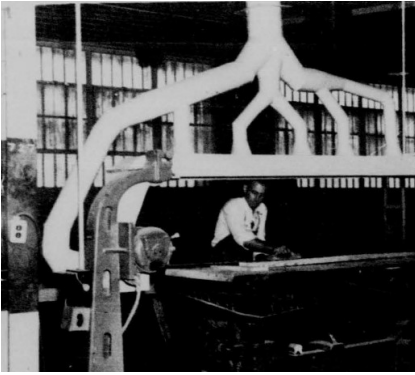


SITE SUMMARY



SEPTEMBER 2020

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 (FUDS) can range from privately-owned farms to National Parks. They also include residential, industrial, and educational properties. We are committed to protecting people and the environment and improving public safety by cleaning up these properties. The Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites was established to evaluate and, if necessary, to remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) manages the program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 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 dictates 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.

SUMMARY

The former Brookley Air Force Base (AFB) consists of 3,156 acres in Mobile, Alabama. The site was in use between March 1940 and July 1955 as a repair, salvage, and fitting center for military aircraft and also shipped Army Air Forces equipment overseas. From 1955 to 1969, it was then used as a general support and supply base. Brookley AFB was also used to test small arms such as pistols, rifles, and machine guns up until the 1960s. The base also stored munitions and chemical warfare training materials such as bullets, incendiaries, tear gas, and decontamination supplies. Beginning in 1946, leases, permits, easements, and licenses were terminated on areas of the property. By 1969, the base was sold off in various portions to the city of Mobile and to the University of South Alabama, with portions eventually coming under the ownership of the Mobile Airport Authority. The Corps is concerned about potential hazards resulting from the military's use of the former Brookley AFB. Various clean-up activities have occurred since the mid 1980s; however, a few areas that still need to be investigated or remediated are:

Project 10 (Trap and Skeet Ranges): This project consists of several skeet ranges: Central Single Skeet Range, Central Double Skeet Range, and South Skeet and Trap Ranges, where firing was conducted towards the Mobile Bay. Clay pigeon debris was found during the Site Inspection in



FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES | Brookley Air Force Base

2018; however, no munitions debris (shell casings) were found at any of the ranges. During the 2018 Site Investigation, soil samples within this project area identified the presence of arsenic, lead, and a group of chemicals called PAHs above ambient background concentrations. The next step is to complete a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, which is currently scheduled to begin in 2023.

Project 11 (Small Arms Ranges): This project consists of a Firing-in-Butt, 200-yard Rifle Range, Submachine Gun Range, Central Pistol Range, and South Pistol Range where firing was conducted towards the Mobile Bay. During a 2013 site visit, the location of previous shooting ranges were identified; however, no evidence of small arms debris was found. Samples from the 2018 Site Investigation determined that lead and zinc exist above ambient background concentrations in surface soil. The next step is to complete a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, which is currently scheduled to begin in 2023.

Project 12 (Refuse Oil Burn Pits): This project, which is located in Doyle Park—a public park and recreation area just south of the northwest-southeast runway—was used to burn waste oil, fuel, and solvents during fire training exercises. In 2007, the Corps removed approximately 4,581 cubic yards of contaminated soil and replaced it with clean soils. In 2019, a Decision Document was approved with a selected remedy to address groundwater contamination. In 2020, the Corps awarded a contract for digging up and removing more contaminated soil, which will be followed by chemical reduction agent injections to tackle groundwater contamination.

Project 13 (Site 27): This project area, which is located on the north side of Taxiway H, east of 9th Street, was used as an aircraft fuel purging area and also featured two 600-foot pipelines, one of 2.5-inch diameter and one of 4-inch diameter. In April 1999 (conducted originally under a separate project number), the pipelines were flushed of all remaining materials and abandoned in place. The Remedial Investigation completed in 2020 identified fuel and solvent contaminants in groundwater that pose a risk if the groundwater is consumed or if the vapors are inhaled. A contract has been awarded to complete the process that will select a remedy for the project area, based on the information from the completed investigation.



For More Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Savannah District
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, GA 31401

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

