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PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT SITE VISIT DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY REPORT FOR
NAVY MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM NAS JACKSONVILLE FL
04/12/2005
MALCOLM PIRNIE, INC.

**Preliminary Assessment
Site Visit / Data Collection Summary Report
Navy MRP**

Installation: NAS Jacksonville
Prepared by: Susan Burnett, Team Leader
Prepared: 12 April 2005

The site visit to Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, Florida was conducted on 29 March 2005 through 30 March 2005. The purpose of the visit was to collect information needed to complete a preliminary assessment (PA) report on the other than operational range identified in the Navy inventory, as provided in Malcolm Pirnie's Statement of Work for NAS Jacksonville, dated 27 October 2004 (Project #31, Contract No. N62472-02-D-1300). This document presents a summary of the site visit and data collection effort to date. The draft PA report will provide additional details on the data collected.

Malcolm Pirnie Team Members: Ms. Susan Burnett; Mr. Dan Hains; Mr. Stephen Rice; and Ms. Daria Navon.

Navy Representative: Mr. Harold C. McGill, Jr. (SDIV NAVFAC, RPM)

Primary Installation POC: Mr. William Raspet (NAS Jacksonville, Environmental Department, Installation Restoration Program Manager)

PA Site: Site 52 Small Arms Range

Activities Conducted Prior To Site Visit

Prior to the site visit, Malcolm Pirnie reviewed range related records obtained from the National Archives in Washington D.C. and College Park, Maryland. The team reviewed web-based information regarding the installation and information available in the Navy range inventory database regarding the PA site.

Additional records identification and duplication were pending or in process at the time of the site visit. Records were received and reviewed during the two week period following the site visit.

Briefings

At the request of the installation, a formal in-brief was not conducted at NAS Jacksonville during the site visit. At the conclusion of the site visit, an informal exit brief was held to discuss the data collected and initial findings.

Installation Location, Mission, and History

NAS Jacksonville is located in the southwestern portion of Duval County, approximately seven miles south of Jacksonville, Florida and 22 miles west of the Atlantic coast.

In its early years, what is now the eastern portion of NAS Jacksonville was known as Camp Joseph E. Johnston. Commissioned by the U.S. Army in September 1917, the camp served as an infantry training station during World War I (WWI). At the conclusion of WWI, the Army declared Camp Johnston excess. The facility was turned over to the state militia and operated as Camp Clifford R. Foster during the depression years.

On October 15, 1940, NAS Jacksonville was officially commissioned and became the first component of the Jacksonville Navy Complex, which would eventually include NAS Cecil Field and Naval Station Mayport. NAS Jacksonville's mission was to train pilots for the Navy. Over 11,000 pilots earned their wings at the air station during World War II. NAS Jacksonville also provided the war effort with over 10,000 highly trained air crewmen and 30,000 gunners. Although air field support and ordnance storage for air to ground bombing training was provided by NAS Jacksonville, the ranges were located remote from the installation. These bombing ranges have either been transferred and are being addressed under the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program, or have remained operational.

Following World War II, the Navy's Flight Demonstration Team, Blue Angels, was formed at the Station. The station's mission was changed to include support for patrol squadrons that arrived after the war and are still on duty today. By 1973, helicopter squadrons arrived at NAS Jacksonville, and in 1977, reserve jet squadrons transferred to nearby Cecil Field. Under the last round of the government's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) operations, Cecil Field closed in 1999, and the last of the S-3 squadrons were transferred to NAS Jacksonville where they remain. Today, NAS Jacksonville provides logistical and maintenance support to fleet air units assigned to the Jacksonville area and through out the eastern United States.

Offices Visited, Personnel Contacted, and Records Reviewed

During the site visit, the following NAS Jacksonville personnel were interviewed:

- Mr. William Raspet (Environmental Department, Installation Restoration Manager)
- Mr. Kevin Gartland (Environmental Department, Director)
- Ms. Angela Glass (Environmental Department, Assistant Natural Resources Manager)
- Mr. Ronald M. Williamson (Safety Office, Code N9S, Safety Officer)
- Mr. James Harrell (Safety Office, Code N9ES, Explosive Safety Officer)

- CWO4 Luke Baker (Weapons Department, Weapons Officer)
- TMCM McNiell (Weapons Department, Weapons Staff)
- AOC Holmes (Weapons Department, Weapons Staff)
- Mr. Randy Hall (Fire Department, Assistant Fire Chief)
- Mr. Don Towery (Planning Department, Planner)
- Mr. Mike Wadel (Facilities Department, Water Program Manager)
- Mr. Bill Meyer (Facilities Department, Airfield Manager)
- Mr. Mike Shields (Moral, Welfare, and Recreation, Golf Course Manager)
- Mr. Gary Newman (Security, Physical Security Manager)

The following on-base information repositories were visited:

- NAS Jacksonville Public Works Department File Room
- NAS Jacksonville Environmental Department Library
- NAS Jacksonville Historian's Office

The following documents were obtained from these repositories:

- Master Plan, Naval Complex Jacksonville – Naval Air Station, Naval Supply Center, Naval Aviation Depot, Naval Hospital, Armed Forces Reserve Center, 1986
- An Illustrated History of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, 1990
- Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Baseline Survey Report, August 1995
- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, Operable Unit 1, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Florida, March 1996
- Report on Delineation of Lead Impacted Soils, Casa Linda Golf Course, NAS Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Florida, December, 1997
- Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a Golf Course Addition at NAS Jacksonville Florida, February 1998
- Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan for the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida, 2002
- Environmental Assessment for the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the Jacksonville Complex, Jacksonville, Florida, February 2002
- Draft Jurisdictional Wetland Determination, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, April 2003
- Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the Jacksonville Complex, Jacksonville, Florida, November 2004
- Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) Update for Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Outlying Field Whitehouse, Florida, December 2004

In addition, the following off-base personnel were contacted:

- GMGC Richard Miller (EOD Detachment Mayport)

PA Site Summary

A brief summary of information regarding the PA site is provided below. This information was obtained during the data collection and visual site survey efforts conducted during the site visit.

Site 52 Small Arms Range: The former Site 52 Small Arms Range (referred to as the Small Arms Training Range in the Navy range inventory database) consists of approximately one acre located within the boundary of the NAS Jacksonville golf course, which is located in the central portion of the installation. The Small Arms Range, which was used as a pistol range, was constructed in 1941 as part of the NAS Jacksonville Machine Gun Range Complex. The pistol range consisted of 40 bulls' eye targets and two firing lines located at 25 and 50 yards. Munitions use was limited to small arms ammunition, primarily .22, .38, and .45 caliber and 9mm pistol ammunition and 12 gauge shotgun ammunition. The original backstop berm, along with two wing berms that were added at a later date, still exist at the site. In August 1994, soil samples were collected from the backstop berm and the eastern-most wing berm and analyzed for TCLP metals. Several of these samples exceeded RCRA limits for leachable lead. Early in 1995, soil was removed from six locations on the face of the backstop berm to a depth of one foot. Additional lead-impacted soil was removed from the northern and southern tips of the eastern-most wing berm. During a range condition inspection in 1997, it was ascertained that the range's overhead baffles were damaged beyond economical repair and required complete replacement. Due to cost and encroachment of the golf course, a decision was made at that time to close the range. On 19 August, 2002, a formal letter requesting range closure was submitted.

Other Areas of Interest

Several munitions and range related records, documents, and information sources were identified as a result of the data collection effort. Although the information obtained does not directly apply to the PA site, it may be of interest to the Navy and the Installation.

Additional Ranges/Sites: The following additional other than operational ranges/sites associated with NAS Jacksonville were identified as part of the data collection and visual site survey activities.

- **Machine Gun Range Complex** - The Machine Gun Range Complex was constructed in 1941 and consisted of the following separate ranges: pistol range (Site 52 Small Arms Range described above); .30 caliber range; .50 caliber range; air blast range; synchronized guns range; trap ranges; and skeet ranges. The .50 caliber range, air blast range, and synchronized gun range were located adjacent to one another and shared a common backstop berm. The entire range complex was depicted as the

Machine Gun Range on historical base maps. With the exception of the pistol range, range structures and features associated with the former Machine Gun Range Complex have been demolished and removed. The area has been converted to recreational use as part of the base golf course. Investigation of a portion of the range complex was completed under the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) in 1997/1998. The area investigated (referred to as **Former Skeet Range (PSC 23)** in IRP documents) included the air blast range, .50 caliber range, synchronized guns range, and skeet ranges. Areas with elevated lead concentrations in soil (greater than 500 mg/kg) were identified; however, documentation confirming removal of the lead impacted soil was not found. The Former Skeet Range (PSC 23) is listed in the Navy range inventory database as a closed range and is currently being addressed under the IRP. However, the .30 caliber range and trap ranges have not been investigated or included under the IRP or MRP.

- **Fort Dix (PSC 22)** - A skeet and trap range complex known as Fort Dix was located adjacent to and northwest of the former Machine Gun Range Complex. Based on property records, the skeet and trap ranges were constructed in 1943. The ranges were closed, range structures and features were demolished and removed, and the land was used in the expansion of the base golf course in the late 1990s. This area was also investigated under the IRP in 1997/1998. As with the Machine Gun Range Complex, areas with elevated lead concentrations in soil (greater than 500 mg/kg) were identified; however, documentation confirming removal of the lead impacted soil was not found. Fort Dix (PSC 22) is listed in the Navy range inventory database as a closed range and is currently being addressed under the IRP.
- **Camp Johnson/Camp Foster Range Complex** - A historical map dated 1911 depicted a small arms range complex that was associated with Camp Johnson/Camp Foster. The area where the range complex was located was acquired by the Navy prior to the commissioning of NAS Jacksonville. The range complex consisted of the following ranges: 1000-yard, 800-yard, 500-yard, and 200-yard rifle ranges; a pistol range, a machine gun range; and skeet and trap ranges. It was reported that during WWI this range complex was the second largest small arms complex in the United States. These ranges were demolished and structures were removed in 1939, when the Navy took control of Camp Foster. The area was converted for use for the NAS Jacksonville runways and hangars in the early 1940s. The area is still used for that purpose today. This range complex was not listed in the Navy range inventory database.
- **Machine Gun Bore Sight Range** - A bore sight range was constructed north of the runways at NAS Jacksonville. The range was used from the

1940s through the 1950s for sighting and maintenance of aircraft wing mounted guns. During a limited visual survey of the former Bore Sight Range, evidence of a berm was not observed. A portion of the former range has been converted for use as an aircraft engine test and maintenance facility. The remainder of the area where the bore sight range was located is not currently used and is covered with brush and trees. This site was not listed in the Navy range inventory database.

- **Machine Gun Malfunction Building** - Anecdotal information obtained during interviews indicated that there may have been a machine gun malfunction range located at Building 537. It was reported that students would be provided with weapon systems (e.g., machine guns) that had malfunction problems. The student would diagnose and correct the malfunction, and demonstrate correction by firing the weapons system. It was reported that Building 537 had side ports that may have been used to conduct the firing of these weapons. After a visual inspection of the building and review of historical base maps, it was determined that Building 537 may have been used as a malfunction training school. However, it is not likely that weapons firing took place at the building for the following reasons: lack of evidence of safety features on historical maps (i.e., surface safety arcs, impact berms); lack of evidence of use; and the close proximity of the Machine Gun Range Complex where the weapons could have been tested. Based on the information obtained during the site visit, the Machine Gun Malfunction Building was determined to be an indoor training area only. As such, further investigation of the area under the MRP is not recommended.

Identified Issues

The following issues were noted during the exit brief and subsequent discussions with the POCs.

- The RPM and Installation POC agree that there were several new areas of concern identified during our site visit (including several ranges associated with the Machine Gun Range Complex, the ranges associated with the Camp Johnson/Foster Range Complex, and the Machine Gun Bore Sight Range). While on site, the data collection team obtained historical documents and interview information regarding the new areas of concern. The team also walked a portion of the Machine Gun Range Complex and the Machine Gun Bore Sight Range to confirm range locations and to look for existing site features. The RPM will contact EFANE with a request to complete PAs for the newly identify sites/ranges within the next few weeks.
- The RPM and Installation POC will be discussing the best approach forward for the former ranges that are included in the Machine Gun Range

Complex and have been addressed under the IRP. Malcolm Pirnie will work the POCs to determine which sites/ranges should be recommended for inclusion under the MRP.

Future Data Collection

Follow-up conversations with the individuals noted below will take place to complete the data collection activities.

- Telephone interview with Mr. Mike Shields, Golf Course Manager, to obtain additional details regarding construction activities at the Machine Gun Range Complex (including Site 52 Small Arms Range, Former Skeet Range, and Fort Dix).
- Telephone interview with Mr. Bill Meyers, Airfield Manager, to obtain additional information regarding activities at the former Camp Johnson/Foster Small Arms Complex and the former Machine Gun Bore Sight Range.

Archival documents, maps, and photographs from regional and other Navy archival data sources will be reviewed as they are received. Electronic copies will be provided to the Navy RPM and Installation POC. To obtain additional historical information regarding the installation, the team will also attempt to locate the FUDS Archive Search Reports, if they exist, for the bombing ranges formerly associated with NAS Jacksonville.