



Charleston Maneuver Area Project and Artillery, Mortar Ranges & Maneuver Area Project

Project Numbers: J09AZ106701 and J09AZ106702

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Fact Sheet

Summer 2016

Overview

The former Fort Huachuca - Charleston Maneuver Area and Artillery, Mortar Ranges and Maneuver Area are located in Cochise County, Arizona, east of the active Fort Huachuca base in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The site encompasses 3,220 acres, which is used for recreational purposes. Today, the property is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the organization responsible for environmental remediation of properties that were formerly owned by, leased to or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense and transferred from DOD control prior to 17 October 1986. These properties are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites.



Soldiers from Fort Huachuca assault the ghost town of Charleston, Ariz. by scaling cargo nets. Date unknown.

Source: Fort Huachuca Museum

History

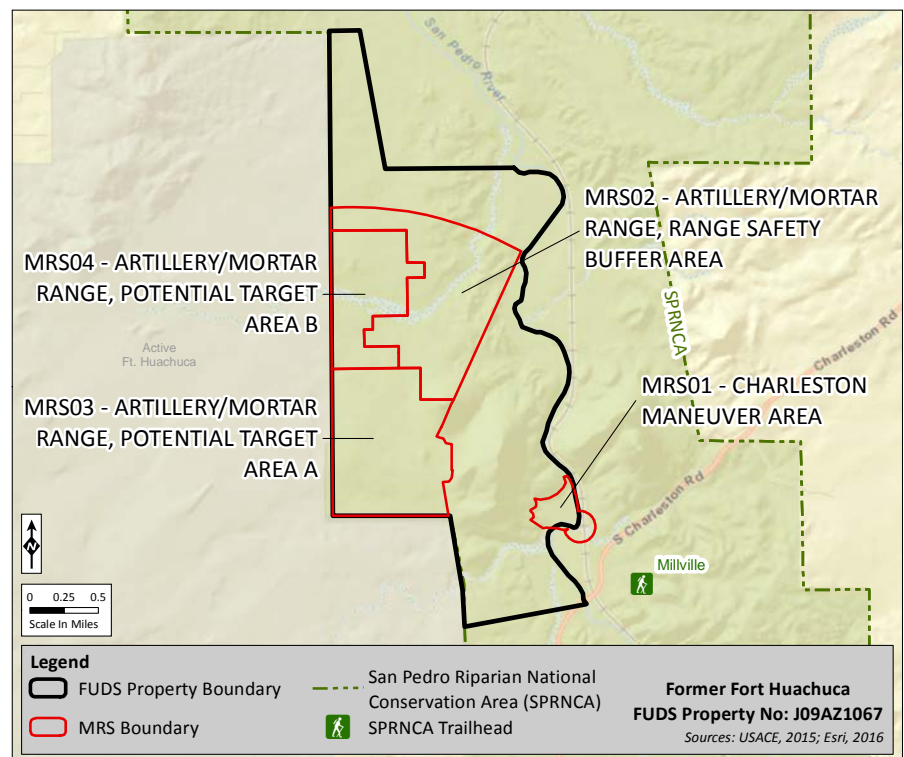
In September 1943, the U.S. Army leased 3,220 acres of land from the Boquillas Land and Cattle Company, of which 179 acres was owned by the State of Arizona and leased to Boquillas. The acquired property became part of Fort Huachuca's East Artillery Range and was used for military training.

A portion of the leased land contained the ruins of the town of Charleston. The Army improved the ruins, which enabled infantry troops to practice combat training in an urban-like setting. Reports

indicate the town was used for simulated village and street fighting exercises, and a variety of rifle and artillery ranges were built in the vicinity of the town.

After the war ended, the lease with Boquillas was terminated in July 1946, and the State of Arizona lease was terminated in June 1947; however munitions from the military training remained. In 1951, the Army moved back into the fort, however, there is no indication that the Boquillas land was reacquired when the fort reopened.

Map of former Fort Huachuca



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

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Site Investigation

In 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined the former Fort Huachuca was eligible for the FUDS Program and documented the property acreage as 3,041.

Historical records were compiled into an Archives Search Report in 2001. The property acreage was increased to 3,220 acres based on historical findings.

In the 2004, two Munitions Response Sites were delineated at Fort Huachuca: MRS01 – Charleston Maneuver Area (53 acres) and MRS02 – Range Complex No. 1 (1,433 acres).

Next, a limited site investigation was performed and the findings of munitions and explosives of concern were documented in the 2010 Site Inspection Report.

A Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study was conducted between 2012 and 2015. In 2014 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers changed the Munitions Response Sites into separate FUDS projects: Charleston Maneuver Area and Artillery, Mortar Ranges and Maneuver Area. The Charleston Maneuver Area was also increased from 53 to 72 acres.

During the Remedial Investigation, munitions and explosives of concern, munitions debris and small arms debris were identified. In addition, the Artillery, Mortar Ranges and Maneuver Area project was divided into three Munitions Response Sites to facilitate the evaluation of the potential hazards. The sites are identified as: MRS02 (569 acres), MRS03 (548 acres) and MRS04 (316 acres).

A Feasibility Study was conducted to evaluate and compare remedial alternatives for their effectiveness in protecting human health and the environment. The investigation and evaluation are recorded in the 2015 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Report.

The 2016 Proposed Plan records a summary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers investigations and the following recommended remedial alternatives.

- MRS01 Charleston Maneuver Area and MRS02: Institutional controls to protect current and future users.
- MRS03: Surface and subsurface removal of munitions and explosives of concern with institutional controls.
- MRS04: Surface removal of munitions and explosives of concern with institutional controls.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requests that stakeholders and community members provide comments on the proposed remedial alternatives during the 30-day public comment period. All comments will be considered as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prepares the final the final decision.

The Administrative Records, containing project documents for the Charleston Maneuver Area and Artillery, Mortar Ranges and Maneuver Area, are available for review at the Sierra Vista Public Library. Submit comments on the Proposed Plan by July 27 to:

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Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Hazards from military munitions may still remain within the former camp. Protect yourself by following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:

Recognize

when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat

do not approach, touch, move or disturb a suspect munition, but carefully leave the area.

Report

immediately what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement or the 24-hour Federal Law Enforcement Communication Center at: 602-417-9600.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Los Angeles District

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District Public Affairs Office at 213-452-3921 or publicaffairs.spl@usace.army.mil. To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil.

