



# Charleston Maneuver Area and Range Complex No. 1

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## Fact Sheet

Fall 2013

### Overview

The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform community members and other interested parties about the activities that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been and will be conducting within a portion of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area also known as SPRNCA. Located in Cochise County, Ariz., the sites are identified as the Charleston Maneuver Area

and Range Complex No. 1, which were used by Fort Huachuca during World War II. SPRNCA encompasses more than 56,000 acres along the San Pedro River of which 3,220 acres have been designated eligible for the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program, also known as FUDS. The Corps of Engineers is the Department of Defense organization that is

responsible for environmental restoration of properties that were formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the United States under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense. The Corps of Engineers' activities at the site are being coordinated with the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, which manages SPRNCA.

### Site History

In 1877, Camp Huachuca was established as a military outpost in the Huachuca Mountains. In 1882, the camp was designated as Fort Huachuca and the fort's soldiers protected settlers and transportation routes during the Apache Indian Wars. The fort remained active through World War I and was home to the 10th Cavalry Regiment, an all African-American cavalry regiment.

During World War II, the federal government obtained an additional 3,220 acres of land through a lease with the Boquillas Land and Cattle Company dated Sept. 9, 1943. The land became part of the fort's East Artillery Range and was used for training activities, including artillery and infantry training.

A portion of the leased land contained the ruins of the town of Charleston. Founded in 1879 and abandoned some time before 1889, Charleston served as a bedroom community for local mill workers.

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.

In 1946 and 1947, the Army terminated the lease for the 3,220 acres of land and the fort closed. In 1947, Detachment No. 14 of the 9800th Technical Support Unit searched the "Boquillas Area of Cochise County" for ordnance and explosive hazards. Items found during those operations include: 105 mm and 155 mm high explosive shells; 2.36-inch rockets; 60 mm high explosive mortars; 81 mm white phosphorus mortars;

81 mm high explosive anti-tank mortars; hand grenades; .30-caliber rounds; and blocks of explosives.

In 1951, the Army moved back into the developed portion of the fort and began a major renovation. By 1954, the Army was using the fort as an electronic proving ground (testing of electronic and computer systems). There is no indication that the Boquillas land



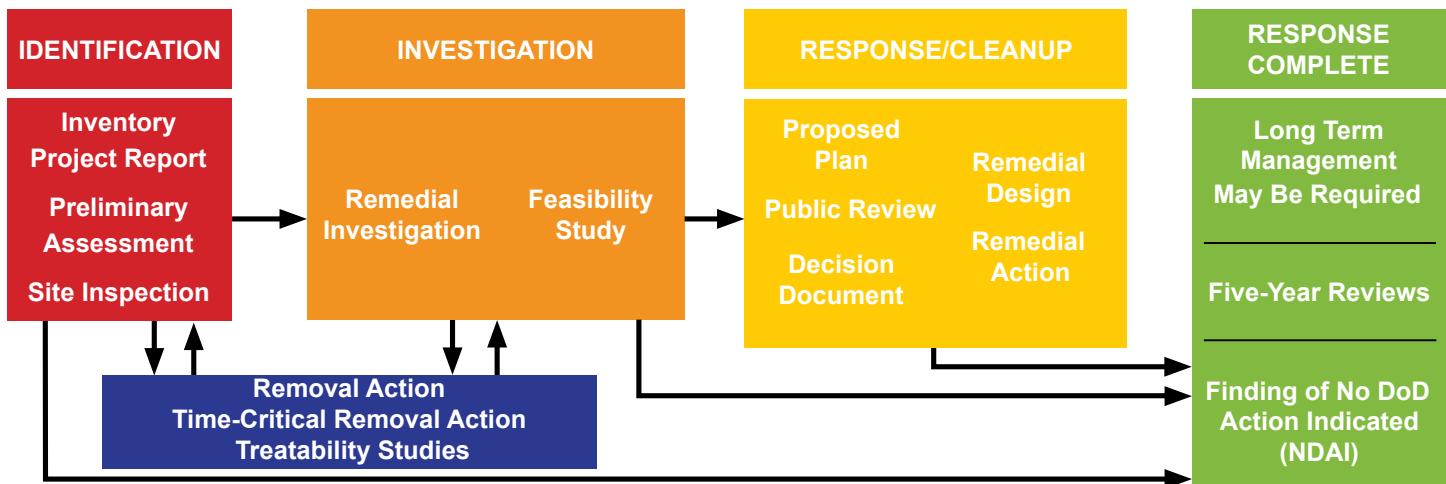
*Soldiers from Fort Huachuca assault the ghost town of Charleston, Ariz. by scaling cargo nets. Date unknown.  
Source: Fort Huachuca Museum*

*Site History continued on page 3*

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# 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 contains 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.

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## Site History Continued

and former Charleston ruins were reacquired in the 1950s when the fort reopened. Currently, the active portion of the fort is operated by the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command.

On Nov. 18, 1988, the U.S. Congress established 56,000 acres of land along the San Pedro River, including the Boquillas land and the former Charleston ruins, as SPRNCA.

In 1999, the Corps of Engineers determined that the Boquillas land and former Charleston ruins were eligible for the FUDS Program. The FUDS property is bordered by the active Fort Huachuca East Artillery Range to the west and the San Pedro River to the east.

## Corps of Engineers' Activities to Date

In 1999, a preliminary inspection and site visit were conducted as part of the Inventory Project Report for the Charleston Maneuver Area and Range Complex No. 1 (identified as Fort Huachuca), which were identified as the BLM Grazing Lands at the time. Based on this investigation, the site was determined eligible for the FUDS Program on Sept. 30, 1999, and the preliminary site boundary was determined to encompass 3,041 acres.

In September 2001, the Corps of Engineers compiled historical records, including ownership and land usage information, into an Archives Search Report. During the research, an additional 179-

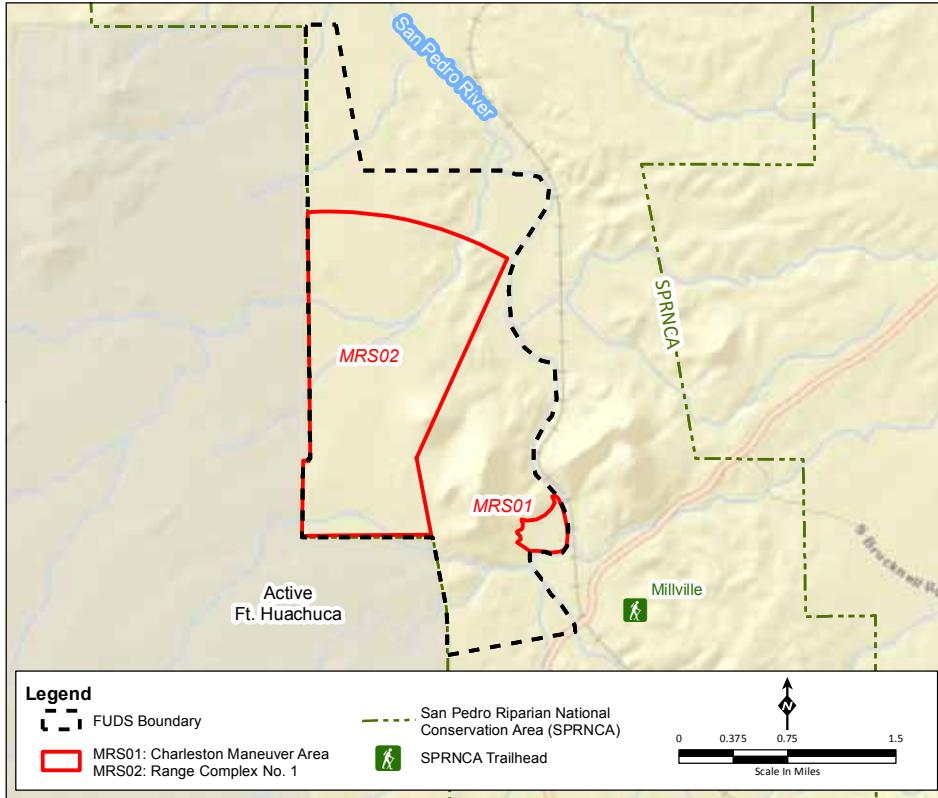


*Fort Huachuca field artillery training. Date unknown.  
Source: Fort Huachuca Museum*

acre tract of land was identified as having been used for military purposes, which increased the total site area to 3,220 acres. To support the Archives Search Report, interviews and a site visit were also conducted. A variety of munitions-related debris was discovered during the visit.

In 2004, the Archives Search Report Supplement identified two Munitions Response Sites within the FUDS property: MRS01 – Charleston Maneuver Area and MRS02 – Range Complex No. 1. Comprised of 53 acres, MRS01 was used for artillery training. Comprised of 1,433 acres, MRS02 encompasses three former subranges: an artillery range, a mortar range and a maneuver area.

In January 2010, a Site Inspection was completed. The Corps of Engineers conducted visual inspection and collected soil samples to determine if each Munitions Response Site warranted further inspection. Based on the findings, the Corps of Engineers recommended that



*Map of the Charleston Maneuver Area and Range Complex No. 1 Munitions Response Sites*

*Activities to Date continued on page 4*

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### Activities to Date Continued

a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study be conducted at both Munitions Response Sites.

In the fall of 2013, the Corps of Engineers will conduct a Remedial Investigation at the Charleston Maneuver Area and Range Complex No. 1. The objective of this investigation is to characterize the nature and extent of potential munitions hazards and/or munitions-related contaminants and to develop and evaluate effective remedial alternatives for each Munitions Response Site. The overall approach to the Remedial Investigation is to use sampling methods, such as soil sampling and visual and geophysical investigations, to collect data that identifies areas of concern associated with the two

Munitions Response Sites. Next, the Corps of Engineers will use the investigation results to evaluate potential exposure hazards from munitions that may remain and potential risks to human health and the environment from munitions-related chemical constituents.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Corps of Engineers will develop a combined Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report that documents the results of the investigation and evaluates proposed remedial alternatives based on the findings. Additionally, it will provide an analysis of potential remedial alternatives, a risk management alternative, or a no action indicated alternative for each site.



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers.**

Los Angeles District

For more information, please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Public Affairs Office.

**Public Affair Office**

**Telephone:** 213-479-6913

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Above: Mortar found at SPRNCA.

Source: Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

Dec. 2012.

Below: 155 mm illumination round.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

July 2009.



you may have encountered a munitions item.



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



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**

*Produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.*

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