampa, FL 33606	813-259-7711
WTSP – CBS	10	11450 Gandy Blvd, St. Petersburg, FL 33702	727-577-1010
WTVT – Fox	13	3213 West Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL33609	813-870-9630

Newspapers:

Lakeland Ledger
PO Box 408/300 West Lime Street
Lakeland, FL 33802
Telephone: 888.431.7323

Tampa Tribune/Highlands Today
315 U.S. 27 North
Sebring, FL 33870
Telephone: 863.386.5800

The News-Sun
2227 U.S. 27 South
Sebring, FL 33870
Telephone: 863.385.6155

Florida Cattlemen and Livestock Journal
Barbara Starcher, Editor
P.O. Box 421403
Kissimmee, FL 34742-1403
Telephone: 800.647/0026

Radio Stations:

Station	Frequency	Format	Address	Phone
WPCV	95.9FM	Country	404 West Lime Street, Lakeland, FL 33815	863-682-8184
WWOJ	99.1FM	Country	3750 US 27 North, Sebring, FL 33870	863-382-1063
WWLL	105.7FM	Adult Contemporary	3750 US 27 North, Sebring, FL 33870	863-382-9999
WWTK	730AM	News Talk Radio	3750 US 27 North, Sebring, FL 33870	863-382-1063
WITS	1340AM	Adult Standards	3750 US 27 North, Sebring, FL 33870	863-382-9999

APPENDIX C: POTENTIAL MEETING LOCATIONS

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park
33104 N.W. 192nd Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
(863) 462-5360

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TOOLS



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

Avon Park Army Airfield Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the former Avon Park Army Airfield, a Formerly Used Defense Site in Okeechobee County. The Army used the site during World War II to train pilots and air crews. The purpose of the study is to determine what type of contamination may be present as a result of past military activities and where it may be located. This notice is to let you know:

- ▶ We are conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.
- ▶ We are soliciting interest in a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).
 - ▶ We are holding a community meeting.

It is important for the public to participate in the remedial process, so the Corps is considering establishing a RAB. RABs 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. Please call 800.291.9413 or email FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil if you are interested in serving.

We are holding a community meeting at _____, _____ on Day, Month 00, 2012 at 6:30 pm. We will describe how the military used the site and explain previous and current investigations.

For more information:

Attend: Month 00, 2012 Meeting **Visit:** <http://fuds.saj.usace.army.mil>
Call: 800.291.9413 **Email:** FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil



Okeechobee County, Florida

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES Avon Park

Site Summary

December 2011

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

All across the country, the Department of Defense (DoD) acquired properties, often during times of war, to use for military training, testing and demonstrations. Once the military no longer needed the land, it was transferred to other 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 correcting environmental damage caused by its activities and created the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) to evaluate and if necessary, to remediate FUDS. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for managing 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.

The Corps conducts investigations to determine the potential risk to human health and the environment from contamination such as underground storage tanks, unexploded ordnance and munitions constituents (material inside the munitions). 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.

Between 1942 and 1977, the government acquired approximately 218,884 acres in Highlands, Okeechobee and Polk Counties in central Florida to establish Avon Park Army Airfield. The Army used the site during World War II to train pilots and air crews.

The Army constructed over 500 buildings including dormitories, administrative offices, mess halls, chapels and related infrastructure such as roads and utilities. Several practice targets were constructed for crews flying B-26s and B-17s. The targets included a mock 555-acre town on the shores of Lake Arbuckle, a floating water target on Lake Kissimmee, an 8 mile railroad bombardment target, a combination bombing and gunnery range and 2 position firing courses.



Following the War, the full site was not needed. The US Air Force maintained about 106,000 acres west of the Kissimmee River and currently uses it for the Avon Park Air Force Range. The military disposed of the remaining 112,771.6 acres of land east of the Kissimmee River in Okeechobee County. That land



comprises the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) known as Avon Park. The State of Florida owns a large portion of the FUDS property which is now the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. Other portions of the FUDS are currently used for agricultural and residential purposes.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on the FUDS portion of Avon Park. The purpose of a RI/FS is to characterize the nature and extent of contamination – or to determine where and what types of contamination may be present as a result of the military's use of the property during WWII. In addition to ten target areas, known as Munitions Response Sites (MRSs) within the FUDS, the Corps will investigate a one-acre MRS known as Arbuckle Creek Fuze Disposal Area. It is along Arbuckle Creek just south of the lake where the bridge for County Road 64 crosses Arbuckle Creek. The map on the second page shows the MRS within the FUDS.

APPENDIX E: STAKEHOLDERS LIST

US Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. William A. (Bill) Spence
Project Manager
USACE, Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
Telephone: 904.232.3459
Email: William.A.Spence@usace.army.mil

Mr. Roland G. Belew
Contracting Officer
USAESC, Huntsville
4820 University Square
Huntsville, Alabama 35816-1822
Telephone: 256.895.9525
Email: Roland.G.Belew@usace.army.mil

Ms. Kelly D. Longberg
Technical Manager
USAESC, Huntsville
4820 University Square
Huntsville, Alabama 35816-1822
Telephone: 256.895.1408
Email: Kelly.D.Longberg@usace.army.mil

Elise Goggin
Geophysics Specialist
USAESC, Huntsville
4820 University Square
Huntsville, Alabama 35816-1822
Telephone: 256.895.1635
Email: Elise.M.Goggin@usace.army.mil

Ms. Nakeir Nobles, Public Affairs
US Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Telephone: 904.232.1789
Email: Nakeir.L.Nobles@usace.army.mil

Regulators and Other Agency Stakeholders

Mr. Eric Nuzie
Federal Facilities Coordinator
Florida Department of Environmental
Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400
Telephone: 850.245.8978
Email: Eric.Nuzie@dep.state.fl.us

Mr. Charles M. Brown, Florida State Parks
Park Superintendent
Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park
33104 NW 192nd Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863.462.5360
Email: Charles.Brown@dep.state.fl.us

Mr. Mike Herrin
District Ranger, US Forest Service
Ocala National Forest
Seminole and Lake George Ranger District
40929 State Road 19
Umatilla, Florida 32784
Telephone: 352.669.3153
Email: MHerrin@fs.fed.us

Ms. Dawn Jennings
US Fish and Wildlife Service
6620 Southpoint Drive South Suite 310
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

City of Okeechobee

Mr. James E. Kirk
Mayor, City of Okeechobee
City Hall
55 SE 3rd Avenue
Okeechobee, Florida 34974
Telephone: 863.763.3372

Mr. Brian Whitehall
City Administrator, City of Okeechobee
City Hall
55 SE 3rd Avenue
Telephone: 863.763.3372 Extension 212
Email: BWhitehall@cityofokeechobee.com

Okeechobee County

Ms. Margaret Garrard Helton
Chairman and District 5
Board of County Commissioners
304 NW 2nd Street Room #103
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863.763.6441
Email: MHelton@co.okeechobee.fl.us

Mr. Ray Domer
First Vice-Chair and District 1
Board of County Commissioners
304 NW 2nd Street Room #103
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863.763.6441
Email: RDomer@co.okeechobee.fl.us

Mr. Joey Hoover
Second Vice-Chair and District 4
Board of County Commissioners
304 NW 2nd Street Room #103
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863.763.6441
Email: JHoover@co.okeechobee.fl.us

Mr. Bryant H. Culpepper
District 2
Board of County Commissioners
304 NW 2nd Street Room #103
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863.763.6441
Email: BCulpepper@co.okeechobee.fl.us

Ms. Robbie Chartier
Administrator
Okeechobee County
394 NW 2nd Street, Room 123
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863.763.6441
Email: RChartier@co.okeechobee.fl.us

Mr. Jim Threewits
Deputy Administrator for Operations
Okeechobee County
394 NW 2nd Street, Room 123
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863.763.4458
Email: JThreewits@co.okeechobee.fl.us

Donnie Oden
Capital Improvements Project Manager
Okeechobee County
394 NW 2nd Street, Room 123
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863.763.0805
Email: DOden@co.okeechobee.fl.us

Sheriff Paul C. May
Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office
504 NW 4th Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34972
Telephone: 863.763.3117
Email: sheriff@okeesherriff.org

State

Representative Mike Horner
State House District 79
323 Pleasant Street
Kissimmee, Florida 34741-5763
Telephone: 407.943.3077

Capitol Office
222 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
Telephone: 850.488.8992

Senator JD Alexander
State Senate District 17
201 Central Avenue West City Hall Complex
Room 115
Lake Wales, FL 33853
Telephone: 863.679.4847

Capitol Office:
412 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
Telephone: 850.487.5044

Federal

Senator Bill Nelson
Landmark Two
225 East Robinson Street, Suite 410
Orlando, Florida 32801
Telephone: 407.872.7161

Capitol Office:
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Telephone: 202.224.5274

Senator Marco Rubio
201 South Orange Avenue Suite 350
Orlando, FL 32801
Telephone: 407.254.2573

Capitol Office:
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510
Telephone: 202.224.3041

Congressman Bill Posey, District 15
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Building C
Melbourne, Florida 32940
Telephone: 321.632.1776

Capitol Office:
120 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Telephone: 202.225.3671

Congressman Thomas J. Rooney
Florida District 16
County Administration Complex
2300 Virginia Ave Ste 208
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
Telephone: 772.461.3933

Capitol Office:
1529 House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Telephone: 202.225.5792