

Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area
Formerly Used Defense Sites Eligibility Signed

On August 24, 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed the Findings and Determination of Eligibility making the Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program.

In October 2018, the Corps began re-evaluating a portion of the property now known as the South Patrick Shores Subdivision to determine if the military acquired or used any part of the area. Research teams visited numerous National Archives facilities in three states, and teams were able to locate various letters and memoranda not previously available. Recently located records (not available during the investigation conducted in 1991) indicate that during the construction of the base, the Navy began using an area south of the base for disposal activities. As the Navy prepared to deactivate the base, teams from the public works department sought to restore the disposal area to the property owner's satisfaction. They burned all of the trash and other debris and buried what remained. In 1948, the property owner indicated he was satisfied with the restoration process.

These recently identified historical records indicate that while the Navy did not own the property, the Navy did "otherwise possess" it which makes the Off-Base Disposal Area eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites program. Analysis of aerial photographs taken between 1943 and 1953 indicates the apparent maximum extent of the disposal area, based on ground disturbances, is approximately 32 acres.

While the property is eligible, the Corps does not yet have an approved project. The Corps will complete a Preliminary Assessment which will review site history and the Navy's use of the land and evaluate if further investigations are warranted. If so, the Corps will request approval for a project. Subject to project approval and funding, the Corps will initiate a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

We will be meeting with community and other interested parties throughout the process and will post documents and other materials on the Corps' website as they become available. For more information, please see the attached Site Summary fact sheet, call 800.710.5184, email FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil, or visit www.saj.usace.army.mil/BananaRiver.