

JULY 2018

### SITE HISTORY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) manages the environmental restoration of Formerly Used Defense Sites such as Pinecastle Jeep Range. Pinecastle Jeep Range was a 12,483-acre site near Orlando International Airport. Between 1943 and 1946, the government leased the land for training and military demonstrations of weapons and warfare capabilities. In the late 1940s, when the military no longer needed the property, it was returned to the original property owners.

### ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Corps is required to follow the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process. This specifies a process of sequential steps and studies to be completed on sites that may be contaminated. During the Site Inspection step of the process, munitions were found on top of the ground on undeveloped land, known as the Mockingbird property. This discovery led the Corps to initiate a Time Critical Removal Action in August 2007 for Odyssey Middle School, Tivoli Gardens, part of Warwick and a portion of Mockingbird closest to the school and residential areas.

The Corps completed a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the entire former Pinecastle Jeep Range in 2010. The purpose was to determine where and what type of military-related materials were present. During the investigation, crews searched for munitions and collected soil and water samples. They dug up over 51,000 objects and collected almost 200 environmental samples. Over 800 of the metallic items were debris related to munitions (such as casings and fragments), but only 24 were actual munitions. The remaining objects were nails, fencing and the like. The munitions and munitions debris were found primarily on undeveloped land and none were found in residential lots. No munitions or pieces of munitions were found north of Lee Vista Boulevard nor was any environmental contamination identified in any of the residential areas. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study provided the necessary information to develop the most appropriate alternatives for future action. These alternatives were included in the Proposed Plan that was presented to the public for comment.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The site was divided into four Munitions Response Sites based on what was found during the Remedial Investigation. The Munitions Response Sites are: Demonstration Range North, Demonstration Range South, Demonstration Range East and Remaining Area. The demonstration ranges are south of Lee Vista Boulevard, north of Beachline Expressway, and from the western boundary of the property east to the Orange County landfill. Demonstration Range South is a portion of the undeveloped property known as Mockingbird. Demonstration Range East includes Beltway Commerce Center and a portion of the landfill property. Demonstration Range North is south of Lee Vista Boulevard and includes Odyssey Middle School, Tivoli Gardens and Lee Vista Square. All the residential neighborhoods except those in Demonstration Range North are in the Remaining Area. The Decision Documents, which officially accepts and implements the alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan (and described below) have been signed, and the Corps has completed the remedial action specified for all the areas except Demonstration Range South.

#### **Demonstration Range North**

The Corps has completed removal actions in all accessible areas within Demonstration Range North where the property owners signed a right-of-entry form allowing access to their property. The Corps also collected soil samples, but no metals or explosives associated with munitions were found above the limits deemed safe by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Corps recommends that a trained ordnance safety technician be present during construction activities in this area; this is known as safety support.

# FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Pinecastle Jeep Range

## Demonstration Range South

The Decision Document recommended a removal action at all locations that were not investigated during the previous activities. If munitions are found, soil samples should be collected in those locations where munitions are destroyed. Safety support was also recommended for this area. The Corps has not completed the remedial action because the property owner did not grant right-of-entry.

## Demonstration Range East

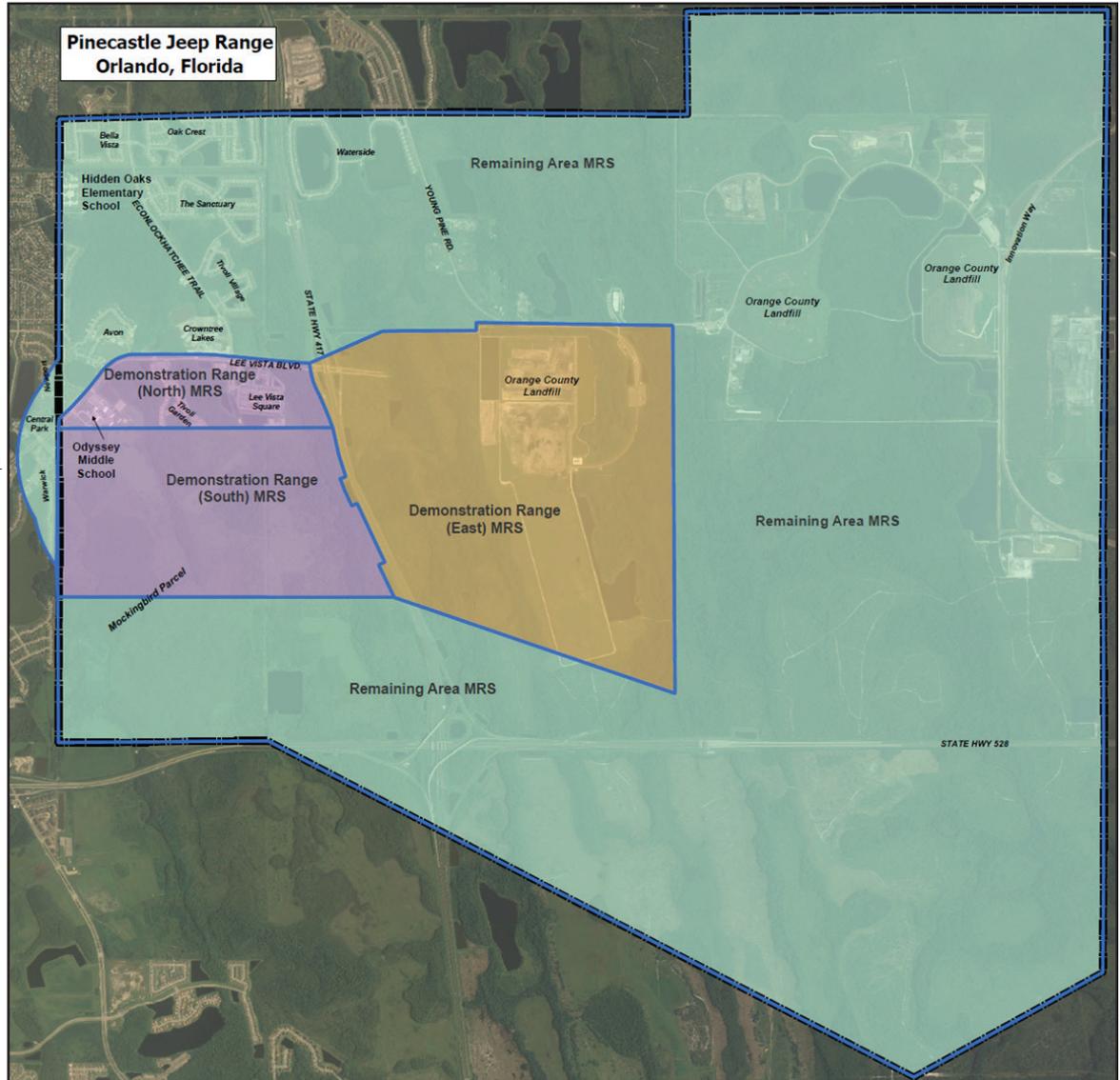
A limited number of munitions were reported from investigations of the Beltway Commerce Center and the Orange County Solid Waste facility. Therefore, safety support was recommended. A complete removal action is not warranted since the area is used for commercial, industrial and institutional purposes.

## Remaining Area

No further action is necessary because no munitions were located in these areas.

## DOCUMENTS

All project documents, including the Decision Documents, can be viewed at the Orlando Public Library Southeast Branch, 5575 S. Semoran Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32822.



## SAFETY FIRST: Remember the 3Rs

Because of how the military used the site, there could potentially be buried munitions in portions of the Demonstration Ranges. 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, Retreat, Report.

**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

Documents are available at the  
**Orlando Public Library Southeast Branch**  
5575 S Semoran Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32822  
Telephone: 407.835.7323

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District  
**Toll-Free 800.710.5184**  
FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil  
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