



JANUARY 2016

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES

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 can range from privately-owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, industrial and educational properties. The Department of Defense is committed to protecting people and the environment and to improving public safety by cleaning up these properties, so 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, also known as Superfund, in 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act 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

The former Lee Field Naval Air Station, now Reynolds Industrial Park, comprised about 1,560 acres on the west side of the St. Johns River in Clay County Florida. The Navy began acquiring the property in 1940 and used it until the early 1960s. During World War II, the Navy and Marines used it to train pilots. Following the war, the Navy used it to deactivate ships. The deactivation process involved maintaining and preserving the ships to prevent deterioration during inactive periods. This provided a large reserve fleet of ships that could be easily reactivated on short notice. Eleven piers were constructed to provide permanent berthing facilities for the reserve fleet. The military also constructed runways, hangars, utility systems, fuel storage tanks, office buildings, barracks, mess halls and family housing.

When the Navy no longer needed the Lee Field property and facilities, it was declared excess in 1963 and deeded to the City of Green Cove Springs who sold it in 1965 to Mr. J. Louis Reynolds.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

Landfill Area 2 is documented on several maps from the 1950s as a public works storage area. This undeveloped, wooded area of approximately 7.5 acres is near Orange Avenue south of Hall Park Road and west of Wildwood Road. The area has been investigated a number of times over the years.

The Corps conducted a Remedial Investigation at the Landfill 2 area between 2000 and 2002 to characterize the nature and extent of potential military-related environmental impacts. The Corps used several methods to determine if there was any evidence of a military landfill including reviewing historical records, digging test pits and collecting soil and groundwater samples. There is no evidence of a military landfill in the historical photo-



FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Lee Field Naval Air Station

graphs, and to confirm that determination, teams dug 22 test pits. Debris such as steel cable and a metal lid were identified, but there was no other debris or buried materials indicative of a landfill. Other surface debris discovered included clay pipe, wooden posts and pilings, scrap metal, and glass bottles.

Another Remedial Investigation was conducted in 2011 which included digging an additional 19 test pits and collecting more soil and groundwater samples. Teams did not recover anything consistent with a landfill from the additional test pits, and the results of the soil and groundwater samples showed no environmental impacts attributable to the military. While some metals were detected above the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's limits for residential areas, the amounts detected were below the levels set for commercial and industrial areas. Furthermore, it was determined that these metals are naturally occurring and are not associated with the military's activities. Based on these investigation results, the Corps has concluded that there is no evidence of a landfill, nor soil and groundwater contamination resulting from the military's use of the land.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has reviewed the results of the investigations and agrees with the conclusion that there is no evidence of a landfill or contamination in this area resulting from the military's activities.

PROPOSED PLAN AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The next step in the federally mandated process is a Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan presents the recommendations and alternatives to address areas of concern. Since there is no evidence that the military used this area as a landfill and there are no potential hazards resulting from the military's use of the land, the recommendation in the Proposed Plan is no further action.

The Corps is hosting a public meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at 6:30 pm at the Green Cove Springs Police Department Community Room. The Corps will present the Proposed Plan and answer questions. The public has 30 days to review and comment on the Proposed Plan. You may submit your comments at the public meeting, or by calling (toll free) 866.279.4880, emailing FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil or mailing your comments to US Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Diana Martuscelli (CESAJ-PM-M), 701 San Marco Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32207. Mail postmarked by February 29, 2016, will be accepted.



YOUR OPINION MATTERS

The Corps encourages you to comment on the Proposed Plan during the public comment period. Please submit your comments no later than 5:00 pm on February 29, 2016, by calling (toll free) 866.279.4880, by emailing FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil or by mailing your comments to US Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Diana Martuscelli (CESAJ-PM-M), 701 San Marco Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32207. Mail postmarked by February 29, 2016, will be accepted. Public comments received during this period will be considered in the decision-making process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit:

Project documents can be viewed at:
[Green Cove Springs Library](#)
403 Ferris Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043
Telephone: 904.284.6315

Contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
Toll-Free 866.279.4880
FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil
www.saj.usace.army.mil



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