



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**
Los Angeles District



Corps Facts

Borrego Hotel Target Area and
Emergency Landing Field
Ocotillo Wells, CA
Winter 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 prior to Oct. 17, 1986. Such properties are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites or FUDS. The U.S. 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 has and

will be conducting at the former Borrego Hotel Target Area and Emergency Landing Field, a munitions response site that is a part of the Borrego Maneuver Area, a FUDS Program property. The site is located approximately 3.5 miles south of Ocotillo Wells, Calif. Borrego Hotel consists of 222 acres that were used from 1941 to 1955 by the U.S. Navy to support military training activities at the San Diego Naval Air Station. Today the site is privately owned and primarily used for recreational purposes.

Safety Counts!

If you suspect that you have encountered any military munitions, be sure to follow the 3Rs of explosives safety.



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, by calling 911.

Mark Your Calendar

The Corps will host a Public Meeting to discuss the Borrego Hotel Proposed Plan. The Plan identifies the preferred remedial alternative and the work planned for the site. Corps representatives will be available to answer questions. The public comment period for the Proposed Plan closes March 15, 2013. The meeting will be held:

Date: February 28, 2013

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Location: Ocotillo Wells Fire Station

5847 California Hwy 78
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Site History

In July 1941 the Navy acquired 160 acres of land in the Borrego Valley for the San Diego Naval Air Station. The Navy used the site for high-altitude bombing, dive bombing, strafing (firing of automatic weapons from aircraft on ground targets), and emergency landing activities. To support these training activities, the Navy constructed a 250-foot by 2,600-foot dirt runway and a bombing target consisting of a 15-foot circle in the center and three additional concentric circles 50, 100 and 200 feet in radius.

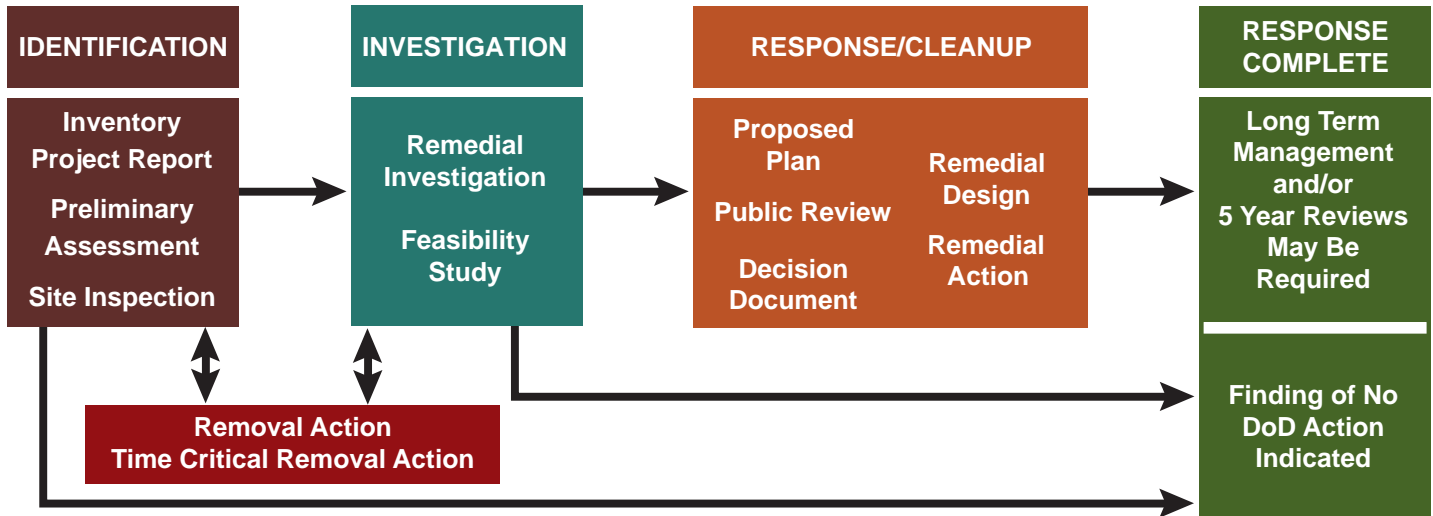
In 1942 the Army acquired approximately 255,840 additional acres of land in the Borrego Valley. The area, known as the Borrego Maneuver Area, was used by the Army, Marines and Navy for military training and equipment testing. In 1944, the Army declared most of this additional acreage as surplus.



The AT-11 Kansan was the typical aircraft used for bomb target practice.

The Navy continued using the original 160 acres until 1955, when it was declared surplus to the needs of the Navy. Later that year, the federal government declared the property as surplus. In 1956 the federal government sold the property to a private landowner.

CERCLA Process



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

As the executing agent for the FUDS Military Munitions Response Program, the Corps addresses munitions and explosives of concern, discarded military munitions and munitions constituents located on FUDS. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as CERCLA, provides the preferred framework for environmental work at FUDS properties and involves the following four phases:

Identification: When a potential FUDS property is identified, the Corps gathers property ownership, historical, and environmental data to build a site profile and to verify the site meets FUDS Program guidelines. This information is presented in an Inventory Project Report. The Preliminary Assessment expands the profile to identify how the property was used, delineate property boundaries and partition the property into smaller projects. The Corps then conducts a Site Inspection to identify current uses and determine whether environmental contamination from past military activities poses a threat to human health or the environment and whether the site requires further investigation.

If the Corps identifies an imminent threat to human health or the environment during the Identification or Investigation Phases, a removal action or time critical removal action may be warranted. Removal actions

are designed to only address the imminent threat; so once the removal is complete, the Military Munitions Response Program process resumes at the site.

Similarly, should the Corps determine during either the Identification or Investigation Phases that conditions at the project do not pose a threat to human health or the environment, the project progresses to the Response Complete Phase and receives a designation of No Department of Defense Action Indicated.

Investigation: If the Identification Phase findings indicate that contamination may be present, a Remedial Investigation is performed. The Remedial Investigation characterizes the nature of the contamination and threat it poses. Based on the RI findings, a Feasibility Study is conducted to develop and evaluate remedial alternatives to address the potential contamination.

Response/Cleanup: During the Response/Cleanup Phase, the Corps summarizes the remedial alternatives in a Proposed Plan, presents its recommendation, and makes the document available for public review during a 30-day comment period. Based on that input, the Corps selects a remedy that is protective of human health and the environment, and records it in a Decision Document. Next, the Corps develops the designs and execution strategies (Remedial Design/Remedial Action) necessary to implement the remedy.

Response Complete: Once the remedy is in place, the project progresses to the Response Complete Phase signifying the identified objectives have been achieved. In some instances, additional Long Term Management activities and Five Year Reviews may be performed to ensure the remedy is functional and continues to protect human health and the environment.

Historical Investigations by the Corps

1995 Inventory Project Report

The Corps recommended that further ordnance and explosives investigations be conducted within the former Borrego Maneuver Area based on prior military use.

1997 Archives Search Report

The Corps gathered historical documents and conducted a site investigation. During the site investigation, the Corps observed munitions debris in an area near the Borrego Hotel project boundary. Based on the munitions debris sighting, the Corps added 62 acres to the original 160-acre site boundary; thereby increasing the site to 222 acres.

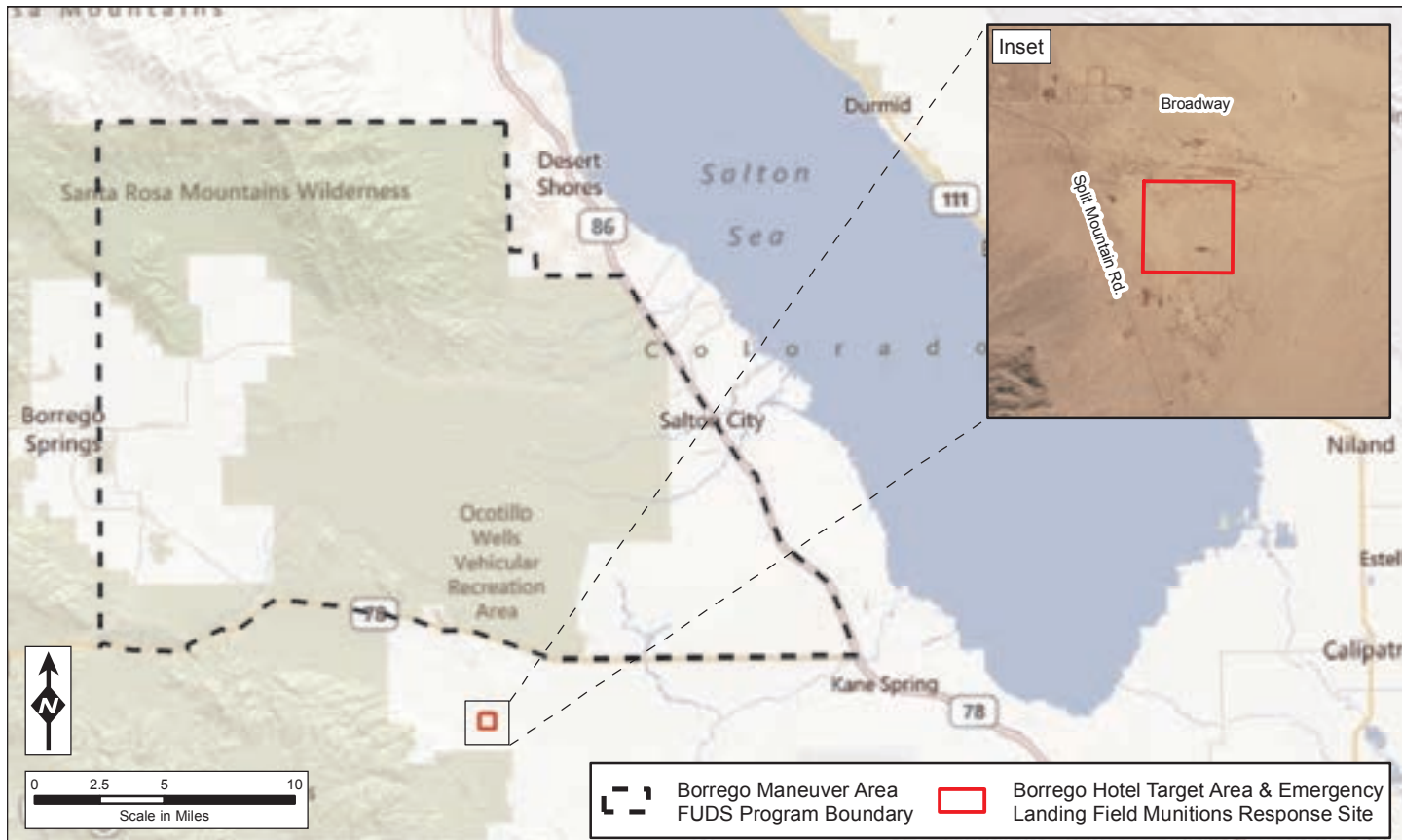
2011 Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study

The Corps conducted intrusive investigations, a surface visual survey, and digital geophysical mapping within portions of the Borrego Hotel site. During the investigation, the Corps obtained geophysical data along 9.3 line-miles and collected 23 soil samples within the Borrego Hotel investigation area. The Remedial Investigation results confirmed the findings of previous investigations, which identified the site was used for 20mm target practice/small arms strafing and as a bombing target. Five MK19 practice bombs were recovered that were not previously listed in the Archives Search Report or sighted during previous site visits.

During the intrusive investigations, the Corps encountered munitions and explosives of concern from 3-pound bombs; munitions debris from 3-, 13- and 100-pound bombs; 20mm target practice projectiles; and small arms.

Then, the Corps used the Remedial Investigation findings to perform a Feasibility Study in which five potential remedial alternatives for the Borrego Hotel site were developed and described. These alternatives were evaluated and compared using nine criteria, including overall protectiveness of human health and the environment, short- and long-term effectiveness, cost and community acceptance.

Figure 1: Site Map of Borrego Maneuver Area and Borrego Hotel Target Area and Emergency Landing Field Munitions Response Site



Next Steps

The Corps has developed a Proposed Plan that identifies the preferred alternative for the Borrego Hotel site. In the plan, the Corps identified a surface clearance with institutional controls as a the preferred alternative for site remediation. This alternative was chosen because it would achieve substantial hazard reduction by removing surface munitions and explosives of concern, which constitute the principal threat at the site.

The Proposed Plan is available to the public and provides an

opportunity to review the proposed alternatives, and comment on the Corps' recommendation. Written or oral comments can be submitted during the Public Meeting on Feb. 28, 2013. Written comments will be accepted by the Corps until March 15, 2013.

To view the Proposed Plan, please visit the San Diego County Library – Borrego Springs Branch located at 587 Palm Canyon Dr., Suite 125, Borrego Springs, CA. Following the public comment period, the Proposed Plan will be revised and a Final Proposed Plan will be made

available. A Decision Document with the selected remedy and the Corps' response to public comments will be finalized in spring 2013. These documents will be added to the Administrative Record for the Borrego Hotel site, which is located at the San Diego County Library – Borrego Springs Branch and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District office.

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

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



you may have encountered a munition.



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



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



Portion of 100-pound practice bomb.



Practice bomb (3-pound).



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To submit comments on the Proposed Plan, contact:

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