

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)**

**PROJECT FACT SHEET**

**25 SEPTEMBER 1995**

**TAG REVIEW DATE: 29 MAY 1997**

**1. SITE NAME:** Camp Gordon Johnston

**SITE NUMBER:** I04FL011000

**LOCATION:**

City: Carrabelle

County: Franklin

State: Florida

**PROJECT NUMBER:** I04FL011004

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 1

**ASR RAC:** 1

**TAG RAC:** 1

**2. POC's:**

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### 3. SITE DESCRIPTION:

This site is located in rural Florida about 50 miles southwest of Tallahassee surrounding the city of Carrabelle. The southern and eastern borders are shoreline on the Gulf Of Mexico. Most of the 160,000 acres are uninhabited rural timberland, there are some developed regions along the coastline. The residential areas are primarily Lanark Village and Alligator Point, but there is housing all along the coast. There are several paved highways throughout the site, but with the timberland there are mostly sandy trails. The site is flat with a few small hills. The region is mostly sandy forest, with some rivers, marshes, and swamps.

### 4. SITE HISTORY:

The property was selected in April of 1942, and the first soldiers arrived in September. It was originally named Camp Carrabelle, but was renamed Camp Gordon Johnston in early 1943. The camp was initially used to train three Army infantry divisions in amphibious operations, but this mission ended in late 1943. The camp was then used for basic training and training for boat crews and amphibian truck operators. In addition, the Army Air Force used Alligator Point as a gunnery range for fighter aircraft from Dale Mabry Field in Tallahassee. The entire camp was transferred back to private ownership after the war, except for a 32-acre parcel south of Carrabelle which was re-acquired and is still used by an Air Force radar site at Camp Belle.

### 5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Area A:                Bazooka Range

Size, Acres:            105  
Former Usage:        Bazooka range, practice and HE  
Present Usage:        Timberland(includes a small freshwater pond)  
Probable End Usage: Timberland  
Ordnance Presence:    Confirmed  
Types:                 SI team found several fired 2.36" rockets

Area B:                Grenade Court

Size, Acres:            98  
Former Usage:        Grenade court  
Present Usage:        Timberland, Asphalt  
Probable End Usage: Timberland, Asphalt  
Ordnance Presence:    Potential  
Types:                 SI team found frag from HE grenades;  
owner reported finding expended practice  
grenades around the asphalt

Area C: Barracks and Dump

Size, Acres: 1  
Former Usage: Barracks and dump  
Present Usage: Residential  
Probable End Usage: Residential  
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed  
Types: One practice rocket in a backyard and  
one practice land mine places in middle

road

of

Area D: Boat Dock

Size, Acres: 1  
Former Usage: Boat Dock  
Present Usage: Shoreline(Covered by water at high tide)  
Probable End Usage: Shoreline  
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed  
Types: crate/pallet of live A155 mm@ shells  
found many years ago

Area E: Artillery Impact Zone

Size, Acres: 1730  
Former Usage: Artillery impact zone  
Present Usage: Timberland  
Probable End Usage: Wildlife refuge  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Projectiles, 105 and 155 mm HE mortars

Area F: Dog Island

Size, Acres: 1923  
Former Usage: Shoreline Combat, Mortar/Rocket Firing  
and Strafing  
Present Usage: Beach and residential  
Probable End Usage: Beach and residential  
Ordnance Presence: Potential (local resident reported finds  
in 1948)  
Types: shrapnel from mortars and rockets

Area G: Alligator Point Gunnery Range

Size, Acres: 250  
Former Usage: Aerial gunnery range  
Present Usage: Highly developed residential with  
campground and marina, nature preserve,  
wooded areas and beach  
Probable End Usage: Residential and commercial development,  
beach  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: .50 cal. Ammo documented to have been  
used here; the EOD clearance team found  
A100 lb. Bursting tubes, HE and practice (sic) which the ASR speculates  
was actually bangalore torpedoes or aerial rockets)

Area H: Red, White and Green Beaches

Size, Acres: 53  
Former Usage: Shoreline Combat  
Present Usage: Beaches and Residential  
Probable End Usage: Beaches and Residential  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: practice mines, dynamite/demo blocks,  
bangalore torpedoes

Area I: Harbeson City (Special Training Area #5)

Size, Acres: 347  
Former Usage: Ground Combat in Simulated Village  
Present Usage: Forest  
Probable End Usage: Forest and residential  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Documented use of dynamite and HE  
grenades (booby traps)

Area J: Special Training Areas 1,2,3 and 4

Size, Acres: 460  
Former Usage: Shoreline Combat and Unknown  
Present Usage: Timberland and shoreline(for subarea #4)  
Probable End Usage: Timberland and shoreline  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Practice grenades, demolition items  
(A large amount of explosives were used in the training.)

Area K: Dump

Size, Acres: 160

Former Usage: Dump  
Present Usage: Forest  
Probable End Usage: Forest  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Small arms, grenades, projectiles,  
dynamite, rockets/torpedoes, mines  
(based on one eyewitness)

Area L: EOD Cleared Sites

Size, Acres: 3692  
Former Usage: Unknown  
Present Usage: Timberland and shoreline  
Probable End Usage: Timberland and shoreline  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Types: Unknown (only info was the Nov 1946 EOD  
map)

Area M: Clearings 1 and 3

Size, Acres: 324  
Former Usage: Basic Amphibious Training(cargo net  
towers, mockup boats and outline boats)  
Present Usage: Timberland  
Probable End Usage: Timberland  
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated

Area N: Small Arms Range  
\*Spent small arms(.30 and .50 caliber) not  
considered OE

Size, Acres: 3563  
Former Usage: Small Arms Ranges  
Present Usage: Timberland, residential and beach  
Probable End Usage: Timberland, residential and beach  
Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated

Area O: All Other Lands

Size, Acres: 146,640  
Former Usage: Cantonment areas, training beaches,  
ammunition storage area, open land,  
airfield, gas chamber  
Present Usage: Timberland, residential, beach and  
airfield

Probable End Usage: Timberland, residential, beach and  
airfield

Ordnance Presence: Uncontaminated

Area P: Off-Post EOD Cleared Sites (This area is not in current INPR scope. However, research showed that this area was EOD cleared according to a November 1946 EOD clearance map. No OE has been reported found since that time.)

Size, Acres: 1733

Former Usage: Unknown

Present Usage: Wildlife refuge and residential

Probable End Usage: Wildlife refuge and residential

Ordnance Presence: Potential

Types: any type occurring on camp

Area Q: USAF Radar Site (NOT FUDS ELIGIBLE)

Size, Acres: 33

Former Usage: Engineer camp

Present Usage: USAF radar site

Probable End Usage: USAF radar site

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** A draft Archive Search Report was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in September 1995.

## **7. STRATEGY:**

- a. Change Area B to confirmed for OE due to the discovery of frag from HE grenades by SI Team and expended practice grenades found by the owner.
- b. Request district amend INPR to include Area P
- c. EE/CA: Areas A-L and P
- d. NOFA: Areas M, N & O
- e. Area Q is not FUDS eligible

## **8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

**Area A:** SI Team found several fired 2.36" rockets. Five rockets were identified as practice. USAF EOD destroyed two other rockets in place since they could not be identified as HE or practice.

**Area B:** The Grenade Course was not built along the lines of the standard practice course outlined in field manuals, but was designed to simulate battle conditions requiring the use of grenades.

**Area F:** This area was not cleared by EOD at closure. Two interviewed soldiers did not recall the use of artillery at this site. Local residents recalled seeing boats and paratroopers landing on DOG Island, but no smoke or explosions. The OE presence of

potential is based solely on the interview with one local resident who described finding shell fragments in 1948. This site may only be reached by boat or airplane. There is a daily commercial ferry but it does not carry vehicles. There are numerous residences on the island.

**Area G:** Aircraft definitely fired .50 caliber machine guns at this range. All other OE use is conjecture. Historical documents describe Camp Gordon Johnston's role in the experimental firing of 4.2" HE and WP mortars and 4.5" rockets from landing craft, but these documents do not provide a location. Alligator Point may have been the site of these experiments.

**General:** Most of the sites are accessible only by four-wheel drive. Endangered species and archeological sites may be present. Alligators and poisonous snakes are common. Some areas have dense vegetation, and tree harvesting occasionally occurs in some areas.

**Areas A through H:** On-site OE destruction must consider nearby housing or highways.

**Area H:** Site is covered by water at high tide. Current technology limits detection of dynamite sticks. Location is approximate.

**Area I:** Dense vegetation is present. Current technology limits detection of dynamite sticks. Part of this area is being developed as a residential area. Specific sites with potential OE are unknown.

**Area K:** OE presence could not be verified from sources other than the one interview. Location is approximate.

**Area L and P:** OE presence is based on EOD clearance of the land. No information was found on site usage and no OE has been reported. Area includes shoreline and marshes.

**Cultural and Ecological Issues:** On this site 38 archeological sites and 15 threatened or endangered wildlife species have been identified by the ASR. An on-site inspection of listed species, or natural communities. See Documents F-4 (Archeological) and F-5 (Wildlife) for specific information.

## **9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA**

## **10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only**

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[Return to State List index page](#)

[Return to OE Home Page](#)