

Groups join forces to clean El Toro

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SAN DIEGO — A coordinated effort between Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, its civilian contractors and Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif. is saving taxpayers' time and money cleaning up contaminated sites at the Orange County installation.

"The mission of the MCAS cleanup project is fast track remediation of MCAS El Toro to expedite reuse and protect human health and the environment," said Jason Ashman, Southwest Division Remedial Project Manager for MCAS El Toro.

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, San Diego and MCAS El Toro have been working with Bechtel National Inc. and OHM Remediation Services Corp. to combine analytical data from

environmental studies with cleanup plans to eliminate the need to conduct further environmental studies and develop associated reports.

Bechtel National Inc. is an environmental studies contractor for Southwest Division. OHM Remediation Services Corp. is the remedial action contractor for Southwest Division. Both contractors are in San Diego.

"The cleanup team has regulators as team members to assist in ensuring that all local, state, and federal laws and regulations are complied with," Ashman said.

The teamwork between the Navy, Marine Corps and its contractors involves regular communication and an exchange of technical environmental information that will result in an accelerated cleanup of sites at the Marine Corps air station.

"We are taking samples, and based on analytical data, we

will decide the most effective next step, which will most likely be a 'removal action' or 'no further action'," Ashman said. "We need to clean up more, and study less. To ensure timely turnover of these parcels to the community, we need to streamline the overall cleanup process."

The accelerated cleanup will clean Operable Unit 3 (OU3). An operable unit is a term used to describe a portion or area of a site that is part of a hazardous waste investigation and cleanup program. Operable Unit 3 consists of seventeen sites scattered on 15 acres of the 4,700 acre air station. The accelerated cleanup will reduce the cost of current environmental studies at Operable Unit 3 from just under \$9 million to approximately \$4.5 million. "It would be more costly to continue this installation restoration process as it is normally done," Ashman said. "Focusing on cleanup will

make the process more efficient and cost effective by minimizing the amount of investigative studies and technical reports. We are giving each site individual attention and making decisions based on data unique to each site which allows us to clean up each site as rapidly and cost effectively as possible."

Cleanup work will begin in December 1995 and complete by mid-1996. Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, San Diego, commanded by Captain Tom Gunn, Civil Engineer Corps, U. S. Navy, manages a fiscal year 1995 environmental cleanup budget of over \$200 million for over 600 installation sites at 38 Navy and Marine Corps bases in Arizona, New Mexico and Southern California.