

FORT JAY FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITE - MRS-03, PIERS AND UNDERWATER AREA GOVERNORS ISLAND, NEW YORK



Public Meeting to Present the
Proposed Plan
December 2021



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



VIRTUAL MEETING LOGISTICS



- **Question and comment session** will be held after the slides are presented. Hold verbal input until question and comment session.
- **Chat box** is available to type questions or comments:
 - Participants are welcome to type entries during the presentation and entries will be discussed during the question and comment session.
 - To access, click the 'thought bubble' icon button, type in text box, and click enter.
- **Participants are muted** upon meeting entry:
 - Web meeting participants – click microphone icon button to mute and unmute.
 - Phone participants – dial *6 to mute and unmute.
- Meeting audio is being **recorded**.
- **Do not use video feature** to support high quality online meeting streaming.



INTRODUCTION



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is pleased to present the Proposed Plan for the Fort Jay Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), Governors Island, New York, New York

- The primary purpose of this Proposed Plan (PP) is to identify the preferred remedial alternative for Fort Jay FUDS, Munitions Response Site (MRS)-03, Piers and Underwater Area.
- This PP was prepared to satisfy Section 117 (a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The PP highlights the key factors that led to identifying USACE's preferred alternative.



PROJECT PERSONNEL



USACE

Amanda Regan.....Project Manager
Todd Beckwith.....Military Munitions Manager
David King.....Project Geophysicist

NYSDEC

Steve Scharf.....Project Manager

HydroGeoLogic (HGL)

Katherine Kaye.....Project Manager

APTIM

Doug Schicho.....Project Manager
Robert Harrison.....Senior UXO and Dive Supervisor
Shannon Lancisi.....Environmental Scientist



KEY DEFINITIONS



A few key definitions are provided to better understand the presentation of the Proposed Plan

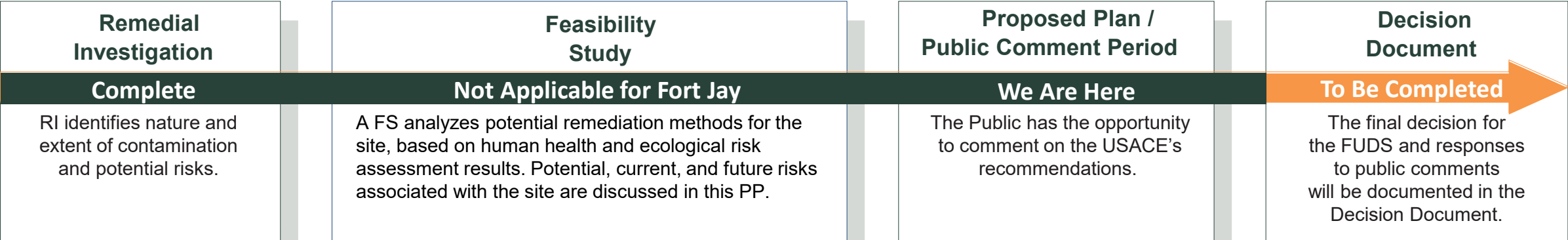
- **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)** – a Federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act that concerns hazardous substances.
- **Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS)** – An area of an eligible FUDS property containing one or more releases or threatened releases of a similar response nature, treated as a discrete entity or consolidated grouping for response purposes. Projects are categorized by actions described under installation restoration (hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste), military munitions response program, or building demolition/debris removal.
- **Munitions Constituents (MC)** - Any materials originating from unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, or other military munitions, including explosive and nonexplosive materials, and emission, degradation, or breakdown elements of such ordnance or munitions.
- **Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC)** – distinguishes specific categories of military munitions that may pose unique explosive safety risks, including Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), Discarded Military Munitions (DMM), or Munitions Constituents (MC) present in high enough concentrations to pose an explosive hazard.
- **Munitions Response Site (MRS)** – A discrete location within a Munitions Response Area that is known to require a munitions response.



KEY DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)



- **Remedial Investigation (RI)** – a study that identifies the nature and extent of contamination at a site and provides information supporting the evaluation for the need for a remedy for a site where hazardous substances may be present.
- **Feasibility Study (FS)** – if the RI determines an unacceptable risk is present, an FS is performed. The FS serves as the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of alternative remedial actions to address issues identified in the RI. In the case of MRS-03, an FS was not needed because there was no release of MEC or MC.
- **Proposed Plan (PP)** – supplements the RI/FS and provides the public with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the preferred alternative for remedial action, or alternative plans under consideration, and to participate in the selection of remedial action at a site.
- **Decision Document (DD)** – the documentation of remedial action decisions at non-National Priorities List (NPL) FUDS properties. It is a public document that describes the cleanup action/remedy selected, the basis for the choice, and responds to public comments made on the PP.





PROJECT OVERVIEW



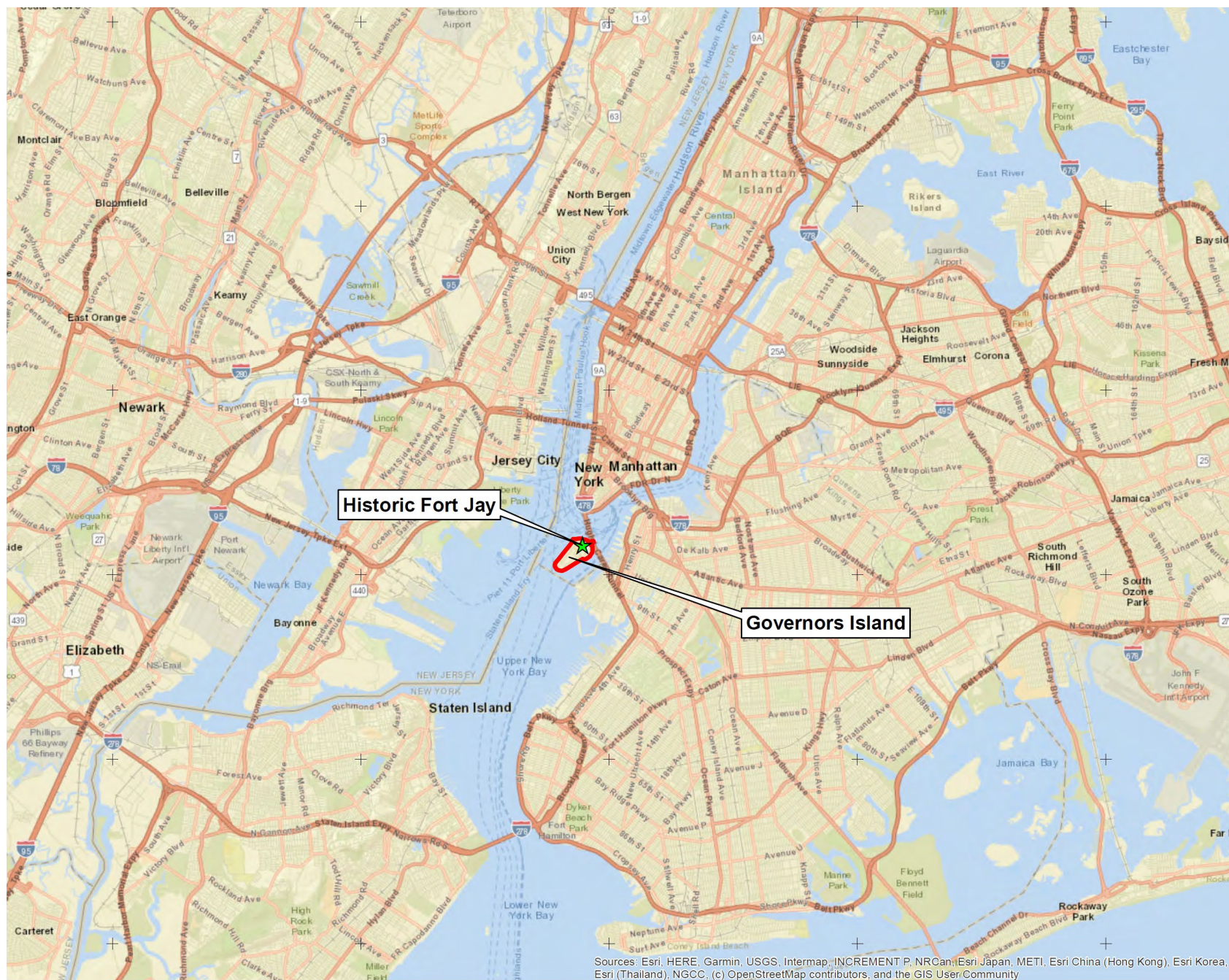
- This project falls under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). The DoD established the MMRP to address Munitions and Explosives of Concern and Munitions Constituents.
- Under the DERP, the U.S. Army is the DoD's lead Agency for FUDS, and USACE executes FUDS for the Army. USACE performs response activities at Fort Jay FUDS in accordance with CERCLA.
- USACE will finalize the preferred alternative selection for the Fort Jay FUDS MRS-03 in a DD after evaluating comments received from the public on this PP and in coordination with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).



SITE BACKGROUND



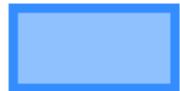
- Fort Jay FUDS is located on Governors Island in New York Harbor. Figure 1 presents the location of Fort Jay on Governors Island.
- 150 acres of the island is owned by the City of New York and is managed by the Trust for Governors Island.
- The Governors Island National Monument is 22 acres owned and managed by the National Park Service.
- In total, Governors Island is approximately 172 acres and has an extensive history of military use prior to the 1990s.
- Military history included the use of piers to load ships with supplies and equipment and potential release of cannon balls off of the seawall into the harbor.
- MRS-03 Piers and Underwater Area is 14 acres immediately off-shore of Governors Island which is the previous location of piers used by the military. Figure 2 presents the location of MRS-03.



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



FIGURE 2



MRS-03 Piers and Underwater Areas





PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS



The primary investigations at Fort Jay FUDs were the 1997 Archive Search Report (ASR), the 2008 Site Inspection (SI), and the 2020 RI.

- The 1997 ASR included a review of historical documents and interviews of knowledgeable individuals. The ASR primarily focused on potential military munitions releases to land. The report did not identify any releases to MRS-03.
- The 2008 SI included visual site inspections and collection of soil samples on land.
 - No munitions were identified on land during the performance of the SI.
 - 16 soil samples were collected and analyzed for a list of MC which were targeted for the type of munitions used on Fort Jay.
 - Regarding the potential for MC, the SI soil sampling results were used in an ecological and human health screening assessment. The purpose of the screening assessments was to determine if there was a release of MC and if so, whether the site should proceed to Remedial Investigation.



PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS (CONTINUED)



- Anecdotal information indicated that cannon balls may have been rolled off the seawall and a concern was raised regarding the potential for unneeded material being dropped off ships or piers during loading.
- The 2020 RI focused on the potential for releases to the underwater areas related to cannon balls or material dropped in the area under and surrounding the piers.
 - The RI Work Plan included a historical aerial photo search to locate all piers used for loading military ships. Figure 3 presents the locations of these piers.
 - 14 acres of the harbor bottom were searched during the RI. Divers using metal detectors scanned the harbor bottom and investigated all metal items they encountered. Figure 4 presents the location of the diver searches.
 - No munitions were identified in MRS-03 during the performance of the RI.
 - Metal items found by the divers were mainly debris left over from the demolition/collapse of the former piers being investigated.
 - Based on the SI soil sampling results and ecological and human health screening assessment no additional MC data was required in the RI.



FIGURE 3





-  Current Pier
-  Pier Configurations 1887 - 1966





FIGURE 4

Transects

- Incomplete
- 99% Complete (12,077 ft)

Current Pier

Note:
Total length of planned
transects = 12,241 ft.



Aerial photo source: NYS Statewide Digital Orthophotography Program (NYSODP), Web map Services, 2018;
NYS ITS GIS Program Office, Westchester County GIS





SITE RISKS AND HAZARDS



MEC Explosive Hazards

- Based on the results of the RI field investigations at MRS-03, the use or introduction of munitions in the water surrounding the piers is not confirmed. Because no direct evidence of an explosive hazard exists in MRS-03, the pathways for MEC were considered incomplete for all potential human and ecological receptors.

MC Risks

- The RI also concluded that no release of MC to MRS-03 took place. This conclusion was based on two lines of evidence.
 - First, because there was no release of MEC to the underwater area, no corresponding munitions constituents release was possible.
 - Second, the Site Inspection concluded there was no MC contamination on the terrestrial portion of the FUDs. Therefore, no release from the land to the underwater area was possible.



PROPOSED RESPONSE ACTION



- A response action is used to prevent or minimize the potential interaction with MEC so that it does not cause substantial danger to present or future public health and welfare.
- USACE proposes that **No Action** is required at MRS-03 for the following reasons:
 - **No MEC was identified** in the MRS.
 - Evaluation of the potential for an MC release to MRS-03 was performed, and **no source was identified**.
- The support agencies, the NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health, support the USACE's selection of the preferred alternative for this MRS.



NEXT STEPS



- Public comments will be taken under consideration and responses will be prepared and/or incorporated into the Decision Document.
- Prepare a Decision Document that documents the remedial alternatives selected.
 - Public comments received will be summarized and the responses provided in the Responsiveness Summary section of the Decision Document. Note that comments provided during this virtual meeting can be included as a formal comment if requested by the commenter.
- The Final DD will be placed online:

<https://fortjayfiles.com/>



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS



USACE invites questions and comments on this Proposed Plan throughout the public comment period (through January 13, 2022).

These can be submitted in writing or via email to:

US Army Corps of Engineers - New York District
Attn: Amanda Regan, Project Manager
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Edison, NJ 08837 Office: 917-790-8618

Additionally, comments may be submitted to the following email address: Amanda.M.Regan@usace.army.mil

