



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

9 March 2015

SUBJECT: Public Workshop for the Remedial Investigation - Formerly Used Defense Site
Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range, Horry County, South Carolina

Governor Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Charleston District, I invite you to attend a public workshop about the former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range, located near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We will provide information about the Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range and discuss historical and current investigations being conducted at the range. The workshop will be held at:

Hilton Garden Inn Myrtle Beach, Coastal Grand Mall
2383 Coastal Grand Circle
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Tuesday, March 17, 2015
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

This formerly used defense site (FUDS) has been identified as having used and/or stored military munitions. Information regarding the FUDS program, the history of the former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range, the right-of-entry request process, and the activities to be conducted as part of the current remedial investigation and feasibility study project will be presented at the workshop. A Fact Sheet with more information on the former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range site is enclosed. Additionally, a survey for community members interested in participating in a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is enclosed. I request that you take the time to complete the survey and return it in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope.

We appreciate your attendance at the public workshop, if convenient. Please contact me at the address above or (910) 251-4702 if you have any questions regarding the scope of work to be performed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Raymond Livermore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'L'.

Raymond Livermore
Formerly Used Defense Site Project Manager

Enclosures:
Fact Sheet, March 2015
RAB Community Survey and RAB Fact Sheet



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Savannah District**

Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range Formerly Used Defense Site Project

Fact Sheet#1, March 2015

Formerly Used Defense Site Program

Congress established the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program in 1986 to clean up properties that were previously owned, leased, possessed, or used by the Army, Navy, Air Force, or other defense agencies. The FUDS Program is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and also includes the Military Munitions Response Program, which addresses FUDS that contain military munitions.

Site History

- The former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range (BGR) is located in Horry County, South Carolina, near Myrtle Beach.
- Prior to 1940, the site was privately owned and used for timber harvesting and farming.
- There is no proof that munitions or explosives were used at the site prior to use by the War Department.
- In 1941, the former Conway BGR was established to support operations at the Myrtle Beach General BGR (later renamed Myrtle Beach Army Air Field). Live fire training was conducted at the site, including aerial bombing and direct-fire training using rockets, small arms ammunition, and small artillery.
- From 1942 through 1947, several bases utilized the former Conway BGR for training missions using various types of airplanes and practice ordnances. Heavy use continued until early 1946 when the Myrtle Beach Army Air Field was converted from wartime to peacetime training.
- On February 4, 1948, the former Conway BGR was declared surplus by the U.S. Government. Areas of the site were developed into recreational, commercial, and

residential areas, with plans for future development.

As part of the FUDS Program, a remedial investigation and feasibility study are being conducted at the former Conway BGR to address four munitions response sites (MRS). Below is a brief description of these four MRSs.

- MRS-R01, Range II (649 acres): was used for practice bombing, including high- and medium-altitude bombing, skip bombing, parafrag bombing, and rocket firing. Potential ordnance includes practice and high explosive bombs and spotting charges.
- MRS-R02, Range III (1,961 acres): was used for high- and medium-altitude bombing, skip bombing, and rocket firing including demolition bombing, dive bombing, strafing, rocket firing, and incendiary bombing. Potential ordnance includes high explosive and practice bombs, spotting charges, and practice rockets.
- MRS-R03, Range IV (886 acres): was for practice bombing, including medium-altitude bombing. Potential ordnance includes practice bombs and spotting charges.
- MRS-R09, Machine Gun/Rifle Range (2,503 acres): was limited to firing bomber turrets and machine gun in a ground-mounted mode. The range was reported as being used exclusively for small arms training activities, such as basic rifle marksmanship training. Potential ordnance includes small arms ammunition and rockets.

The regional location of the former Conway BGR as well as the location of the four munitions response sites is presented on the figure that appears at the end of the fact sheet.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

In 2012, a remedial investigation of the former Conway BGR was conducted by EOD Technology, Inc.; however, due to limitations on the rights-of-entry, only a limited amount of the fieldwork could be performed.

Due to the limitations experienced during the 2012 remedial investigation, USACE, Wilmington District, elected to conduct a another remedial investigation and feasibility study at the site.

The purpose of this 2015 remedial investigation and feasibility study is to determine the nature and extent of munitions and explosives of concern and munitions constituents at the four MRSs. The data collected during this investigation will identify the following:

- physical characteristics of the property;
- soils, surface water, sediment, and groundwater classifications;
- characteristics of munitions and explosives of concern and munitions constituents;
- actual and potential pathways through environmental media; and
- actual and potential exposure routes.

The data will be analyzed in an effort to design the required munitions response for the four munitions response sites.

During the remedial investigation process, USACE will reach out to the local community (landowners, general public, and local elected officials) to determine how they want to be involved in the FUDS process. Some of these outreach efforts will include conducting community interviews and hosting public meetings. Landowners, whose property is within the planned investigation area, will be asked to grant access to their parcel for collection of remedial investigation data.

Upcoming Activities

- **February– August 2015:** Obtain Rights-of-Entry for Remedial Investigation
- **August 2015 – June 2016:** Conduct Field Investigations
- **July – October 2016:** Create the Final Report

- **October – December 2016:** Present future recommendations to the public

Safety Tips

Below are tips on how to respond if you suspect that you have encountered military munitions at the former Conway BGR. BE SAFE... FOLLOW THE "3 Rs."



RECOGNIZE: Recognize when you may have encountered a munition.

RETREAT: Do not touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area the way you entered. Do not run.

REPORT: Call 911! Immediately notify local law enforcement of what you saw and where you saw it.

Questions

If you have questions about the former Conway BGR project or the FUDS program, contact the USACE, Savannah District Public Affairs Officer, Billy Birdwell, at (912) 652-5014 or by email:

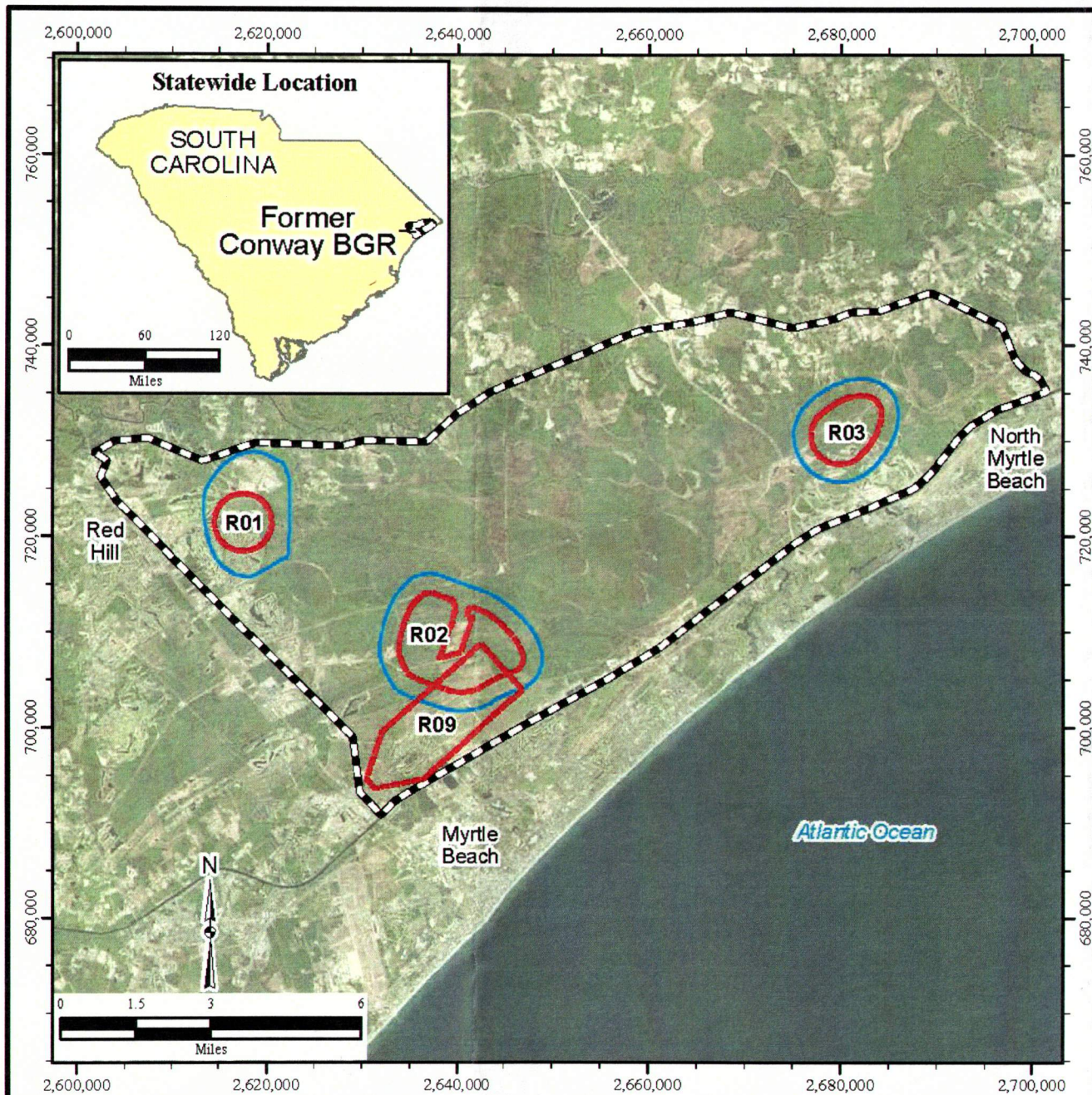
Billy.E.Birdwell@usace.army.mil

If you own property within the planned investigation areas and have questions about the right-of-entry process, contact the USACE, Savannah District Senior Realty Specialist, John Hinely, at (912) 652-5207 or by email:

John.S.Hinely@usace.army.mil

Documents relating to the former Conway BGR project, including information on previous investigations, are available online at:

www.conwaybgr.com



General Location Map Former Conway BGR

Legend

- Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range Boundary
- Munitions Response Site
- Expanded Investigation Area

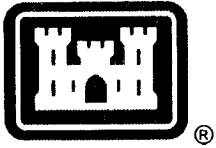
Notes:
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study data will be collected, pending landowner permission, in the Munitions Response Sites and the Expanded Investigation Areas in 2015 and 2016.

Coordinates in South Carolina Stateplane, NAD83, feet.

BGR=Bombing and Gunnery Range

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2/12/2015 TH
Source: HGL, USGS, USACE
ArcGIS Online Imagery





RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARDS at FUDS

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range

Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, is undertaking environmental restoration activities at Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range (BGR) as part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program's Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program. Currently, a Remedial Investigation is being performed at Former Conway BGR to help define hazards potentially at the site. In keeping with the goal of full public involvement in FUDS restoration decisions and activities, the Army and the Army Corps of Engineers encourage the creation of Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) at Formerly Used Defense Sites where there is sufficient community interest in having such a forum. "Sufficient community interest" is typically defined as 50 or more individuals.



Involving the Public

Restoration Advisory Boards are forums for discussion and exchange of information about the work being done at a FUDS property. A RAB is an advisory body designed to act as a focal point for the exchange of information between Charleston District and the local community regarding environmental restoration activities at the property. The RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values and needs between the affected community and the Army Corps of Engineers. It establishes a forum for public participation in the decision-making process and ensures active and timely stakeholder input. RAB community members will provide individual advice to decision makers on restoration issues. A RAB complements other community involvement efforts Charleston District used at Former Conway BGR.

A RAB will be established when there is evidence of sufficient, sustained community interest, as determined by the Charleston District commander. If there is insufficient community interest, the district will focus on involving the community in other ways.

Forming a RAB

When a Restoration Advisory Board is established, its members are expected to:

- Provide relevant input on environmental restoration issues to the FUDS project team and regulatory agencies
- Attend and participate in regular meetings, which are publicly announced and open to the public at convenient times and locations
- Review and comment on project documents
- Recommend restoration priorities
- Serve as liaisons with the community and be available to meet with community members and groups as needed to facilitate the exchange of information and/or concerns between the community and the RAB
- Evaluate proposed cleanup levels
- Devote approximately 18 hours, or 6 days per year to the RAB
- Serve without compensation for their time and service.

-More-

The size of the RAB will depend on the complexity of the project site, the number of stakeholders and the diverse groups they represent, and the level of community interest. Normally a RAB consists of no more than 20 members. A RAB will be jointly chaired by the FUDS project manager for the property and a community representative elected by the community members of the RAB. RAB meetings are open to the public with meeting minutes recorded and made available to interested parties.

Next Steps

At this time, Charleston District is assessing the level of community interest in forming a RAB at Former Conway BGR. The attached RAB community interest form asks whether there is interest in forming a RAB and if the respondent is interested in consideration to serve as a RAB member. All community interest forms must be received by March 31, 2015. If there is sufficient interest in forming a RAB, a selection panel that includes representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, the state, the community, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as appropriate, will be formed to review applications and make a recommendation for the district commander's approval.

For more information about establishing a RAB at Former Conway BGR or applying for RAB membership, please contact Mr. Billy Birdwell, USACE Savannah District, Public Affairs Officer at (912) 652-5014 or by email: Billy.E.Birdwell@usace.army.mil.

More information about the FUDS program is available at www.fuds.mil

Community Interest Form

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range

Charleston District is assessing the level of community interest in forming a Restoration Advisory Board (please see attached fact sheet for further information) the Former Conway Bombing and Gunnery Range (BGR).

Are you interested in having a Restoration Advisory Board formed at Former Conway BGR? Yes _____ No _____

If a RAB is formed, are you interested in applying to serve as a volunteer member?

Yes _____ No _____

If you answered "Yes" please complete the below portion of this form and also note: RAB members volunteer to serve a one- to two-year term and to attend all RAB meetings (frequency determined by the RAB and subject to change depending upon site activities, project phase and other circumstances). Duties and responsibilities include reviewing and commenting on technical documents and activities associated with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program at the former Conway BGR. If a RAB is established, technical experts will be available to the RAB upon request. Members are expected to be available to community members and groups to facilitate the exchange of information and/or concerns between the community and the RAB. RAB community members can expect to devote approximately 18 hours, or 6 days per year to the RAB. RAB members receive no compensation for their service.

Priority for RAB membership will be given to local residents who are impacted by the former Conway BGR.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____
Daytime Home Fax

E-Mail Address: _____

Are you affiliated with any group related to environmental restoration activities? If yes, list the group and your position, if applicable. Yes _____ No _____

1. Briefly state why you would like to participate on the RAB.
2. What experience have you had working as a member of a diverse group with common goals?
3. The community co-chairperson will be selected by community members of the RAB. Please indicate whether or not you are interested in being considered for the community co-chairperson position on the RAB.

_____ Yes, I would like to be considered

_____ No, I would not like to be considered

By submitting this form, you are indicating that you are aware of the time commitment that this appointment will require of you.

Privacy Act Statement

Authority: 10 U.S. Code (USC) 2705.

Principal Purpose: To identify members of the local community who are interested in serving on the RAB. The requested information will be used to develop a list of interested persons from which the community members of the RAB will be selected. The information will also be used by the Army to contact the individuals who are selected. Disclosure of the requested information is voluntary. Failure to provide all the requested information may prevent selection to serve on the RAB.

Applicant signature

Date

Please mail this form back to the address below by **March 31, 2015** to:

Mr. Billy Birdwell
c/o HGL
5030 Bradford Drive
Building 1, Suite 230
Huntsville, AL 35805