

USA Environmental, Inc.

29 January 2016

USA-USAESCH/WERS 1476

Ms. Janice J. Jamar
Huntsville Center, Corps of Engineers
4820 University Square
Huntsville, AL 35816-1822

Subject: Site Specific Final Report for Former Ft. Segarra;
Implementation of Remedial Alternatives, Various SAJ Project Sites, Florida,
Contract No. W912DY-10-D-0026, Task Order No. 0023

Dear Ms. Jamar:

In accordance with the contract requirements, USA Environmental, Inc. (USA) is submitting this report to document the actions taken and final work product for the replacement of two Former Ft. Segarra Historic Plaques. The contract effort to develop and install these plaques is Task 4e, and this Site Specific Final Report (SSFR) is Task 5.

On 12 January 2016, USA personnel replaced two historic plaques on Water Island. The following photos show the completed installation of the replacement plaques. The photo on the left is at the passenger ferry dock and the photo on the right was taken at the deep water dock.



Attachment 1 provides the graphic of the final historic plaques; **Attachment 2** is a GIS generated map of the plaque locations. Final Specifications and Warranty information were previously provided with the 28 April 2014 Final Submittal, for which we received final approval from the Corps on 10 June 2014.

USA provided minor edits to the content of the previously designed historic plaque, in coordination with the USACE Jacksonville District Project Manager. The project team debated what materials to use for the plaque and frames, based on the level of deterioration or other environment related damage to the existing historic plaques at Fort Segarra. Those plaques were made of porcelain, and the frames and bases were Corten steel, which have not withstood the ocean-side environment as well as expected. KVO Industries, Inc. (KVO), who is the manufacturer of the plaques, provided expert opinion and recommendations for alternate

materials. The material selected for the replacement plaques is high-pressure laminate, and the support posts and frame are raw aluminum with a light sand-blast finish.

USA targeted Tuesday January 12th, 2016 to complete the Ft. Segarra historic plaque replacements to align with the cargo barge schedule, which only operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To ensure that USA would be able to get the rental vehicle and the two replacement historic plaques on the cargo barge, Bayside Marine Services, LLC, reservations were made two weeks in advance with its captain Brad Monroe (340) 690-1060. The historic plaques were picked up from the FedEx office at the airport, and the majority of historic plaque installation equipment (concrete, shovels, etc.) was procured locally, on Monday January 11th.

On Tuesday January 12th, with a departure time of 8:00 am from St. Thomas, the USA team arrived at the dock at 7:30 am to allow for the appropriate amount of vehicle load time on the barge. With a 15-20 minute commute to Water Island, the morning safety brief was given during the trip, which allowed the team to immediately get to work upon arrival. The USA team built a good relationship with Mr. Monroe, and he was willing to assist with any further logistics needs.

To ensure that the 2:30 pm schedule would be met for the last return trip to St. Thomas, the USA team departed the deep water dock to replace the historic plaque at the passenger ferry dock first. This approach would allow Mr. Monroe to see the progress on the replacement of the second historic plaque, in the event his departure time from Water Island needed to be pushed back to accommodate the team.

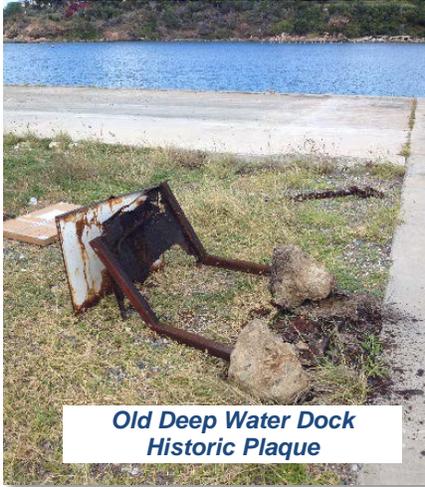
Attachment 2 shows the locations of the installed historic plaques.

Removal of the old historic plaque at the Passenger Ferry began at 8:30 am.

After unloading and staging equipment, it was found that the footings for the existing historic plaque were married to a decorative stone wall surrounding the garden plot that the historic plaque was installed in. The stone wall became a consideration that needed to be handled carefully, as passenger ferry dock is highly trafficked by the local population and tourists and the team did not have the resources or time to rebuild the wall in the event it got damaged. Due to the attachment to the stone wall, one existing post was cut at the base of its concrete footing, and covered in concrete to reduce any possible safety concern. The second leg was removed from the ground with some effort. The new historic plaque, seen in the photo, was installed by 11:45 am, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, including the use of concrete to anchor the frame. One and a half 60-lb bags of ready mix concrete were used for each post.



Passenger Ferry Dock historic plaque: A view of the old and the newly installed historic plaque, including the decorative rock wall.



**Old Deep Water Dock
Historic Plaque**

The historic plaque at the deep water dock was very corroded and crumbled during the removal, as seen in the photo to the left. The replacement plaque was a smooth install because the existing holes only needed a little digging. The new sign, seen in the photo below, was installed by 2:00 pm, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, including the use of concrete to anchor the frame. One and a half 60-lb bags of ready mix concrete were used for each post. The old historic plaques from both the Passenger Ferry Dock and the Deepwater Dock were disposed of properly at the islands waste transfer station. The USA team ensured that all sign debris was disposed of in the proper dumpsters.



**Completed Deep Water Dock Historic Plaque with
USA team member giving the thumbs up!**

Local contact, David Roselle, President of Water Island Civic Association, was contacted at approximately 9:00 am, but was on St. Thomas at the time. He met the USA team at 10:45 am, and was happy with the progress of the operation. David mentioned that he was phasing out of the local leadership at the end of the week, so it might be advisable to utilize Brad Monroe as the local contact for any future Water Island operations.

Native files for the historic plaque image and GIS data are compiled with the other project documents and will be delivered to the Corps along with the files and related data for the remaining project sites under this contract.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (813) 343-6339, Mobile: (813) 505-5220, or email rhierholzer@usatampa.com.

Best regards,



Robert Hierholzer
WERS Project Manager
USA Environmental, Inc.

Enclosures:

Attachment 1 – Former Ft. Segarra Historic Plaque Images

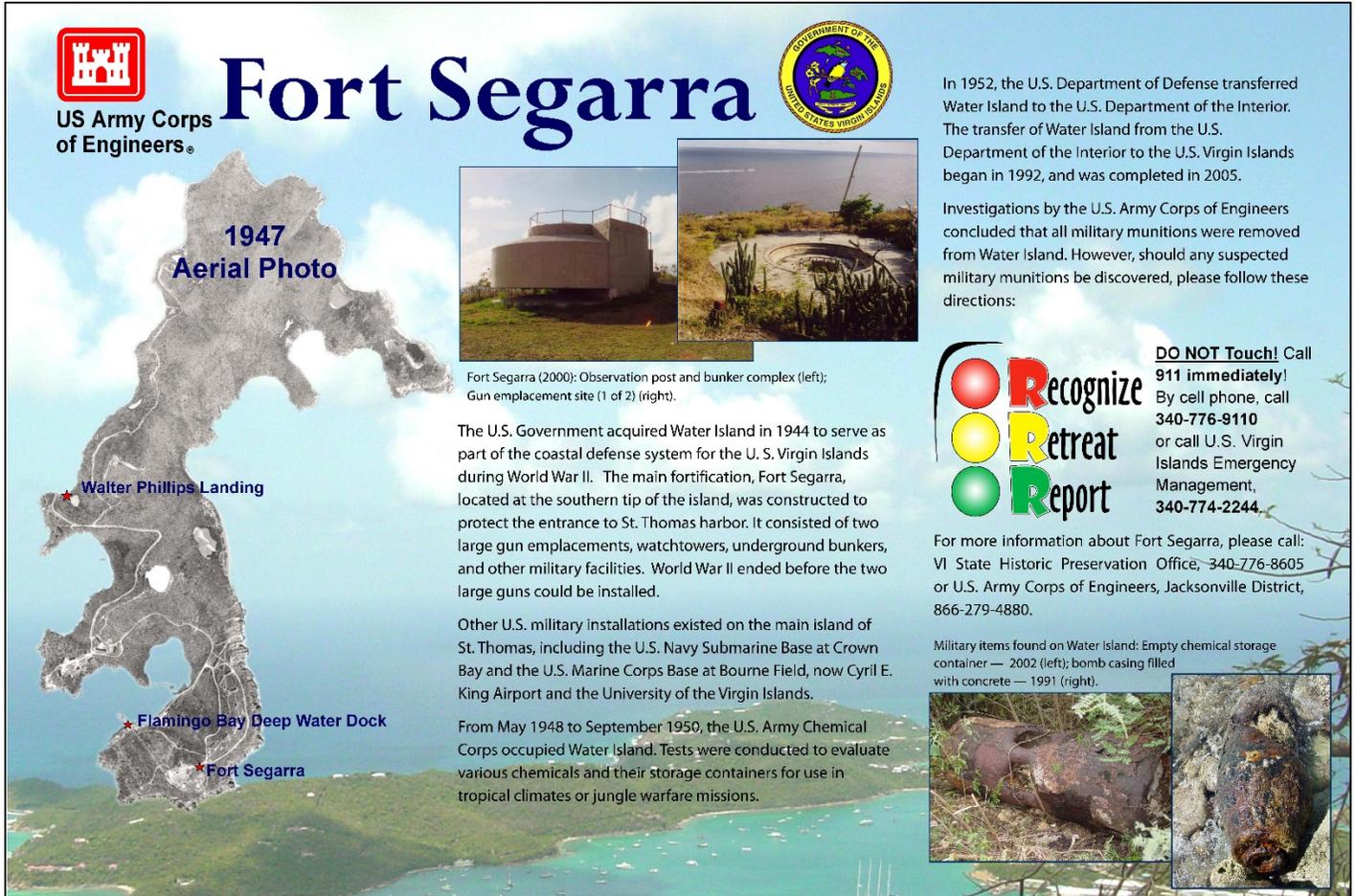
Attachment 2: - Historic plaques location map

Distribution:

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Attachment 1

Ft. Segarra Historic Plaque Image



The image is a composite graphic for a historic plaque. On the left is a large aerial photograph of Water Island from 1947, with labels for 'Walter Phillips Landing', 'Flamingo Bay Deep Water Dock', and 'Fort Segarra'. At the top left is the US Army Corps of Engineers logo. At the top center is the title 'Fort Segarra' in a large blue serif font. To the right of the title is the Government of the United States Virgin Islands seal. Below the title are two smaller photographs: one of a modern observation post and bunker complex, and another of a circular gun emplacement site. Text blocks provide historical context, including the island's acquisition in 1944, its role in WWII, and its use by the Army Chemical Corps from 1948 to 1950. On the right side, there is a 'DO NOT Touch!' warning, contact information for the State Historic Preservation Office and the US Army Corps of Engineers, and a 'Recognize, Retreat, Report' logo. At the bottom right, two more photographs show military items found on the island: an empty chemical storage container and a bomb casing filled with concrete.

 **Fort Segarra** 

1947 Aerial Photo

Fort Segarra (2000): Observation post and bunker complex (left); Gun emplacement site (1 of 2) (right).

The U.S. Government acquired Water Island in 1944 to serve as part of the coastal defense system for the U. S. Virgin Islands during World War II. The main fortification, Fort Segarra, located at the southern tip of the island, was constructed to protect the entrance to St. Thomas harbor. It consisted of two large gun emplacements, watchtowers, underground bunkers, and other military facilities. World War II ended before the two large guns could be installed.

Other U.S. military installations existed on the main island of St. Thomas, including the U.S. Navy Submarine Base at Crown Bay and the U.S. Marine Corps Base at Bourne Field, now Cyril E. King Airport and the University of the Virgin Islands.

From May 1948 to September 1950, the U.S. Army Chemical Corps occupied Water Island. Tests were conducted to evaluate various chemicals and their storage containers for use in tropical climates or jungle warfare missions.

DO NOT Touch! Call 911 immediately!
By cell phone, call **340-776-9110**
or call U.S. Virgin Islands Emergency Management, **340-774-2244**

For more information about Fort Segarra, please call:
VI State Historic Preservation Office, 340-776-8605
or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, 866-279-4880.

Military items found on Water Island: Empty chemical storage container — 2002 (left); bomb casing filled with concrete — 1991 (right).

**Recognize
Retreat
Report**

Attachment 2

Ft. Segarra Historic Plaques Location Map

