



Border Field State Park

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

Fall 2013

Overview

The Department of Defense is responsible for environmental restoration of properties formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the U.S. government and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense. Such properties are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites or FUDS. The Army is the executive agent for the FUDS program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

manages and directs the program's administration.

This fact sheet describes the activities that the Corps of Engineers has and will be conducting within a portion of Border Field State Park, in Imperial Beach, Calif. Located in San Diego County immediately north of the international border between the United States and Mexico, this

FUDS property consists of 372 acres (MRS01 is 72 acres and MRS02 is 250 acres) that were used for military training.

Today, Border Field State Park is owned and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and is part of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Mark Your Calendar

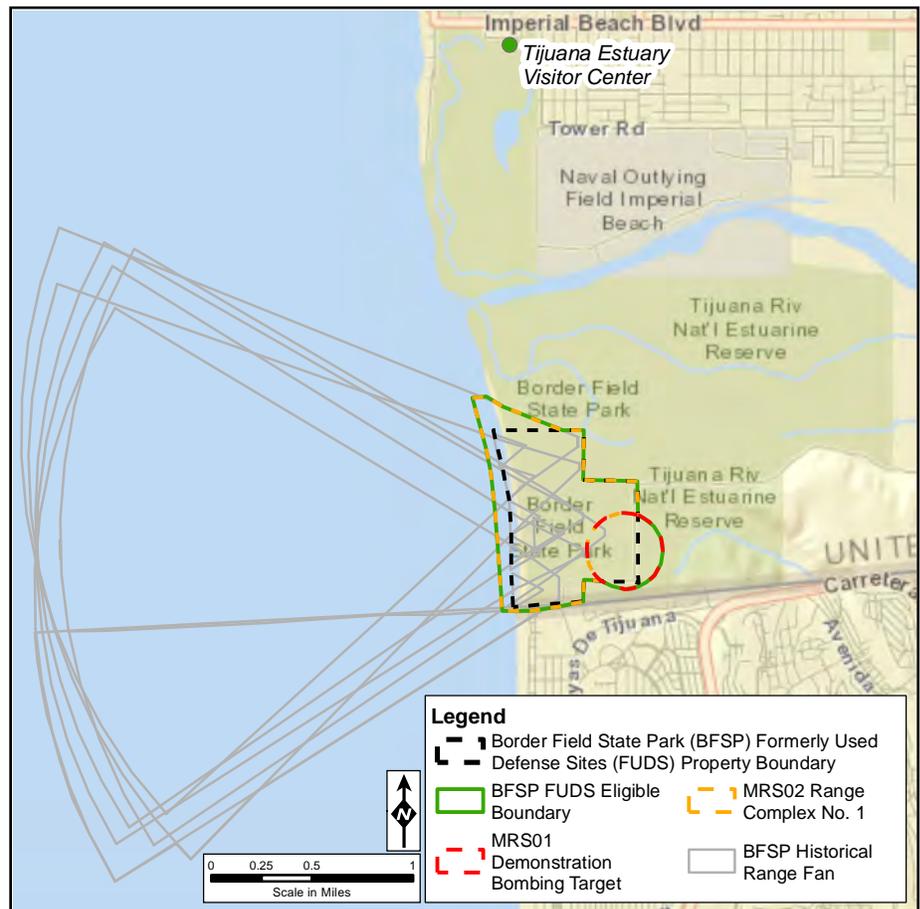
The Corps of Engineers will hold a Technical Project Planning Meeting to discuss upcoming investigation activities at Border Field State Park. Project managers, technical personnel, regulators and other stakeholders are invited to attend the meeting. During the meeting, the Corps of Engineers and attendees will identify project objectives and design data collection programs.

Date: September 10, 2013

Time: 1 pm (Pacific)

Location: Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center

301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, CA 91932



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Site History

In 1929, the Department of the Navy leased 98 acres in southern California for a practice facility. Expansion of the facility continued until after World War II, by which time the Navy had control of 372 acres. The site, known as Border Field, was originally used as an auxiliary aviation field to Naval Air Station, San Diego.

By 1944, improvements to the site included approximately 30 buildings and structures. Most of these facilities were temporary and used for offices, quarters, shops and ammunition storage. Significant improvements to the site included the bombing target and the range complex. The range complex consisted of five or six jeep-type moving targets in the dune area for ground gunnery training; a mobile firing line in the center of the site; and air-to-ground gunnery ranges that contained rails, known as "Rabbit Tracks," that would guide steam-driven targets for aerial gunnery (strafing) training.



*World War II bunkers at Border Field State Park. (Date unknown)
Source: Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve*

In the 1950s, the site was used on weekends by the California National Guard as a launching area for pilotless target drones. In 1961, gunnery training activities at Border Field were discontinued. For a time, the Navy used the facility as an electronics laboratory. The Imperial Beach Police Department reportedly used the southern portion of the site in the 1960s as a shooting range.

In 1971 the property was transferred to the State of California and became Border Field State Park.

In July 1994, the Corps of Engineers determined that 372 acres of Border Field State Park was eligible for the FUDS Program.

Historical Investigations by the Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers' conducted a site visit at Border Field State Park in March 1994. Although no munitions and explosives of concern were observed at that time, the Corps of Engineers completed an *Inventory Project Report* on July 6, 1994, which established Border Field State Park as a FUDS property, delineated a preliminary site boundary and recommended further investigation of the property.

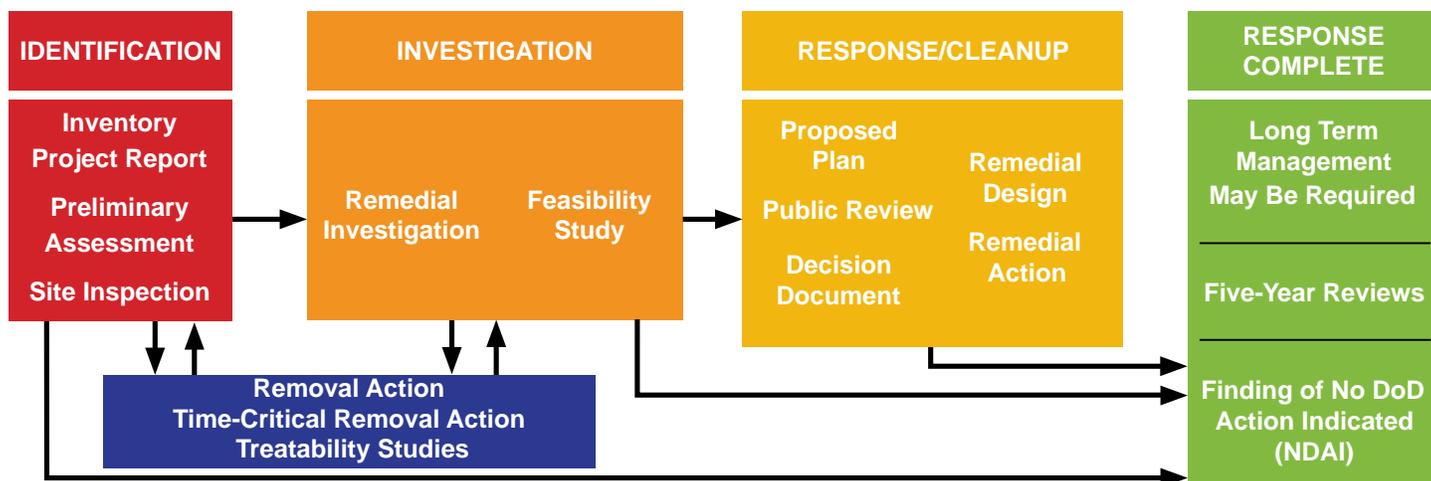
In 2003, the Corps of Engineers conducted historical research, performed a site visit and identified two munitions response sites within Border Field State Park. At the

time of the site visit, heavy rains and potentially toxic soil conditions (unrelated to historic military activities) prevented the team from accessing the site; however, they observed conditions from a high point in the landscape. A summary of the site visit and historical records research were presented in an *Archives Search Report*.

In 2004, the Corps of Engineers completed an *Inventory Project Report Supplement*, which provided acreage (372), range configurations, and munitions information for the site.

The Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection Report in June 2008. Based on the findings from limited environmental investigations conducted for the report and previous findings, the Corps of Engineers recommended that a Remedial Investigation be conducted to characterize the nature of the military munitions present at the site and to assess the extent to which those items pose a potential threat to human health, safety or the environment. The Corps of Engineers also recommended that a Feasibility Study be conducted to evaluate remedial alternatives.

FUDS Military Munitions Response Program



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Regulation 200-3-1, FUDS Program Policy, May 2004)

As the executing agent for the FUDS Military Munitions Response Program, the Corps of Engineers addresses munitions and explosives of concern, discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents located on FUDS. The Military Munitions Response Program follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process and comprises the following four phases:

1. Identification: The Corps of Engineers identifies properties as FUDS and gathers information about the history and current conditions of each property. To accomplish this, an Inventory Project Report is completed, in which a property is verified as eligible for the FUDS Program and the potential issues or concerns at the site are evaluated.

A Preliminary Assessment is performed to collect readily available property and historical information about the site. The Corps of Engineers visits the property to gather information from local residents and government officials, and conducts a limited visual inspection of the property. In addition, potential projects, known as munitions response sites, are identified within the FUDS property and the Corps of Engineers determines whether these projects require further evaluation.

The Corps of Engineers performs a Site Inspection to collect additional

site-specific data and conducts limited environmental investigations to confirm the presence of military munitions and assess whether the site requires further investigation.

2. Investigation: The Corps of Engineers conducts a Remedial Investigation to characterize the nature and threat posed by the military munitions and gathers data necessary to assess the extent to which they pose a threat to human health, safety or the environment. Next, a Feasibility Study is conducted to ensure appropriate remedial alternatives are developed and evaluated, and an appropriate remedy is selected.

3. Response/Cleanup: The Corps of Engineers uses the information gathered in the previous phases to select an appropriate environmental remedy that is cost effective; protects human health and the environment; meets all state and federal applicable or relevant laws; and uses practical, permanent solutions.

Based on previous inspections, the Corps of Engineers determines if a Removal Action is warranted. If warranted, the Removal Action process is followed, then the project continues to a remedial action response. If a Removal Action is not warranted, the property will automatically move to a remedial action response. The preferred remedy as well as remedial alternatives are presented in a Proposed Plan that is made available for public review and comment. Following this review, a remedy is selected and recorded in a Decision Document. The Corps of Engineers then implements the preferred remedy at the site.

4. Response Complete: Response Complete signifies the remedy is in place and all response objectives identified in the Decision Document have been achieved. The Decision Document also indicates whether long-term management and five-year reviews are required.

Next Steps

The Corps of Engineers will begin conducting Remedial Investigation field activities within the Border Field State Park FUDS. During the investigation, the Corps of Engineers will perform a surface sweep, digital geophysical mapping survey, intrusive investigation and soil sampling and property analysis.

The results of the investigation field activities will be used to identify and evaluate potential remedial alternatives during the Feasibility Study. These evaluations and the comparative analysis of the remedial alternatives will be presented in the *Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report*. The recommended remedial alternatives will be reviewed by the project stakeholders and refined during the development of the *Proposed Plan* and finalized for the *Decision Document*.



*Model Marsh at Border Field State Park. (Date unknown)
Source: Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve*

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

If you observe any suspected munitions or explosive items, the Corps of Engineers encourages you to follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety. Please keep in mind, if you didn't drop it don't pick it up.

Recognize

you may have encountered a munition.

Retreat

from the munition. Do not touch or disturb it, instead move away carefully, walking out the same way you entered the area.

Report

what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement by calling **911**.



*A 3-pound miniature practice bomb. (Date unknown)
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



*A .50-caliber machine gun round. (Date unknown)
Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



US Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District



For more information about the Border Field State Park FUDS project, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District:

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