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QUARTERLY ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER FOR NS MAYPORT FL
3/1/1995
NAVAL STATION MAYPORT

A Quarterly Environmental Newsletter

NAVY Green

Mayport, FL

Naval Station Mayport

Spring 1995

NAVSTA Mayport Administrative Record
Document Index Number

32228-000

13.06.00.0004

Dear Neighbor:

A lot has happened in the Naval Station Mayport environmental arena since the winter edition of *Navy Green* was published.

Our Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is up and running full speed ahead. Since its formation, we have already held four very productive meetings. The first, held February 21, was an introductory briefing to familiarize the RAB members with their duties and responsibilities. In our three subsequent meetings, the RAB members took a tour of the Naval Station's environmental sites and received a comprehensive overview of our environmental cleanup program.

You are welcome to attend our RAB meetings to learn more about our environmental programs. Meeting times and locations will be advertised in the *Florida Times-Union* and *Beaches Leader*. And if you miss one, the minutes will be on file in our environmental Information Repository at the Beaches Branch Public Library in Neptune Beach.

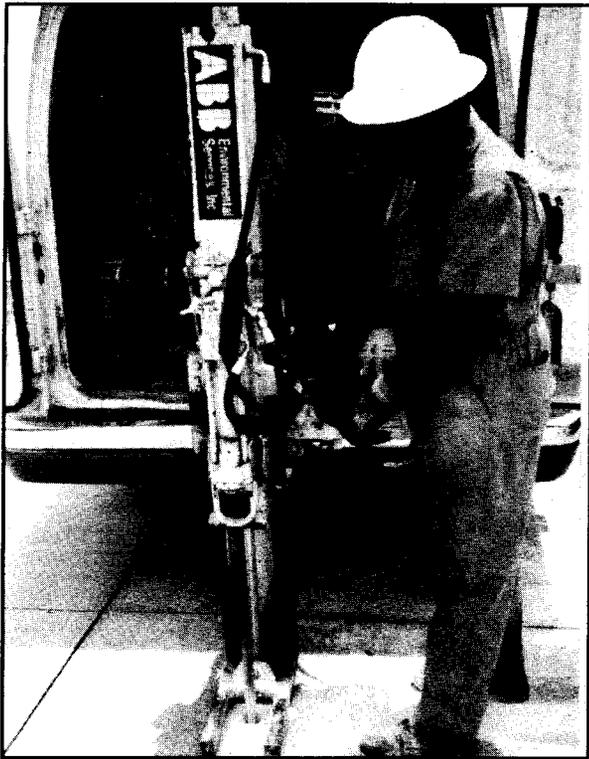
It was great to see so many of you at our Earth Week activities in April. The Sunday morning shell walk was as educational as it was fun. And I'd like to extend a special thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who came out for the Sunday morning Little Jetties Park cleanup project - it was a tremendous success. You helped us uphold the true spirit of our Earth Week theme: "We only have one earth, let's keep it clean!"

This edition of *Navy Green* is once again packed with information on our environmental programs. We continue our series on endangered and threatened species who live with us here at Mayport, focusing this quarter on our efforts to protect the Loggerhead Sea Turtle. Our hazardous materials control program is the best in the fleet, and you'll see why when you read about how we saved taxpayers more than half a million dollars by reusing materials from the recently-decommissioned ships USS Saratoga and USS Dale.

We are all very proud of the important work we are doing to preserve and protect the environment you have entrusted to us, and it's a pleasure to keep you informed of our progress through our public meetings and publications like *Navy Green*. The more you know about our environmental efforts, the more I think you will come to understand why we believe that at Naval Station Mayport, every day is Earth Day.



SCOTT T. CANTFIL
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer
Naval Station Mayport



TerraProbeSM Sampling

Notes From the Field

The investigation continues at Naval Station Mayport as part of the Installation Restoration Program. Field work is ongoing at the base, with teams of engineers and scientists sampling the soil and groundwater.

Current sampling is taking place at sites in what is known as Group III, the area on the eastern side of the base and along the beach. These sites include the industrial areas, ship repair contractor sites, wastewater treatment facilities, and a landfill.

Using a TerraProbeSM, engineers at Naval Station Mayport are collecting samples of soil and groundwater to be tested for the presence of chemicals. The TerraProbeSM takes samples through "direct push" technology, in which a hydraulic motor drives the sampling mechanism into the ground to take the sample. Samples can be taken from as deep as 25 feet underground.

Engineers will also be installing monitoring wells and conducting a geophysics survey with ground-penetrating radar to "see" underground. Field work is expected to continue through the summer at Group III. We will keep you posted on the progress.

It's Turtle Time!

Naval Station Mayport provides a home to several endangered and threatened species, including the **Loggerhead Sea Turtle**, which is listed as a threatened species by the Federal government and the State of Florida.

Loggerheads can live in a variety of habitats, but the greatest percentage of nestings occur in Florida, including nesting sites at Naval Station Mayport. Loggerheads can weigh up to 400 pounds, are reddish brown, and can be distinguished from other sea turtles by their large heads and powerful jaws.

Naval Station Mayport is committed to protecting the Loggerheads, their nests, and their eggs. We have an agreement with the City of Jacksonville for employees from Hannah Park to search for and locate all nests during nesting season, which lasts from April to September. All located nests will be reported to State and Federal agencies, as well as the Navy. The nests will be protected and moved, if necessary. Eggs might also be removed to hatch in a safe location.

To ensure the survival of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle and to create a safe nesting environment for Loggerheads on base, we are working to accomplish the following:

- ◆ **Stop Beach Erosion.** The turtle nests must be above high tide, but beach erosion makes it harder to find beaches high enough. On base, erosion is minimized by limiting access to the beach and by constructed walkways that protect dune vegetation.
- ◆ **Limit Artificial Lighting.** Hatching most often occurs at night and the hatchlings run frantically to the ocean. Artificial lights disorient the hatchlings, preventing them from finding their way. During nesting season, no artificial lights are allowed to shine at or near the beach on base.
- ◆ **Minimize Beach Vehicular Driving.** Vehicles on the beach can destroy nests and interfere with nesting females. No vehicles are allowed on the beach during nesting season.

By protecting the beach during nesting season, we hope that Naval Station Mayport can remain a home to these threatened turtles for a long time to come!



Waste Minimization

Naval Station Mayport Sets the Pace

The use of hazardous materials, such as lubricants and paints, is a regular part of Navy operations and essential to the Navy in fulfilling its mission. At Naval Station Mayport an innovative program has been initiated to reduce, reuse, and recycle many types of hazardous materials.

The hazardous materials minimization system works because all hazardous materials are tracked from "cradle to grave" – including purchase, storage, use, and disposal. Hazardous materials are barcoded as they arrive at Naval Station Mayport. Because all tenant commands are centralized under this system, these barcoded materials can be tracked, collected, and redistributed as needed to commands on base, as well as other Navy installations. With our program, Naval Station Mayport goes beyond what is required by regulations for managing hazardous materials and has become a model for other military installations.

An Example

With the recent decommissioning of the USS Saratoga and the USS Dale, several hundred thousand pounds of hazardous material supplies – including lubricants, paints, and sealants – were removed. These materials, valued at over \$300,000, previously would have been tagged for disposal at a cost of over \$200,000. Thanks to Naval Station Mayport's hazardous materials minimization system, hazardous materials from the Saratoga and the Dale are supporting other operations at Mayport and Kings Bay, GA.

RAB Update

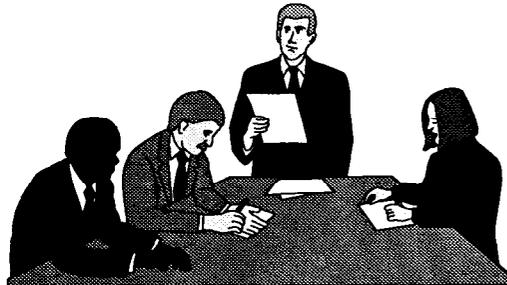
The Naval Station Mayport Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) provides the local community with a *voice* in the station's environmental investigations and cleanup. The RAB is a partnership among the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the local community. Through this partnership, the community RAB members provide input about cleanup activities and air any community concerns directly to the individuals empowered to make the decisions.

The Navy recognizes the importance of community involvement during environmental restoration. RABs are being formed at military installations all across the country. Naval Station Mayport's RAB was established in February 1995 and consists of interested community members and representatives from Naval Station Mayport, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, USEPA, and FDEP.

As an advisory committee, the RAB reviews environmental documents and plans, provides advice and community concerns to the Navy, and communicates information back to their community.

RAB meetings are currently held monthly and are open to the public. They are advertised in the *Beaches Leader* and the Shorelines Edition of the *Florida Times-Union*. You are welcome to attend these meetings, and the Navy encourages your participation.

**If you have any questions
about the RAB contact:
Cheryl Mitchell at 270-6730**



Questions & Answers

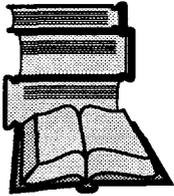
Naval Station Mayport - who to call:

For general questions or information about Naval Station Mayport and the environmental programs, contact:

Lt. John Wallach
Public Affairs Officer
(904) 270-5226

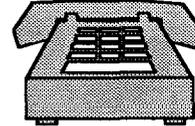
For more specific technical questions relating to the Installation Restoration program or cleanup activities, contact:

Cheryl Mitchell
Environmental Engineer
(904) 270-6730



An Information Repository containing documents related to the environmental cleanup activities at Naval Station Mayport is also available to the public. The Information Repository is located at:

Beaches Branch Public Library
600 Third Street, Neptune Beach
(904) 241-1141



Become involved in the environmental program at Naval Station Mayport, attend a RAS meeting! These meetings are held regularly and are open to the public. Notices of RAS meetings are published in the *Florida Times-Union* and in the *Beaches Leader*.

Public Affairs Officer
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Mayport, FL 32228-0032

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