

Baker

RR-00142
901-7-2-92

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Commanding Officer
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Naval Station, Building N-26
Norfolk, Virginia 23511-6287

Attn: Ms. M. Montesinos-Gross
LANTDIV-EIC-Code 1822

Subject: Contract N62470-89-D-4814
CTO-0007 - NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads
Ceiba, Puerto Rico
Community Relations Trip Report

Dear Ms. Montesinos-Gross:

Baker Environmental, Inc., (Baker) participated in the Community Relations Interviews at NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, held from June 3 to 10, 1992. Ms. Melissa C. Davidson, the Community Relations Specialist, was the Baker representative coordinating the interviews with Chief Stacey Byington, the Station Public Affairs Officer (PAO), and Sr. Sindulfo Castillo, the Station Installation Restoration Program Coordinator. Attached is the report for those interviews (Attachment A), including the interview responses (Attachment B). These responses have been used to direct and revise the Community Relations Plan (CRP).

If you have any questions or comments regarding this trip report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (412) 269-2020 or Mr. John Barone at (412) 269-2034.

Very truly yours,

BAKER ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Melissa C. Davidson
Community Relations Specialist



John Barone, P.G.
Project Manager

MCD/JCB/rw

cc: Mr. Keith Simmons, LANTDIV
Mr. Mark Lambert, P.E., LANTDIV
Chief Stacey Byington, PAO, NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads
CDR Ybañez, PWD, NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads
Sr. Jose Negron, EED, NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads
Sr. Sindulfo Castillo, PWD, NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads

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ATTACHMENT A
CTO-0007
INTERVIEW ACTIVITIES - NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads

June 3, 1992

Ms. Davidson arrived at RRNS Guard Station at Gate 1 at 0700. Sr. Sindulfo Castillo met Ms. Davidson at the Gate with the appropriate documentation. They discussed the possibility of providing Commander Ybañez a briefing outlining the involvement of PWD/EED with the interview program.

Ms. Davidson met with Chief Byington at 0830. Chief Byington provided a briefing of her efforts to date regarding the interview project. She had decided not to pre-schedule the interviews or to send out the interview confirmation letter and questionnaire provided by Baker. Rather, she will commence scheduling the interviews later on this day (Wednesday, June 3).

Chief Byington requested Baker develop a Fact Sheet to provide the interview participants at the conclusion of the interviews. She recommended the Fact Sheet consist of a list of the IR sites, the specific study stages of each and a brief explanation of the referred acronyms (ie., PA/SI, RI/FS).

A tentative schedule for the interviews was planned. Interviews on Vieques Island were targeted for Tuesday (June 9) and the Ceiba interviews for Monday, June 8. The base interviews would be conducted June 5, 1992. Thus, the assistance of Sr. Castillo would only be required for one half-day on Monday and most of Tuesday, June 8 and 9, respectively. (As agreed with Commander Ybañez, the interview schedule would be designed to reduce the amount of assistance required from Sr. Castillo.)

Chief Byington reviewed the list of potential interviewees that both she and Sr. Castillo had developed. Her list comprised an cross-section of civilian, military, residential and other off-base personnel. As requested, Sr. Castillo's list consisted of Spanish-speaking individuals including the Mayoress of Vieques, a retired PWD Supervisor and several local business persons.

Ms. Davidson met with Sr. Castillo at his office and discussed his involvement with the interview program. Possible questions from the interview participants were discussed and appropriate responses debated. Sr. Castillo and Sr. Jose Negron, PWD-EED, had scheduled a briefing with Commander Ybañez, but this was canceled because of a schedule conflict. Rather, Ms. Davidson conversed briefly with Commander Ybañez in the PWD-EED office on the interview process and anticipated results, explained Sr. Castillo's role in the process and made assurances that Sr. Castillo's time would not be overly taxed. Lt. Perkins was also briefed separately.

Ms. Davidson developed the interview Fact Sheet, an interview scheduling script, an interview script, and a Question-and-Answer guide. Sr. Castillo provided review and comment to these materials.

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June 4, 1992

The interview team assembled at 0700. Chief Byington provided review and comment regarding the developed interview materials. The Fact Sheet would be translated into Spanish for distribution to the Spanish-speaking interview participants; other materials would be translated into Spanish for ease of use by Sr. Castillo during the interview process.

Chief Byington and Ms. Davidson provided a briefing for Captain Bruce Roulstone, the recently appointed Station Commander, at 1100. The Captain was also interviewed for the IRP. Following the briefing, the interview materials were finalized and faxed to the translator. Chief Byington continued scheduling the interviews and Sr. Castillo began calling the potential interview participants on his list.

June 5, 1992

From 0800 until 1030, Ms. Davidson and Chief Byington interviewed four people (the interview descriptions follow the discussion of activities). The Spanish translation of the interview materials was received and provided to Sr. Castillo for final comments. From 1300 until 1430, three people were interviewed. Ms. Davidson addressed comments to the Spanish Fact Sheet for the remainder of the day.

June 8, 1992

Sr. Castillo provided a review of his efforts to date for the interview scheduling of the individuals on Vieques Island and provided a plan for the trip. He and Ms. Davidson discussed transportation, appropriate dress (no uniforms) and timing for the trip. Arrangement for the Vieques trip were made, and the Spanish interview materials were finalized according to comments received. Chief Byington and Ms. Davidson conducted three interviews during the day.

June 9, 1992

Chief Byington, Sr. Castillo and Ms. Davidson arrived at Fajardo airport at 0700 for passage to Vieques Island and return. Sr. Emilio Ortiz, the Municipal of Vieques Secretary, was not available for his 0900 appointment until 0945; Sr. Castillo completed the interview at 1015.

Sr. Gonzales, a former NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads PWD employee, and his daughter, Lillian Rivera, were interviewed from 1045 until 1140. Sr. Castillo conducted the interview. Ms. Rivera provided the interview team with a report on the effects of the Naval marina on the environment she had completed for a biology class. The report was photocopied and returned to Ms. Rivera.

The team returned to the Naval Station and interviewed Lieutenant Richardson from 1300 until 1330. At 1400, the team returned to Fajardo. From 1445 onward, Ms. Davidson reviewed and copied relevant files for the CRP at NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads PAO.

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June 10, 1992

Ms. Davidson arrived at PWD at 0800 and met with Sr. Castillo to review the Base Master Plans and copy relevant data. Sr. Castillo had several Spanish-language interviews planned for the afternoon. Chief Byington had meetings elsewhere throughout the day, but confirmed that Ms. Davidson and Sr. Castillo would conduct the Spanish interviews without her.

Two of the interview participants were unavailable for the meeting. Alternatively, Ms. Alicia Rodríguez, Municipal Secretary of Ceiba, was interviewed from 1430 until 1520. She provided Ms. Davidson with some printed information about Ceiba. The former Municipal Secretary, Ms. Sonia Rivera, was interviewed from 1540 until 1600.

June 11, 1992

No activities relevant to the Community Relations Program were conducted on this day.

June 12, 1992

During the morning, Ms. Davidson prepared for an exit briefing for Sr. Negrón and possibly for Captain Roulstone. She collected additional information (news clippings, press releases, "Welcome Aboard" book). At 1400, Chief Byington and Ms. Davidson met briefly with LTCDR Marrs, Assistant PWO. They briefed him on the interview progress, and also meet with Sr. Negrón and Sr. Castillo. Sr. Negrón was otherwise engaged in another meeting and was unable to attend the CRP briefing. Chief Byington would send him a copy of the Baker trip report in lieu of a formal exit briefing. Ms. Davidson offered to accommodate PWD-EED later in the day, if requested, with another briefing. The required information was photocopied and Chief Byington was left with relevant data.

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**ATTACHMENT B
CTO-0007
COMMUNITY RELATIONS INTERVIEW RESPONSES**

June 4, 1992 - NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads

Captain Bruce Roulstone
1100 to 1135

The Captain has been stationed at RRNS for one year and is very familiar with the environmental restoration program. He has been briefed regarding the program and remarked that he feels well informed. The Navy has been a good neighbor in the community, he added, and he is confident with the study and cleanup efforts of the IRP.

In regards to queries of media objectivity, the Captain explained that the media is "sometimes" fair and well-balanced in reporting the Navy and environmental issues. The information repositories were discussed, and the Fact Sheet provided and explained. Captain Roulstone did not have any questions.

June 5, 1992

AOAN (Airman) Lisa Marcus
0800 to 0815

Airman Marcus has been stationed at RRNS for 10 months with duties involving ammunition transfer. She was not familiar with the IRP nor had she worked at or near the IR sites. Upon learning about the program, she did not have any specific concerns or questions regarding the study sites; her inquiries centered on current hazardous waste practices relative to her job. Airman Marcus mentioned that traditional DoD and AFTS communication modes are sufficient to disseminate IRP information. She suggested the PAO brief the various Department heads periodically.

Seaman Gabriel G. Hernandez
0830 to 0840

Seaman Hernandez works at Surface Operations and has been at RRNS for two years. He was not familiar with the IRP, nor has he worked at or near the sites. Seaman Hernandez did not have any specific questions regarding the program. He suggested utilizing the base newspaper and Navy radio station to provide the community with IR information, and confirmed that the local media is accurate and unbiased with treating the Navy and environmental issues. Seaman Hernandez did not suggest additional personnel for interviews, and has been placed on the mailing list.

Ms. Pat Appino
0900 to 0920

In August 1992, Ms. Appino will have served at the RRNS Red Cross for five years. She recently learned about the IRP through department meetings. She has not worked at or near the study sites and did not express any concerns regarding the program.

Ms. Appino suggested using internal communication methods such as El Navigante and the radio station to inform the community. Regarding non-Navy media reliability, Ms. Appino remarked that the local papers are not very objective sources of information. Ms. Appino asked to be on the mailing list; she commented that her office receives many queries from base personnel and that she would like to be able to respond to any IR questions.

She suggested an interview or briefing with Commander Hendrix in Family Services and with a representative at the Hospital. In closing, Ms. Appino remarked of the program: "this is great!" She appreciated the interview and was very pleased about the community right-to-know efforts.

Ensign Dan Gilbridge
1000 to 1020

Lt. Beth Jones, the CFAC PAO, joined the interview team as an observer for this interview. Ensign Gilbridge has been at RRNS for 14 months and is the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Staff for the Commander of the Caribbean Air Fleet. He is an environmentally aware and interested individual, and asked questions regarding the future cleanup remedies before the program was explained to him. He was particularly concerned about the decision-making process and authority in the final disposition of the study areas: "Who decides that these sites do not need further study?" The study process and TRC involvement was explained to Ensign Gilbridge, yet he appeared skeptical. Following this discussion, the questionnaire was introduced.

Ensign Gilbridge is "somewhat" familiar with the IRP but has not worked at or near the sites. He discussed effective means of informing the community and recommended letters from the Station Commander for housing residents, public notices and newspaper articles. He added that the local media is definitely not an objective source of information. Ensign Gilbridge was very interested in receiving information through the mailing list. He did not suggest any additional interviews.

Sr. Ismael Santiago
1300 to 1315

Sr. Santiago is the Station Safety Manager, and has worked at RRNS for seven years. He is familiar with the IRP. Although he has assisted with the contractors working for the IRP, he has not worked at the IR sites.

Sr. Santiago suggested the traditional means of information dissemination should be used by the IRP, particularly including the Station newspaper, and added that the PAO should utilize the Vieques supplement to supply information to the Vieques community. He also added that the two local towns have radio stations, and that the base should take advantage of these in addressing community issues. He discussed the local media and remarked that, as "...they get piecemeal information and write from this...", they may not be extremely accurate. Mr. Santiago suggested interviewing the Preventive Medicine and Industrial Hygiene branches of the Hospital.

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Chaplain Anthony Suellentrop
1325 to 1335

Chaplain Suellentrop is the Catholic Chaplain and has been at RRNS for 10 months. He was unfamiliar with the IRP and had not worked at or near the sites. The Chaplain suggested the same modes of communication as other interviewees and stressed that many people rely on the radio. He remarked that "in general" the media's accuracy and objectiveness is "not bad." He did not suggest any additional interviews and seemed to feel confident with the IRP and its progress.

Ensign Milton Green
1345 to 1400

Ensign Green has been stationed at RRNS for 18 months and is the Support Equipment Division Officer at the Air Station. He is "vaguely" familiar with the IRP and was very interested in discussing the current hazardous waste practices. He asked questions about the dry dock and "PCB contamination," (Site 9) and appeared to be confused with current versus pre-1984 waste disposal. He was given the Fact Sheet, and the status of Site 9 was discussed as presented in the VERSAR site description.

Ensign Green suggested direct, mass mailing as the optimum mode of communication. Otherwise, he explained, contact with all of the community is not assured and the local media is "probably not" accurate and unbiased. He suggested interviewing or briefing a member of the Hazardous Waste Group in his area.

June 8, 1992 - NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads

Ms. Madeline Simmons
1135 to 1150

Ms. Simmons is a Ceiba resident whose husband is on active duty at RRNS. She has lived here for two years and is active with various environmental activities including a program for protection of the manatee. She was not aware of the IRP, but mentioned other environmental issues at RRNS such as sewage disposal concerns. She has not worked at or near the study sites. The sites at Vieques Island were discussed, as she was interested in the location with regard to the manatee refuge.

She commended the interview program and remarked that "it's better to tell people now (about the sites) and avoid the panic caused" by informing the public only after remediation. Ms. Simmons was concerned that if the public were not adequately informed about the IRP prior to remediation, they may wonder if they had been exposed to health hazards during the study/remediation phases.

Ms. Simmons suggested an Awareness Video produced and shown on Channel 40. The local media is accurate, as far as she knows. Ms. Simmons highly recommended two additional persons for interviews: Julio and Cecily de Guitierrez, both involved with the manatee program.

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Ms. Fanny A. Cano
1435 to 1450

Ms. Cano has been at RRNS for two years and, due to her job, she is "a little bit" familiar with the IRP. She has not worked at or near the IRP sites and did not have any specific questions or concerns. She suggested working through the housing office to inform the community, as well as using the Plan of the Day and notices. Ms. Cano suggested informing the Ombudsman as "the best way to get information out" to the community.

Ms. Jennifer Greipentrag
1520 to 1545

Ms. Greipentrag is a RRNS resident with her husband on permanent duty there; they have been here for nine months. Until the day of the interview, she had not heard of the IRP, but did not have any specific concerns about the sites "as long as they are not near schools or parks or anywhere where my daughter plays." Of remediation, she asked "how are you going to clean it up and where are you going to take it?" The different studies and remediation methods were explained, and Ms. Greipentrag was given the Fact Sheet. She suggested informing the community through television and flyers. She also suggested interviewing or briefing each Command to keep the community informed.

June 9, 1992 - Vieques Island, PR

Sr. Emilio Ortiz Ventura
Vieques Municipal Secretary
0945 to 1015

Mr. Ventura was not aware of the IRP or the Navy's commitment to remedy contaminated sites. Although Sr. Ventura works for the Mayoress, who is a TRC member for the IRP, he was apparently not aware of relevant IR information; his unfamiliarity indicates that the IRP is not widely discussed in the local government.

He asked about other environmental issues and military activities. He was given the Fact Sheet and the status of the sites on Vieques were explained to him. He suggested utilizing Channel 28 (television) to inform the public, in addition to the Vieques Times.

Mr. Ventura requested the Navy inform the President of the Municipal Assembly of Vieques, Sr. Onaz Velez Tirado, and the DNR via Lt. Enrique Picodelli. The major concerns of the community as understood and expressed by Mr. Ventura were possible air and water pollution, and harm to human health caused by military exercises. Mr. Ventura had no comments on the view of the Navy as a good neighbor.

Sr. Gonzales Rivera and
Sra. Lillian Rivera
1045 to 1140

Mr. Gonzales is a retired PWD employee, with service at RRNS for 21 years. He has lived on Vieques for 63 years, while his daughter Lillian is a 23-year resident. Mr. Gonzales and his daughter were unaware of the IRP but began asking questions about the landfill at Sector Martinez. Apparently, Mr. Gonzales thought it had "toxics." He asked

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exactly where the solid and hazardous wastes from the base on Vieques go. He indicated that his primary concerns and the outstanding questions of his community were the landfill and current military disposal practices.

Mr. Gonzales suggested using El Horizonte, El Regional and Channel 28 to disseminate information. The media, he commented "is as fair as it can be considering the Navy does not give out much information." He suggested briefing the DNR.

Mr. Gonzales and his daughter were very concerned with the relationship between the Navy and the local people on Vieques. According to them, this relationship is bordering on violent. They claim that there have been harassment and attacks on Americans, and that the originally "pro-Navy" residents are receiving similar treatment. Mr. Gonzales remarked that the Navy has told these people, and him personally, that if they get into problems defending the Navy, that it is their own fault. He warned that, due to this apparent lack of support, the residents will not bother to defend the Navy.

Sr. and Sra. Rivera cited many reasons for the degradation of the relationship with the Navy, with the primary being the reduction of activity at the base on Vieques: "The Navy is not providing jobs...but [rather] is cutting people." The local attitude according to Lillian is that "nobody cares [about the problems on the Island]...[even though] the Navy has what it takes to make [change] happen."

Although this latter comment did not address the IRP specifically, it is important because the attitude and relationship of the Navy with the local people affects the perception of the IR Program as well as normal base operations. It also appears that, as this is an election year, the frustrations of the people are becoming more evident.

Lt. Richardson
1300 to 1330

Lt. Richardson has been stationed at RRNS for approximately four weeks as the Officer-In-Charge of the Naval Ammunition Support Depot. Although he was not familiar with the IRP at RRNS, he was somewhat aware of the IR activity at WESTDIV in California.

Regarding the current community relations between the base and the people of Vieques, Lt. Richardson explained that he thought tensions were due to the upcoming mayoral and gubernatorial elections. He described tensions as cyclical, heightening during election campaigns and then lessening during the term of office. Lt. Richardson described how candidates portray the current mayor and the Navy as "bad guys" conspiring against the people.

Regarding accurate media and information dissemination, Lt. Richardson commented that the local paper, the "Vieques Times," was unreliable. The editor, he continued, will "play with politics and people." This editor will often deviate from the facts and not print information verbatim. Lt. Richardson recommended that if the "Vieques Times" were used, to "be careful...and tape the conversation." If the information is not carefully worded, he continued, "they [the editors will] use their political clout to hurt the military." He added that in his opinion, "these people will not understand (the program) and will refuse to understand the amounts of effort you are doing."

Other modes of information release were discussed; he recommended a flyer from the RRNS PAO to accompany the newspaper. Additionally, Lt. Richardson requested to be on the mailing list because he often is contacted about a variety of issues. He suggested talking with Lt. Farmer (741-0535, OIC NMCD74, Camp Garcia) and Sr. Chief Vincente.

June 10, 1992 - Ceiba, PR

Alicia Rodriguez
Municipal of Ceiba Secretary
1440 to 1520

Sra. Rodriguez was not familiar with the IRP but was very interested in learning about the program. When briefed about the program, and asked her opinion of the Navy as a neighbor, she commented that the Navy should be "applauded, if you are really doing what you say you are doing (the IRP)."

She had some general concerns regarding the relations between the station and the community of Ceiba rather than specific IRP-related questions. Sra. Rodriguez described relations between the Navy and Ceiba community as not very good. She cited a lack of information dissemination as a cause of poor Navy public relations. She suggested that an information repository at City Hall would be an excellent idea for interested citizens that might help foster a better Navy/Public relationship.

In order to reach the public, she suggested utilizing the radio, as it is the principal media form in the area; secondary forms include the television and newspaper. Community presentations regarding the IRP were also suggested. Ms. Rodriguez provided information regarding the library, and suggested talking with the library assistant, Sra. Migdalia Borrano (Escolas Tico Lopez Street, 885-0605). She also suggested talking with Ms. Anna Cora at 885-3110.

Sra. Sonia Rivera
1540-1600

Ms. Rivera lives in Ceiba and operates several service ventures in the community. Her husband and daughter work under contractors for the Station. She was not familiar with the IRP and suggested that effective information dissemination included "what we are doing right now [the interview]."

In her opinion, the Navy has been an "extremely" good neighbor in the community and she was confident of the environmental restoration program. She recommended the traditional modes of information dissemination, including television, radio and newspaper. Ms. Rivera did not suggest any additional persons to interview.