



Fort Brooke Castillo San Felipe del Morro (El Morro) Community Relations Plan

Property Number: I02PR0983



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207-0019

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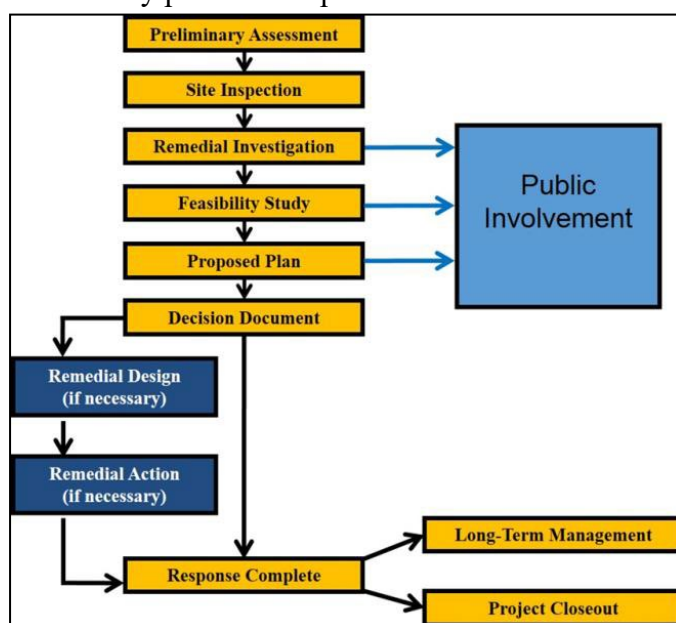
1.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN AND FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES PROGRAM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) developed this Community Relations Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community living or working within or near the Fort Brooke Formerly Used Defense Site and USACE and to encourage community involvement in the environmental restoration process. 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. Jacksonville District will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this plan.

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 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 Department of Defense is the lead agency for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, and the U.S. Army serves as the lead agent for the Department of Defense. USACE executes the program on behalf of the Army and follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).

The CERCLA process has three major phases: inventory, study, and removal/remediation. The inventory phase includes searching real estate records to verify previous Department of Defense use or ownership. A Preliminary Assessment is made to determine the site eligibility, severity of potential environmental problems and need for cleanup. If there is no contamination, no action is needed. The study phase consists of several investigations including a Site Inspection, Remedial Investigation, and Feasibility Study. A Site Inspection is used to confirm the presence or absence of contamination. The purpose of a Remedial Investigation is to determine what type of contamination may be present as a result of the military's use and where it is located. This is known as characterizing the nature and extent of contamination. The evaluation of the appropriate response is documented in the Feasibility Study, and the selection of the preferred alternative is part of this phase. The removal/remediation



phase consists of the engineering design and the necessary action to clean up the site. If there is an imminent threat to people or the environment, USACE can request approval to step out of the federally mandated process to conduct a Time Critical Removal Action, if approved. Once that work is completed, USACE would step back into the usual process to complete the necessary phases.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

2.1 PROPERTY HISTORY

The Fort Brooke Military Reservation is located in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The U.S. Government first obtained the land for Fort Brooke Military Reservation from the Spanish via the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898, following the Spanish-American War. An Executive Order reserved the 98.83-acre area consisting of El Morro and San Cristóbal Fortresses and associated works and improvements for military purposes on June 30, 1903. Additional property acquisitions between 1906 and 1951 brought the total site acreage to 115.62 (Figure 1). Extensive housing and support buildings were constructed on-site following U.S. acquisition through World War II. Between 1941 and 1978, the land was determined to be surplus and was turned over to the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Coast Guard as park facilities, public buildings, governmental offices, and for Coast Guard purposes. The Formerly Used Defense Site is currently owned by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (managed as the San Juan National Historic Site), Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Coast Guard for administrative and park facilities.

USACE divided Fort Brooke Military Reservation into five distinct project areas based on how the military trained there. Please see Table 1 for a list of the projects and Figure 2 for a map of the areas. The only non-munitions project at the former Fort Brooke Military Reservation is Project 01 where a storage tank was removed from the site.

Table 1: List of Fort Brooke Military Reservation Projects

Project Number	Project Name	Project Type	Phase
01	Tank Inside Fort	Debris Removal	Completed 1997
02	El Morro Burial Area and Firing Points	Munitions	Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study
03	San Cristóbal Burial Area and Firing Points	Munitions	Site Inspection
04	Artillery Range Complex - Water	Munitions	Site Inspection
05	Remaining Waters	Munitions	Project Approved April 2023



Figure 1: Map Showing Location of Former Fort Brooke Military Reservation

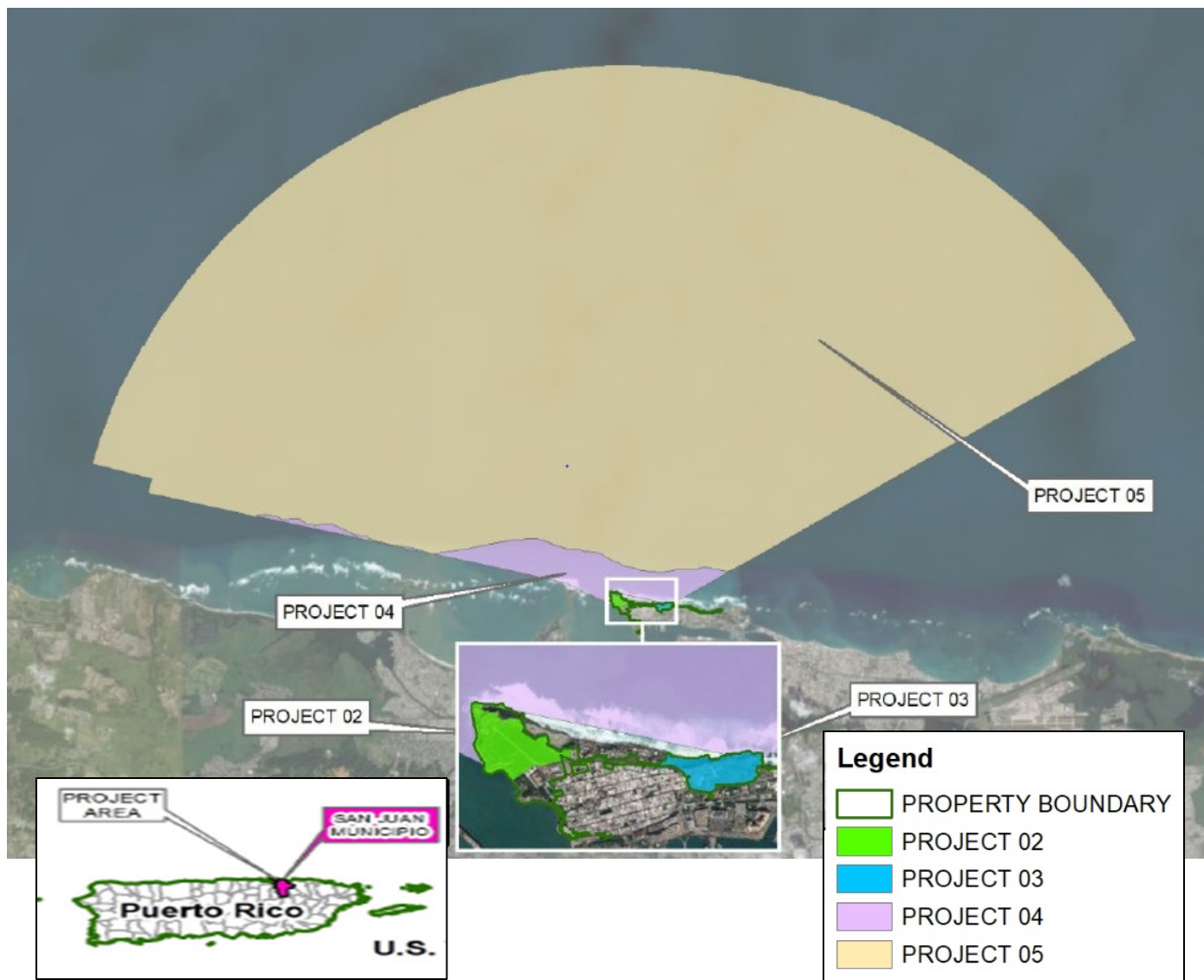


Figure 2: Map Showing Former Fort Brooke Military Reservation Project Areas

2.1.1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Involvement

USACE declared Fort Brooke eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program in 1993. Since then, USACE has completed a number of site visits and inspections to determine if anything remains from the military's training.

USACE is now conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study in the Project 02 location (see Table 1 and Figure 2). The purpose of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is to determine what military-related materials may be present, in what amounts and in what location(s). This is known as characterizing the nature and extent of potential contamination.

2.1.2 Community Reaction

There has been limited interest in the Fort Brooke Military Reservation Formerly Used Defense Site, but USACE will conduct public involvement activities throughout the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and will continue to monitor the community's interest to address any concerns as they arise, in accordance with CERCLA and the NCP. There may be apprehension that the remediation process could damage cultural resources and endangered and threatened species and their habitat.

2.2 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The Fort Brooke Military Reservation (Fort Brooke) is located in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Fort Brooke consists of the Spanish-built El Morro and San Cristobel fortifications. Fort Brooke is situated across the northwestern-most tip and northern portions of the San Juan Antiguo barrio.

The Fort Brooke Formerly Used Defense Site property consists of both historic fortifications and the overlapping firing point safety fans that extend over the Atlantic Ocean. Three separate Munitions Response Sites (Projects 02,03, and 04) were created to address munitions-related concerns on the property; Project 05 is anticipated to be approved in the future and is included herein for situational awareness (Figure 2).

2.3 PREVIOUS PROPERTY INSPECTIONS AND CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

2.3.1 Known or Suspected Contamination

Based on the known historical use of the property and previous investigations, the primary concern is related to munitions. The following section summarizes the specific concerns for each location.

Project 01 Tank Inside Fort (Non-Munitions)

Project 01 consisted of one large storage tank, approximately 1,000 gallon capacity, located under the flooring of the former kitchen area within the San Cristóbal fortress portion of the former Fort Brooke, U.S. Army installation. A Removal Design was completed in 1994 and the Removal Action was completed 1997.

Project 02 El Morro Burial Area and Firing Points

The 44-acre project consists of the Santa Elena Bastion, Santa Barbara Battery and the El Morro Burial Area of Interest. This area was a part of Fort Brooke used by the U.S. Army as a coastal artillery site and base from 1903 to 1945. In 1945, artillery was removed from Fort Brooke and in 1949, the San Juan National Historic Site was established at Fort Brooke. By 1958 the Army had moved out of Fort Brooke. By 1978 the entire former base had been transferred to the

Department of the Interior (National Park Service), the Coast Guard, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The project is located at the San Juan National Historic Site operated by the U.S. Park Service in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The grounds are used for sight-seeing and other events by approximately one million visitors each year.

Project 03 San Cristóbal Burial Area and Firing Points

This 30-acre project consists of the La Princesa Battery and San Cristóbal burial area. This area was a part of Fort Brooke used by the U.S. Army as a coastal artillery location and base from 1903 to 1945. In 1945 artillery was removed from Fort Brooke and in 1949, the San Juan National Historic Site was established at Fort Brooke. By 1958 the Army had moved out of Fort Brooke. By 1978 the entire former base had been transferred to the Department of the Interior (National Park Service), Coast Guard and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The project is located at the San Juan National Historic Site operated by the U.S. Park Service in San Juan Puerto Rico. A portion of the grounds are used for sight-seeing and other events by approximately one million visitors each year.

Project 04 Artillery Range Complex - Water

The 1,961-acre Artillery Range Complex-Water project extends over the Atlantic Ocean and consists of the overlapping firing range fans associated with the La Princesa Battery, Santa Elena Bastion and Santa Barbara Battery. From 1898-1903, Spain controlled the El Morro Firing Points and from 1903-1945, the U.S. used the former Fort Brooke as an artillery position and base. Potential munitions that may remain in the water are Spanish munitions and large caliber U.S. shells. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico claims offshore jurisdiction to 12 miles.

Project 05 Remaining Waters

The 84,068-acre Remaining Waters project extends over the Atlantic Ocean and consists of the overlapping firing range fans associated with the La Princesa Battery, Santa Elena Bastion and Santa Barbara Battery. Project 05 is the portion of the water ranges that is deeper than 120 feet.

2.3.2 Nature of Threat

Munitions, munitions constituents (the metals and explosives that comprise munitions), and potential chemical contaminants related to debris could pose a risk to people and the environment.

2.3.3 History of Inspections and Studies Conducted at the Site

Inventory Project Report (1993)/Revised Inventory Project Report (1999)

The 1993 Inventory Project Report and 1999 revised Inventory Project Report confirmed the location and historical use of the site and determined that the site was eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program. The Inventory Project Report included documentation of a site visit and acknowledged the presence of buried ordnance. The Inventory Project Report stated that removal of one above ground storage tank and two underground storage tanks had been previously completed (Project 01).

Archeological Ground-Penetrating Radar at San Juan National Historic Site: Overview and Executive Summary (2001)

The Archeological Ground-Penetrating Radar at San Juan National Historic Site: Overview and Executive Summary was completed in 2001 and was prepared for the Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service. Ground-penetrating radar surveys were conducted to assess buried archeological features at numerous locations in and around El Morro and San Cristóbal fortresses in March and April 2001. The results of these surveys suggest several locations containing archeological features including buildings, trenches, tunnels, and gun embrasures. Munitions were not discussed in this report.

Archives Search Report (2003)

USACE completed the Archives Search Report in 2003 after visiting the Fort Brooke Military Reservation and reviewing available records, photographs, and reports that documented the history of the site. During the site visit, the team identified munitions within El Morro and at a former pump house located near the former parade grounds. The team did not observe munitions during their inspection of San Cristóbal or other areas of the Formerly Used Defense Site.

Archives Search Report Supplement (2004)

The 2004 Archives Search Report Supplement identified one Munitions Response Site: the 86,991-acre Range Complex Number 1 (15.7 land acres and 86,975.3 tidal water acres), consisting of three overlapping sub-ranges, the Santa Elena Bastion, the Santa Barbara Battery, and the La Princesa Battery. The risk assessment prepared as part of the Supplement noted that artillery rounds have been found at the El Morro site. The majority of the rounds are in the historical magazine room behind a locked gate; however, erosion has revealed an unknown quantity of buried rounds in the San Antonio Battery areas of El Morro.

Munitions Site Inspection 2010

A Site Inspection was completed in 2010. Munitions or munitions debris was observed at the burial area near the San Antonio Bastion, at a location on the parade grounds adjacent to the cemetery, and within two locked storage areas within the boundaries of the Fort Brooke Military Reservation. Therefore, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was recommended for Munitions Response Site 1 - Range Complex Number 1.

Military Munitions Response Area Realignment (2014)

At the time the Site Inspection was conducted, only one Munitions Response Area was associated with the Fort Brooke Military Reservation, Range Complex No. 1 (Project 02). The complex was comprised of several gun bastions and batteries at both Fort Morro and Fort San Cristóbal. During the 2014 Realignment, Project 02 was revised and renamed El Morro Burial Area and Firing Points. Based on recommendations in the Site Inspection Report, the land and water portions of Range Complex No. 1 were split. The land portion was further separated into the El Morro Burial Area and Firing Points (Project 02) and San Cristóbal Burial Area & Firing Point (Project 03). Project 04 was added to address the water portion of the firing point range fans. Project 05 is the portion of the water ranges that is deeper than 120 feet and was approved in April 2023.

2.3.4 Current Investigations

A contract has been awarded to conduct a Remedial Investigation of Project 02, El Morro Burial Area and Firing Points. Project 02 is completely on land. The purpose of the remedial investigation is to complete geophysical mapping of the site and all coordination in order to complete the study phase of the CERCLA process.

Once the geophysical mapping is completed for Project 02 and a Site Specific Final Report is finalized, USACE will award a follow on contract to complete the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study (if necessary), the Proposed Plan, and a Record of Decision. The Proposed Plan presents alternatives to address the findings and recommendations in the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Report, and it will identify USACE's preferred alternative. When the Proposed Plan is ready, USACE will send a letter to all post office box holders in the project vicinity along with a fact sheet that will summarize the Proposed Plan and invite the community to a public meeting. The public will then have at least 30 days to comment on the Proposed Plan and preferred alternatives.

2.3.5 Lead Agency

The Army is the lead agency for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, and USACE, on behalf of the Army and the Department of Defense, is the executing agent for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, which is responsible for environmental restoration of all properties that were formerly owned, leased, or otherwise possessed by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense. USACE is responsible for investigating, reporting, and implementing remedial actions at the Former Fort Brooke Military Reservation.

The Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources is the lead regulatory agency for this project. USACE is also coordinating with other appropriate stakeholders such as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Governor's Office, the municipality of San Juan Mayor's Office, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Agency, and other related agencies.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Fort Brooke Military Reservation is within Census Tract 9802 (El Morro). Census data is also provided in Table 2 for the areas surrounding the Formerly Used Defense Site, including Census Tract 4 (La Perla) and Census Tract 5.06 (area between El Morro and San Cristóbal), Spanish is the primary language; therefore, all meetings and materials will be bi-lingual.

3.2 HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Thus far, there has been limited community interest in USACE's projects associated with the former Fort Brooke Military Reservation. USACE will continue to inform the community of site activities and will respond to any concerns as they arise, in accordance with CERCLA and the NCP.

Table 2: Census Data for Fort Brooke Military Reservation Formerly Used Defense Site

Subject	La Perla (Census Tract 4)		Between El Morro and San Cristóbal (Census Tract 5.06)		El Morro (Census Tract 9802)	San Juan Municipio		Puerto Rico		United States	
			#	%		#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Population	1,393		2,190		0	344,791		3,311,274		329,725,481	
White	775	55.6	1,496	68.3	0	165,403	48.0	1,693,651	51.1	224,789,109	68.2
Black or African American	154	11.1	108	4.9	0	42,690	12.4	329,651	10.0	41,393,012	12.6
Median Age (Years)	49.9		53.6		0	44.4		43.1		38.4	
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	343	48.2	443	45.2	0	77,672	54.4	814,154	68.0	80,152,161	64.6
Population over Age 25 without High School Diploma	184	17.0	154	8.3	0	41,685	16.5	519,160	21.7	25,050,356	11.1
Language Spoken at Home											
English only	232	17.1	400	19.0	0	22,584	6.8	164,117	5.1	243,098,950	78.3
Spanish	1,122	82.9	1,650	78.4	0	307,172	92.7	3,019,785	94.7	41,157,140	13.3
Mean Household income (Dollars)	40,181		100,157		0	45,468		34,391		97,196	
% Below Poverty Line											
All families		51.1		5.0	0		36.7		39.2		8.9
With related Children under 18		66.2		0.0	0		54.2		52.2		13.9
No Vehicles Available	306	43.0	482	49.2	0	33,222	23.3	175,572	14.7	10,349,174	8.3
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates											

3.3 KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The key community concerns can be generally divided into two areas: risk to people and the environment from munitions, and potential damage to the environment from the restoration process. While USACE plans to make every effort to protect the cultural resources that exist and critical habitats that flourish within the project site, there remains a concern that the process of looking for munitions, and destroying any that are located, could damage cultural artifacts and threatened or endangered species or their habitat.

Community concerns can be identified to USACE through the planned establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board, Systematic Project Planning meetings, public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and local interviews.

3.4 RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

In accordance with 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 202.2, the Defense Environmental Restoration Program Manual, and Engineer Pamphlet 200-3-1, USACE will solicit the public's desire to establish a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). A RAB is made up of interested residents as well as non-voting members from regulatory and resource agencies such as the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other related agencies. This will provide a means for USACE to gather input from the community for USACE's remedy selection decision and for the community to learn more about the environmental restoration activities from community members familiar with the process. The Restoration Advisory Board, if established, is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests of the local area, enabling the two-way flow of information, concerns and values between the community and USACE.

USACE's Project Manager for the former Fort Brooke Military Reservation has initiated the communications process and is working closely with the regulators, and resource agencies to move the projects forward as expeditiously as possible. USACE will host community meetings, mail project updates to all post office box holders within the vicinity of the project and will provide timely information through social media to the community.

3.5 SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION NEEDS

USACE will continue to provide updates to the community through U.S. mail and electronic messages to ensure that all the residents are informed about the process, completed studies, and new work. Periodic community meetings are planned to allow the public an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the work. It is also important to schedule time to talk with local residents outside of formal meetings to hear directly from them about their concerns. USACE will share the information it has in a timely manner and post the documents on the Internet as well as in an Administrative Record file in a location near the Fort Brooke Military Reservation site, in accordance with 40 CFR 300.800 to 300.825.

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

The overall goal of USACE's public involvement program is to promote two-way communication between the impacted community and USACE and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the cleanup process. USACE is implementing the community involvement activities described below.

4.1 THE PLAN

Issue 1: Keeping the Public Informed

Activity 1A: Designate a USACE Public Involvement Coordinator

- Objective: To provide a primary liaison between the community and 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. The public affairs specialist will work closely with the USACE's project manager.
- Timing: A public affairs specialist dedicated to the Fort Brooke Formerly Used Defense Site was designated at the initiation of the first Remedial Investigation.

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

- Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand information about the Fort Brooke Military Reservation Formerly Used Defense Site
- Method: Bi-lingual (Spanish/English) materials will be mailed to nearby residents and businesses of the former Fort Brooke Military Reservation. Additionally, USACE will maintain a mailing for those San Juan residents and businesses who have requested updates.
- Timing: Fact sheets, letters, and/or other materials will be mailed periodically (approximately quarterly) until all remediation work is complete.

Activity 1C: 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 toll free telephone line is currently operational (800.710.5184).

Activity 1D: Maintain an Email Distribution List for the Site

- Objective: To facilitate the distribution of site-specific information to those who wish to receive electronic mail (in addition to U.S. mail) to be kept informed about the site.
- Method: USACE will create an email distribution list that includes all those who request to receive information electronically.
- Timing: USACE has compiled an email distribution 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 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. USACE will work with a local contact to find a suitable location (known as an Information Repository) to house the Administrative Record. USACE will provide at least two sets of the Administrative Record file for the site, one at USACE's office and one in the local Information Repository near the site.
- Timing: An Administrative Record will be opened for each project when the Remedial Investigation begins, and it will remain open until the Record of Decision for that project is signed. Additionally, electronic versions of all the project documents are available at the community library and on USACE's website (<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/FortBrooke/>).

Activity 1F: Provide Project Information on the Internet

- Objective: To provide site and project information as well as information about the Formerly Used Defense Sites program.
- Method: Site information can be found at <https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/FortBrooke/>.
- Timing: Project documents are posted to the Jacksonville District's website as they become available to the public.

Activity 1G: Provide Project Information to Local Media

- Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand information about the Fort Brooke Military Reservation Formerly Used Defense Site.
- Method: Project information will be provided to local electronic bulletin boards as the work progresses and prior to community or Restoration Advisory Board meetings.
- Timing: USACE will prepare and distribute press releases, newspaper articles, and meeting notices, as necessary.

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 each phase of work. USACE will schedule, prepare for, and attend all announced meetings and will provide at least a two-week notice of the scheduled meeting. Meetings will be conducted in English and/or Spanish.

- Timing: Meetings or workshops may be hosted as the work progresses to explain the current and/or planned work. Additional meetings 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: 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 USACE Project Manager will serve as co-chair along with a representative elected from among the community representatives on the board.
- Timing: USACE will assess community interest in the establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board prior to initiation of the remedial investigation field work.

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: Periodic visits will be made as necessary throughout the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study phase.

Activity 2D: Solicit Comments during a Public Comment Period

- Objective: To provide an opportunity to review and comment on various USACE documents, especially the Proposed Plan.
- Method: USACE will announce each comment period separately, if necessary. Announcements will appear in local newspapers, electronic bulletin board, posters, and letters to box holders. Information on the duration, how, and where to submit comments will be included.
- 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 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 Record of Decision. 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: The Responsiveness Summary is part of the Record of Decision which will be prepared following the public comment period on the Proposed Plan.

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.
- Method: The revised plan will update the previous version.
- Timing: USACE 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

Activity	Time Frame
Designate a 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 an e-mail distribution list	Ongoing
Establish and maintain information repositories/administrative record file	Ongoing
Provide project information on the Internet	Ongoing
Conduct special events	As needed
Hold public meetings	When Proposed Plan is available and as needed throughout phase
Solicit interest in a Restoration Advisory Board	Every two years
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

APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY SURVEY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting environmental investigations at the former Fort Brooke Military Reservation, San Juan, Puerto Rico. 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 Fort Brooke Formerly Used Defense Site? If yes, how long?
2. Are you familiar with how the military used the area?
3. Have you ever found anything that the military may have left, such as pieces of munitions, projectiles, or shell casings?
4. Do you have any concerns about the military's use of the former Fort Brooke Military Reservation and/or USACE's environmental investigations?
5. Do you use the Internet?
6. Would you come to meetings to hear about our investigations? 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)?
7. Would you like to be on a mailing list to learn more about our work? (If so, please provide an email or mailing address.)
8. Would you be interested in participating in a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)? A RAB is a panel of community members that are kept apprised of investigation or clean-up activities and members are involved in decision making with respect to future projects at Fort Brooke.
8. How would you suggest we notify people about our work and/or meetings (i.e. radio, television, newspapers, website)? Which one(s)?
9. Are there local religious/civic/service organizations that you rely on to receive information?

On behalf of the U.S. 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District at 1-800-710-5184.

APPENDIX B: MEDIA CONTACTS

Newspapers

The San Juan Daily Star

Post Office Box 6537

Caguas, PR 00726

Contact: TBD

E-mail: staredictos@thesanjuandailystar.com

Telephone: 787-743-3346; 787-743-6537

El Nuevo Dia

50 Carr 165 #1

Guyanabo, PR 00968

Contact: TBD

E-mail: club@elnuevodia.com

Telephone: 787-641-8000

El Vocero

1064 Ave. Juan Ponce de León

San Juan, PR 00901

Contact: TBD

E-mail: redaccion@vocero.com

Telephone: 787-622-2300

Online Magazines/Bulletin Boards

Primera Hora

A-16 Cll Génova

Guaynabo, PR 00966

Telephone: 787-641-8000

Radio

WBQN 680 AM

1210 Calle 3

San Juan, PR 00926

Telephone: 787-759-9122

WIAC 740 AM

Post Office Box 9023916

San Juan, PR 00902

Telephone: 787-620-9898

WIPR 940 AM

Post Office Box 190909

San Juan, PR 00919

Telephone: 787-766-0505

APPENDIX C: POTENTIAL MEETING LOCATIONS

National Park Service Main Office

Castillo San Cristóbal
501 Calle Norzagaray
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

Biblioteca Carnegie

7 Avenue de la Constitución
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

San Juan City Hall

153 Calle de San Francisco
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TOOLS

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Fort Brooke Castillo San Felipe del Morro (El Morro)

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY



JULY 2023

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM-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 improving public safety by cleaning up these sites if hazards from the former military operations remain. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program-Formerly Used Defense Sites was established to evaluate and, if necessary, to remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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 us 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. We partner with stakeholders throughout the process, including congressional representatives, state and local governments, regulatory and environmental agencies, and affected property owners.

BACKGROUND

President Roosevelt established a military reservation in San Juan in 1903 that included three Spanish forts: Castillo San Cristóbal, Castillo San Felipe del Morro (also known as El Morro), and Fortín San Juan de la Cruz. Originally known as the San Juan Military Reservation and renamed Fort Brooke in 1943, this area served important roles in the Spanish American War, World War I, and World War II. Over the years, the military acquired more land bringing the reservation to 115.62 acres. The Army constructed buildings, upgraded the infrastructure, and added gun emplacements and bunkers. In 1949, the Army began transitioning portions of Fort Brooke to the Department of Interior. By 1978, the military had transferred all of the former military property to other entities including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Coast Guard. The Department of Interior retained the historic forts of El Morro and San Cristóbal and removed many of the World War I and II improvements. The National Park Service continues to operate and maintain the San Juan National Historic Site, and in 1983, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated it as a protected World Heritage Site.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

Over the years, USACE has conducted several site visits and a number of investigations of the Fort Brooke Formerly Used Defense Site, and USACE divided the area into projects to address El Morro, San Cristóbal, and the artillery range water areas. Teams have recovered munitions within the 42-acre El Morro project area, and the National Park Service has indicated munitions may be present within the 28-acre San Cristóbal project area. We have been coordinating with the National Park Service for many years to be able to assess the potential presence of

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Fort Brooke Castillo San Felipe del Morro (El Morro)

munitions while protecting these significant historic forts. We anticipate beginning a Remedial Investigation in 2023 of the El Morro project area. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation is to determine what may remain from the military's activities, and if so, in what amounts and locations. We will complete the fieldwork in phases starting with digital metal detection. Additional phases may include digging up selected metallic objects to identify them and collecting environmental samples to test for the metals and explosive compounds that comprise munitions. USACE is coordinating with park staff, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and other commonwealth and federal agencies to protect the environment and historic/archeological features.

Once the fieldwork is complete, we will analyze the data, draft a report, and make recommendations. We will summarize the results in a document called a Proposed Plan which will present the alternatives for addressing potential risks. Alternatives can range from no further action being necessary, educating the public about the site, or conducting a removal action to remove any remaining munitions. When the Proposed Plan is ready, USACE 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

If you are on a Formerly Used Defense Site, do not pick up anything that you did not put on the ground. Because of previous military training, munitions may potentially be present. 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 of explosive safety.



RECOGNIZE - The object you found could be dangerous.
RETREAT - Leave the area without touching or moving the object.
REPORT - Call 911 immediately.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
Call: Toll-Free 800.710.5184
FUDS.PuertoRico@usace.army.mil
www.saj.usace.army.mil/FortBrooke



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US Army Corps
of Engineers

Fort Brooke Castillo San Felipe del Morro (El Morro) Sitios Anteriormente Utilizados por la Defensa



US Army Corps
of Engineers

El Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de los EE. UU. (USACE, por sus siglas en inglés) está llevando a cabo una Investigación de Remediación en un área de 42 acres (43.2 cuerdas) conocida como el Sitios Anteriormente Utilizados por la Defensa de El Morro. El gobierno de los Estados Unidos estableció una reserva militar en 1903 que comprendía tres antiguos fuertes españoles, y la reserva militar desempeñó funciones importantes durante la Primera y la Segunda Guerra Mundial. El Servicio de Parques Nacionales ahora posee y mantiene la propiedad como parte del Sitio Histórico Nacional de San Juan. Este aviso es para hacerle saber:

- ▶ Estamos realizando una Investigación Remediadora para buscar municiones asociadas con el entrenamiento militar.
- ▶ Los documentos del proyecto que se utilizan para determinar la acción de respuesta apropiada (conocidos como Registro Administrativo) están disponibles en el sitio web del proyecto (www.saj.usace.army.mil/FortBrooke).
- ▶ Estamos evaluando el interés en una Junta Asesora de Restauración (RAB, por sus siglas en inglés).

Es importante que el público participe en el proceso de remediación, por lo que estamos considerando establecer un RAB. Estas juntas incluyen personas de la comunidad y del gobierno. Revisan y comentan en planes y documentos técnicos relacionados con estudios ambientales y actividades de restauración. Los miembros sirven como enlaces voluntarios entre la comunidad y USACE y no reciben compensación.

Para obtener más información, para expresar interés en servir o para comentar sobre el Archivo de registro administrativo, envíe un correo electrónico a FUDS.PuertoRico@usace.army.mil, llame al 800.710.5184, o envíe un correo electrónico a USACE, ATTN: Alberto Alvarado (CESAJ-PM-ME), 701 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207. Presente el interés del RAB antes del 25 de agosto de 2023.



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Fort Brooke Castillo San Felipe del Morro (El Morro) Formerly Used Defense Site



US Army Corps
of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting a Remedial Investigation on a 42 acre area known as the El Morro Formerly Used Defense Site. The United States government established a military reservation in 1903 that comprised three former Spanish forts, and the military reservation served important roles during World War I and II. The National Parks Service now owns and maintains the property as part of the San Juan National Historic Site. This notice is to let you know:

- ▶ We are conducting a Remedial Investigation to search for munitions associated with the military's training.
- ▶ Project documents that are used to determine the appropriate response action (known as the Administrative Record) are available on the project website (www.saj.usace.army.mil/FortBrooke).
- ▶ We are evaluating interest in a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

It is important for the public to participate in the remedial process, so we are considering establishing a RAB. 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 USACE and receive no compensation.

For more information, to express interest in serving, or to comment on the Administrative Record File, please email FUDS.PuertoRico@usace.army.mil, call 800.710.5184, or mail USACE, ATTN: Alberto Alvarado (CESAJ-PM-ME), 701 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207. Please submit RAB interest by August 25, 2023.

APPENDIX E: STAKEHOLDERS LIST

Organization	Name	Telephone
US Army Corps of Engineers 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175	Mr. Alberto Alvarado FUDS Project Manager E-mail: Alberto.O.Alvarado@usace.army.mil	904-232-1238
US Army Corps of Engineers 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175	Ms. Peggy Bebb Public Affairs Officer E-mail: Peggy.S.Bebb@usace.army.mil	904-232-1106
US Army Engineering and Support Center 5021 Bradford Drive Huntsville, AL 35805	Ms. Teresa Carpenter Contracting Officer's Representative E-mail: Teresa.M.Carpenter@usace.army.mil	256-808-6031
US Army Engineering and Support Center 5021 Bradford Drive Huntsville, AL 35805	Ms. Kelly Longberg Technical Manager E-mail: Kelly.D.Longberg@usace.army.mil	256-541-0907
US Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville 5021 Bradford Drive Huntsville, AL 35805	Ms. Kelly D. Enriquez Geophysicist E-mail: Kelly.D.Enriquez@usace.army.mil	256-895-1373
National Park Service 501 Norzagaray Street San Juan, PR 00901	Mr. Felix Lopez Cultural Resources Program Manager Email: felix.j.lopez@nps.gov	787-729-6777 x267
PR Department Natural and Environmental Resources Emergencies Response Area PO Box 11488 San Juan, PR 00910	Mr. Juan J. Babá-Peebles Federal Facilities Coordinator E-mail: JuanBaba@drna.pr.gov	787-999-2200 x5902
Office of the Governor of Puerto Rico PO Box 9020082 San Juan, PR 00902-0082	Ms. Carmen Salgado Rodriguez Administrator E-mail: csaldado@fortaleza.pr.gov	787-721-7000 x/3180
State Historic Preservation Office PO Box 9023935 San Juan, PR 00902-3935	Mr. Miguel Bonini Archaeologist Email: mbonini@prshpo.pr.gov	787-721-3737 x/2005
Institute of Puerto Rican Culture PO Box 9024184 San Juan, PR 00902-4184	Mr. José Silvestre Lugo Architect jsilvestre@icp.pr.gov	787-724-0700 x/1302
US Fish and Wildlife Service Caribbean Ecological Services P.O. Box 491 Boquerón, PR 00622	Mr. Felix Lopez Alternate Regional Emergency Coordinator E-mail: felix.lopez@fws.gov	786-244-0081
National Ocean Services National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Response & Restoration	Ms. Diane N. Evers Northeast Region Branch Chief E-mail: Diane.Evers@noaa.gov	240-338-3411
Municipality of San Juan PO Box 4355 San Juan, PR 00901	Ingrid Torres Mayor's Office E-mail: intorres@sanjuan.pr	787-724-7171