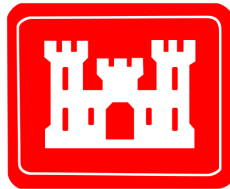


Community Relations Plan

Fort Segarra

**Water Island,
United States Virgin Islands**



**United States Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-0019**

MAY 2020

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1.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (the Corps) developed this Community Relations Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community living or working within or near the Fort Segarra Formerly Used Defense Site and the Corps and to encourage community involvement in site activities. The Corps will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed of available opportunities to be involved.

This Community Relations Plan addresses the site's relationship to the community and the Corps (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents the Corps' community involvement program (Section 4.0), and provides a listing of available resources. The Corps drew upon several information sources to develop this plan and will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this plan.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

Across the country, the Department of Defense acquired properties, often during times of conflict, to use for military demonstrations, training, and testing. Once the military no longer needed the land, it was transferred to other entities. These Formerly Used Defense Sites can range from privately-owned farms to national parks. They also include residential, educational, and industrial areas. The Department of Defense is committed to correcting environmental damage caused by its activities and created the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites to evaluate, and if necessary, remediate Formerly Used Defense Sites. The Corps is responsible for managing the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites on behalf of the Department of Defense.

2.1 PROPERTY HISTORY

Fort Segarra is located on Water Island, the smallest of the United States (U.S.) Virgin Islands at 491.5 acres (see Figure 1). The U.S. government acquired Water Island from the Danish East Asiatic Company in 1944 to use for coastal defense. Construction of Fort Segarra began in 1944 but was not completed prior to the end of World War II, and the Army deactivated the site in 1946. While the concrete gun positions and supporting buildings were completed, the guns were never installed. The U.S. Army Chemical Corps also used portions of Water Island for limited testing and storage of chemical munitions from 1948 to 1950 as part of the San Jose Project. (The Test Areas are noted in Figure 1.) Tests were well-documented, and the chemical munitions were removed from the island at the end of the test program.

In 1952, Water Island was transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior and leased to a private party to develop a hotel and resort. The Water Island Hotel opened in 1954 and operated until 1989, when it was badly damaged by Hurricane Hugo. The lease expired in 1992 and, in 1996, the Department of Interior transferred Water Island to the U.S. Virgin Islands. The hotel and associated structures were demolished in 1998. In 2014, a lease was issued for a new hotel and resort. Residential development has also taken place on the island. In September 2017, Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused wide-spread damage to the island.



Figure 1: Fort Segarra Location Map

2.1.1 Potential Contaminants

The U.S. Army Chemical Corps used parts of Water Island to conduct limited tests with chemical munitions. Following completion of the testing program, the chemical munitions and the chemicals agents they may have contained, were removed from the island. Since that time, several studies have been completed at Fort Segarra that confirm there is no hazard associated with the site's past use for chemical munitions testing and storage. The Army did not store or use any other munitions at Fort Segarra.

2.1.2 United States Army Corps of Engineers' Involvement

Shortly after the Defense Environmental Restoration Program-Formerly Used Defense Sites began, the Corps visited the site, and in 1989, determined it was eligible for the program. Please

see Section 2.3.3 for a list and summary of previous studies and investigations conducted for Fort Segarra.

Most recently, the Corps completed a Remedial Investigation. The purpose of a Remedial Investigation is to determine and document the types of munitions that may be present, the amounts, and locations. This is known as characterizing the nature and extent of potential military related impacts. For Fort Segarra, the Remedial Investigation relied on information from the previous studies and investigations to verify that there are no conventional munitions and/or munitions constituents (metals and explosives that comprise munitions) at the site. Additionally, information regarding the areas where a limited number of chemical tests were conducted was evaluated and confirmed that chemical munitions and/or chemical agents are not present at the site.

2.1.3 Community Reaction

The public is generally aware of the military's use of Water Island. There is a great deal of information about Fort Segarra on various websites, in addition to the Corps', and the Corps placed signs on the island describing the Army's training and what to do if munitions are discovered. The Corps has also coordinated with the Water Island Civic Association to share information about the site with the community. Although to date there have been no concerns expressed by the community, the Corps will continue to monitor the community's interest and will respond accordingly.

2.2 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Fort Segarra is located on Water Island, the smallest of the four U.S. Virgin Islands. Water Island is approximately 1,800 feet from St. Thomas and directly south from its capital city, Charlotte Amalie. The project site, which is in the southern part of the island, includes four non-contiguous areas that were used in conjunction with the military's testing activities. The four areas include the Flamingo Bay Landfill and Test Areas 4, 5, and 8 (see Figure 2). Water Island is primarily residential with some commercial and government enterprises.

2.3 PROPERTY INSPECTIONS AND CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

2.3.1 Known or Suspected Contamination

Based on the historical use of the Fort Segarra Formerly Used Defense Site, the Corps was concerned about the potential presence of munitions and chemical warfare materiel.

2.3.2 Nature of Threat

Munitions could pose a potential safety hazard to people who touch, pick up, or otherwise disturb them. The metals and explosives that comprise munitions could potentially be a risk to people and the environment if they are released to the soil and/or sediment. Chemical warfare materiel, if present, would be dangerous to people and the environment.



Figure 2: Fort Segarra Flamingo Bay and Test Areas

2.3.3 History of Inspections and Studies Conducted at the Site

Inspections and studies conducted at Fort Segarra are listed in Table 1 and summarized below the table.

Table 1: Previous Studies and Historical Documents

Year Completed	Activity
1947-1950	San Jose Project Progress Reports
1966	Navy Report Regarding Ordnance Discovery at Flamingo Bay Landfill
1989	Inventory Project Report
1991	Archives Search Report
1991	Photographic Analysis
1993	Scoping Study

Year Completed	Activity
1995	Site Characterization Phase 1 Remedial Investigation Report
1995	Environmental Assessment
2001	Historical Photographic Analysis
2001	Preliminary Assessment
2002	Revised Archives Search Report
2004	Site Investigation Report
2005	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
2006	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Action Memorandum
2009	Site-Specific Final Report
2012	Five-Year Review Report
2013	Revised Inventory Project Report
2016	Site-Specific Final Report

1947-1950 San Jose Project Progress Reports

The progress reports document the chemical warfare materiel testing completed from November 1947 through March 1950, including testing that took place at Water Island.

1966 Navy Report Regarding Ordnance Discovery at Flamingo Bay Landfill

The Navy reported several metal objects found during a dredging operation at the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area in 1966. The metal objects were identified as possible chemical bombs, but the report stated there was no noticeable release of chemical agent.

1989 Inventory Project Report

As part of the Inventory Project Report, a team visited the site and found no evidence of munitions, chemical warfare materiel, or chemical agents. The report recommended an investigation of the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area where several possible chemical bombs were found in 1966.

1991 Archives Search Report

The Archives Search Report compiled information obtained through historical research at various archives and records holding facilities, interviews with individuals associated with the site or its operations, and personal visits to the site. The purpose of the report was to determine types of munitions used at the site, possible disposal areas, and any unknown training areas in order to develop recommendations for further actions.

1991 Photographic Analysis

The Corps analyzed aerial photographs from 1948, 1954, and 1958 and determined that there was only one area identified, located in Test Area 5, which may have been used for testing and possible disposal.

1993 Scoping Study

The Scoping Study provided additional information on Army Chemical Corps' activities at Fort Segarra, based on archival research and interviews with former Chemical Corps personnel. The interviews indicated that the six tests conducted at Fort Segarra were controlled and well-documented, and after each test, the team decontaminated the area. Furthermore, the types and limited numbers of test items used allowed for easy removal after the testing was complete. The

study indicated no further investigation was needed for most areas at Water Island and recommended an additional investigation for Test Areas 4 and 5 and the Flamingo Bay Landfill.

1995 Site Characterization Phase I Remedial Investigation Report

Site characterization and debris removal operations were conducted in 1993 and 1994 at Water Island, including at Test Areas 4, 5, and 8 and the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area. The characterization activities included surface inspections, magnetometer sweeps and surveys, and soil sampling. While there were no munitions, chemical warfare materiel, munitions debris, or chemical agents, the report recommended an additional investigation for portions of Test Areas 4 and 5 and the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area.

1995 Environmental Assessment

This Environmental Assessment report presented the results of a site inspection of Test Areas 4 and 5 and the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area. Abandoned vehicles and household and construction debris were noted in multiple locations, but the team did not identify any munitions or chemical warfare materiel.

2001 Preliminary Assessment

The Department of Interior completed a Preliminary Assessment and recommended additional soil sampling.

2001 Historical Photographic Analysis

The Corps analyzed historical aerial photographs of Water Island to identify areas where chemical warfare materiel testing potentially took place, with a focus on Test Areas 4 and 5 and the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area.

2002 Revised Archives Search Report

The Revised Archives Search Report summarized additional archival research, interviews, aerial photographic analysis, and a site visit. Although potential munitions related activities were noted for two batteries and Test Area 4, the report confirmed that guns were never installed at the batteries, and there was no evidence of munitions or munitions debris. The report also documented the chemical warfare materiel used and removed from the site and concluded there was no contamination associated with the Army's activities. No further action was recommended.

2004 Site Investigation Report

The Department of Interior conducted a Site Investigation in conjunction with the fieldwork for the 2005 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis. They collected soil samples from Test Areas 4, 5, and 8 and the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area and analyzed them for explosives, chemical agents, and other non-munitions related chemicals. The results indicated there was no potential risk to people or the environment in Test Areas 4, 5, and 8, and the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area, and no further investigation was required.

2005 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis

This evaluation and analysis included 46 test pits, 17 trenches, 88 soil samples, and 8 background soil samples. No munitions or chemical warfare materiel were identified, and the only chemical warfare materiel-related items were scrap metal found at the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area. No munitions constituents or chemical agents were detected in the soil samples.

2006 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Action Memorandum

The Action Memorandum recommended removing the scrap metal identified at the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area during the 2005 investigation and site-wide institutional controls in the form of public awareness.

2009 Site-Specific Final Report

This report documents removal of the scrap metal from the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area and installation of two signs describing the historical chemical warfare materiel testing done on Water Island as part of the site-wide institutional controls.

2012 Five-Year Review

The Five Year Review was conducted to determine if the implemented alternative recommended in the Action Memorandum remained protective of people and the environment. The report concluded the remedy remained protective and that there were no reported incidents involving munitions, chemical warfare materiel, or munitions debris at the site.

2013 Revised Inventory Project Report

The Corps revised the Inventory Project Report to change the size and scope of Project 01 to include Test Areas 4, 5, and 8 to the Flamingo Bay Landfill Area.

2016 Site-Specific Final Report

This report documented the replacement of the two informational signs on Water Island.

2.3.4 Lead Agency

The Corps is the lead agency and is responsible for cleanup activities related to the military's use of the site. The Corps is coordinating with Virgin Islands government representatives, including representatives from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, and other stakeholders.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Fort Segarra lies entirely within the census district of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and, specifically, the census subdistrict of Water Island. On average, the population on Water Island is older, more educated, and has a higher mean household income than other residents in St. Thomas and the Virgin Islands. When considering meeting locations, the Corps will be mindful that 21.5 percent of the population does not have a vehicle. The Corps does not anticipate that meetings and printed materials need translation as the majority of the population speaks English, but the team will monitor the situation and will provide translations as necessary.

Table 2: Census Data for Water Island, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands and Nation

Subject	Water Island		St. Thomas		Virgin Islands		United States	
	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>%</i>
Total population	182		51,634		106,405		308,745,538	
White	161	88.50	7,814	15.13	16,646	15.64	231,040,398	74.80
Black or African American	8	4.40	41,310	80.01	80,908	76.04	42,020,743	13.60
Hispanic or Latino	8	4.40	5,787	11.21	18,504	17.39	50,477,594	16.30
Median age (years)	55.3		39.8		39.2		37.2	
Owner-occupied housing units	58	62.40	8,747	40.58	20,700	47.90	75,986,074	65.10

Subject	Water Island		St. Thomas		Virgin Islands		United States	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
Population over Age 25 without high school diploma	6	3.90	10,619	30.20	70,813	31.10	16,394,069	7.80
Language Spoken at Home: English only	166	91.21	36,111	69.94	70,864	66.60	232,724,203	79.10
Language other than English	10	5.49	12,035	23.31	28,041	26.35	61,409,170	20.90
Speak English less than "very well"	3	1.65	4,794	9.28	9,382	8.82	25,305,202	8.60
Mean household income	\$65,551		\$53,487		\$52,261		\$74,596	
Population below Poverty Line		8.20		19.20		22.20		15.5
Families below Poverty Line	2	2.10	1,895	9	4,789	11.10	8,761,827	11.30
No vehicles available	20	21.50	5,001	23.20	8,902	20.60	10,628,474	9.10
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Demographic Profile Data								

3.2 HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

There has been limited community interest in the Corps' projects associated with Fort Segarra. The Corps will continue to inform the community and will respond to any concerns that are raised.

3.3 KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS

No community concerns have been raised to date, but the Corps will monitor the situation closely as activities continue to educate the public and to encourage them to participate in the remedial investigation process.

3.4 RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The Corps will continue public involvement activities and will respond should any concerns arise.

3.5 SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION NEEDS

Planned or completed public information activities have been coordinated with the Water Island Civic Association to provide information to the community. The association has posted various notices for the project along with a letter and fact sheet related to the Proposed Plan.

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

The overall goal of the Corps' public involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the Corps and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the remedial investigation process. The Corps has or will implement the community involvement activities described below. The following plan is based on concerns frequently expressed by those living near or on a Formerly Used Defense Site.

4.1 THE PLAN

Issue 1: Keeping the Public Informed

Activity 1A: Designate a Corps public involvement coordinator

- Objective: To provide a primary liaison between the community and the Corps and to ensure prompt, accurate, and consistent responses, and information dissemination about the site
- Method: The Corps will designate a public affairs specialist to handle site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members. The public affairs specialist will work closely with the Corps project manager.
- Timing: The public affairs specialist was assigned at the beginning of the project.

Activity 1B: Prepare and distribute site fact sheets and technical summaries

- Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, and easy-to-understand information about Fort Segarra
- Method: Fact sheets will be provided to property owners and will be available on the Corps' website (www.saj.usace.army.mil/FortSegarra).
- Timing: The Corps will prepare and distribute fact sheets as necessary, but at least at the beginning and end of each phase of work.

Activity 1C: Provide a toll-free telephone number for the community to contact the Corps

- Objective: To enable citizens to get the latest information available when they want it, rather than having to wait for a meeting or a fact sheet and without incurring any cost
- Method: The Corps has a toll-free number that is provided in the fact sheets.
- Timing: The toll-free telephone line is currently operational (800.710.5184).

Activity 1D: Maintain a mailing list for the site

- Objective: To facilitate the distribution of site-specific information to everyone who needs or wants to be kept informed about the site
- Method: The Corps is coordinating information dissemination through the Water Island Civic Association
- Timing: Throughout the project

Activity 1E: Establish and Maintain an Administrative Record file

- Objective: To provide residents the documents and resources used by the Corps in reaching decisions about the site in a convenient location where residents can read official documents and other pertinent information about the site
- Method: The Corps will provide at least two sets of the Administrative Record file for the site, one at the Corps' Jacksonville, Florida office and one at the Jacksonville District's website for Fort Segarra
- Timing: The Administrative Record was opened when the Remedial Investigation began, and it will remain open until the Decision Document is signed. It is available at www.saj.usace.army.mil/FortSegarra

Activity 1F: Provide project information on the internet

- Objective: To provide site and project information as well as general Formerly Used Defense Site information
- Method: Project information is posted on the Corps' website.
- Timing: Project information and reports are on the Jacksonville Districts Fort Segarra website (www.saj.usace.army.mil/FortSegarra).

Issue 2: Provide Adequate and Meaningful Opportunities for Community Involvement

Activity 2A: Hold public meetings and special events

- Objective: To update the community on site developments and address community questions, concerns, ideas, and comments
- Method: Meetings will be hosted, as needed, during this phase of work. The Corps will schedule, prepare for and attend all announced meetings. The Corps will provide at least a two-week notice in advance of the scheduled meeting.
- Timing: As needed

Activity 2B: Solicit interest in a Restoration Advisory Board

- Objective: To provide citizens with a meaningful way to become actively involved and to provide the project delivery team with a viable means of learning citizen concerns and attitudes
- Method: The Corps will solicit interest in a Restoration Advisory Board and will provide support as appropriate to facilitate its formation. If formed, the Corps will provide administrative support, and the Corps' project manager will serve as co-chair along with a representative elected from among the community representatives on the board.
- Timing: The Corps evaluated the need for a Restoration Advisory Board at the initiation of the Remedial Investigation and determined there was not sufficient, sustained interest.

Activity 2C: Make informal visits to community

- Objective: To help keep community members informed about the site while providing the Corps with feedback about site activities and the community's opinions
- Method: The Corps will establish a presence in the community through coordination with the Water Island Civic Association.
- Timing: Calls, as well as periodic visits if needed, will be made throughout the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study phase.

Activity 2D: Solicit comments during a public comment period

- Objective: The objective is to give community members an opportunity to review and comment on various Corps documents, especially the Proposed Plan. The re-

view period provides an opportunity for the citizens to have meaningful involvement in the process while giving the project delivery team valuable information from the community.

- **Method:** The Corps will announce each comment period separately, if necessary. Announcements will appear in local newspapers and fact sheets. Information on the duration and how and where to submit comments will be included.
- **Timing:** The public comment period will be from May 28, 2020 through July 6, 2020. A virtual public meeting will be presented to provide information on the Proposed Plan at the start of the comment period.

Activity 2E: Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary

- **Objective:** To summarize comments received during comment periods, to document how the Corps has considered those comments during the decision-making process, and to provide responses to major comments
- **Method:** The Corps will prepare a Responsiveness Summary as a section of the Decision Document, which documents the remedy selection decision. The Responsiveness Summary will include four sections: Overview, Background on Community Involvement, Summary of Comments Received and the Corps' Responses, Remedial Design/Remedial Action Concerns. Information, both technical and nontechnical, will be conveyed in a manner that is easily understood.
- **Timing:** The Responsiveness Summary is a part of the Decision Document.

Activity 2F: Revise the Community Relations Plan

- **Objective:** To identify and address community needs, issues, or concerns regarding the site that are not currently addressed in this Community Relations Plan
- **Method:** The revised plan will update the previous version.
- **Timing:** The Corps will revise the plan as community concerns warrant or at least every three years until the site is closed out.

4.2 PROJECTED SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Activity	Time Frame
Designate a Corps community involvement coordinator	Complete
Prepare and distribute site fact sheets and technical summaries	Complete and as necessary
Provide a toll-free number	Currently in operation
Maintain a mailing list for the Formerly Used Defense Site	Ongoing
Establish and maintain Information Repository	Ongoing, update as needed
Provide project information on the Internet	Ongoing, update as needed
Establish and maintain the Administrative Record	Ongoing, update as needed
Conduct special events	As needed
Hold public meetings	As needed

Activity	Time Frame
Solicit interest in a Restoration Advisory Board	Complete and re-evaluated every two years
Make informal visits to community	As needed
Solicit comments during a public comment period	Once the Proposed Plan is released
Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary	Following public comment period
Revise the Community Relations Plan	As needed

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APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY SURVEY

Fort Segarra Community Interview Questionnaire

The United States Army Corps of Engineers is investigating portions of Fort Segarra to find out if anything remains from the military's training activities. Your answers to the following questions will help us understand what is important to you. Thank you for providing your input and sharing this information with us.

1. Do you live or work within/near the boundaries of Fort Segarra? If so, for how long?
2. Prior to today, did you know about the military's training at Fort Segarra? If so, how did you learn about it? What do you know about it?
3. Do you have questions or concerns about this site/project?
4. Would you come to a meeting to hear about our study?
5. What is the best method for sharing information with you?
6. Is there any other information you would like to share with us about your community?

On behalf of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call 1-800-710-5184.

APPENDIX B: MEDIA CONTACTS

Television Stations:

Station	Channel	Address	Telephone
WTJX-PBS	12	158-158A Haypiece Hill St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802	340.718.3339
WZVI – Ion	8	Barren Spot Mall Suite 8, Christiansted, St Croix, Virgin Islands 00823-4493	340.778.5008
WVXF – FOX	17	8000 Nisky Center, Suite 740B St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802	340.774.2013

Newspapers:

	Address	Contact
St. Thomas Source	(on-line only)	Telephone: 340.777.8144 Email: visource@gmail.com
Virgin Islands Daily News	9155 Estate Thomas St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802	Telephone: 340.774.8772 Email: online@dailynews.vi

Radio Stations:

Station	Frequency	Format	Address	Telephone
WTJX-FM	93.1	Public Radio	158-158A Haypiece Hill St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802	340.718.3339
WIVI.FM	96.1	Pop/ Rock/ Rhythmic	PO Box 302179 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00803	340.776.1000
WZIN.FM	104.3	Alternative Rock	Puerta Tierra P.O. Box 948 Fajardo, Puerto Rico 00738	340.776.1043
WZIN.FM	105.3	Urban/ Reggae/ Calypso	PO Box 302179 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00803	340.776.1000
WVJZA.FM	1000	News/ Talk/ Sports	PO Box 302179 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00803	340.776.1000

APPENDIX C: POTENTIAL MEETING LOCATIONS

Water Island Search & Rescue

Water Island Fire Station

Telephone: 340.642.5660

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TOOLS

There is a range of public involvement tools used at Fort Segarra to ensure the public can find information and engage in the process. Examples provided in this appendix include fact sheets and notices.

This page is a placeholder for public involvement tool examples, such as the fact sheet.

APPENDIX E: STAKEHOLDERS LIST

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Frank Araico
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
Telephone: 904.232.1804
Email: Frank.X.Araico@usace.army.mil

Catalina Carrasco
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