



Source: The cover of the USACE brochure about the BPTA contains useful information.

Baywood Park Training Area

This is the second in a two-part series on the history of Abalone in Morro Bay.
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When the prospect of a second world war became a reality, military training bases were opened around the country and they had to include ranges and facilities for weapons training. As we wrote in the previous edition of *Estero Bay News* published January 15, thousands of soldiers had to learn about the weapons they would use in assaults on enemy positions through live fire exercises. They expended an enormous amount of ammunition learning to fight.

The location of the weapons training and testing for the Morro Bay Amphibious Training Base was mostly centered in a 9,000 acre parcel of Baywood Park and Los Osos known as the Baywood Park Training Area (BPTA).

Military munitions used at the BPTA during this time included demolition explosives, blasting caps and dynamite, small arms ammunition; rockets, grenades, projectiles, mortars, and land mines.

When the war ended, the BPTA was declared excess property. A clearance sweep was performed, and in 1947, the land was returned to previous owners. From 1945 to 1962, the military conducted 11 additional clearances for munitions and explosives.

In 1989 the BPTA was named a "Formerly Used Defense Site" (FUDS), and continuing investigations and monitoring were scheduled by the Army Corp of Engineers.

In 1993, an Interim Removal Action was again performed to locate and remove munitions and explosives of concern. No further indications of the presence of munitions were identified. The Army Corps of Engineers determined that a public safety campaign was necessary to inform visitors and landowners of potential munitions hazards.

Recurring Reviews were conducted in 2007, 2012, and 2018. The Corps of Engineers continued to actively promote public safety by way of education, notifications, warning signs, and distribution of training materials for schools and first responders. The Corps remains committed to working with the public to fulfill their safety mission.

Our main source for this information is the US Army Corps of Engineers report on the BPTA as a *Formerly Used Defense Site*. You can find a copy at the South Bay Branch Library in Los Osos).