

FUDS Property Name: Mill Cove Bombing Site (Property Number: I04FL0377)

County: Clay

City: Orange Park

Region: Northeast

Property Description: The approximately 160 acre submerged land site is located about four miles south of the City of Orange Park.

Property History: The site was acquired in the early part of World War II in 1941 for a Naval bomb target site in the Mill Cove area of Doctors' Lake. The target has been referred to as Doctors' Bomb Target and the Mill Cove Bombing Site. The Naval Air Advanced Training Command (NAATC) utilized the site for training operations associated with the Jacksonville Naval Air Station. There is no indication that the Navy constructed anything at this site other than a target. The site remained active until late 1945 or early 1946 when its functions were no longer required by the Navy.

Current Owner: The property is currently owned by multiple private and government entities. Land use includes residential and recreational (boating, fishing, and swimming).

Projects Summary: A site visit was conducted in 1994, and interviews were conducted about how the site was used. A site inspection was conducted in 2001. A team visited the site, but was unable to complete a thorough investigation due to limited access due to private ownership of land close to Doctors' Lake. No evidence of Ordnance and Explosives (OE) was found, and no record of residents of the area finding OE was found.

Current Status: A Site Inspection (SI) was conducted in 2008 to determine the presence or absence of munitions on the site. No munitions or munitions debris were discovered during the SI. However, elevated levels of aluminum were detected. A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) has been recommended to take additional samples. A timeline for work has not been determined.

Contact Information: For more information, please call 800.291.9413 or email FUDS.Florida@usace.army.mil.

Date Updated: May 24, 2010