

Installation Restoration Program

MCB Camp Lejeune



Site 48 Proposed Plan

SYNOPSIS

This fact sheet outlines the Department of the Navy's (DON) proposed plan for the New River Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Mercury Dump (Site 48). Site 48 does not pose any adverse impacts to human health or the environment, according to a recently completed Remedial Investigation study. Based on this study, DON is proposing the "No Action Alternative" for Site 48. A Public Meeting will be held to solicit comments to the proposed No Action Alternative.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The MCAS New River Mercury Dump (Site 48) is one of several sites at MCB Camp Lejeune that is being investigated to determine whether past disposal practices have resulted in environmental contamination. The investigations are being conducted through the Navy's Installation Restoration Program. The goal of this program is to study past, formerly accepted waste disposal areas at Navy and Marine Installations and remediate, or clean them up, if necessary. The Installation Restoration Program study process is outlined on Page 4 and the acronyms used in this fact sheet are listed below, to the right.

NEW RIVER MCAS PROFILE

Site 48 is located in MCAS New River, which comprises approximately 2,600 acres of land. About 560 acres are swamp lands. The mission of MCAS New River is to provide the necessary support for its tenant units, Marine Aircraft Groups 26 and 29. Other commands at MCAS New River include H&HS, responsible for Garrison activities aboard the station; MWSS-272, responsible for the logistical support to both MAGs; MATSC-28; and MWCS-28 (Det. B).

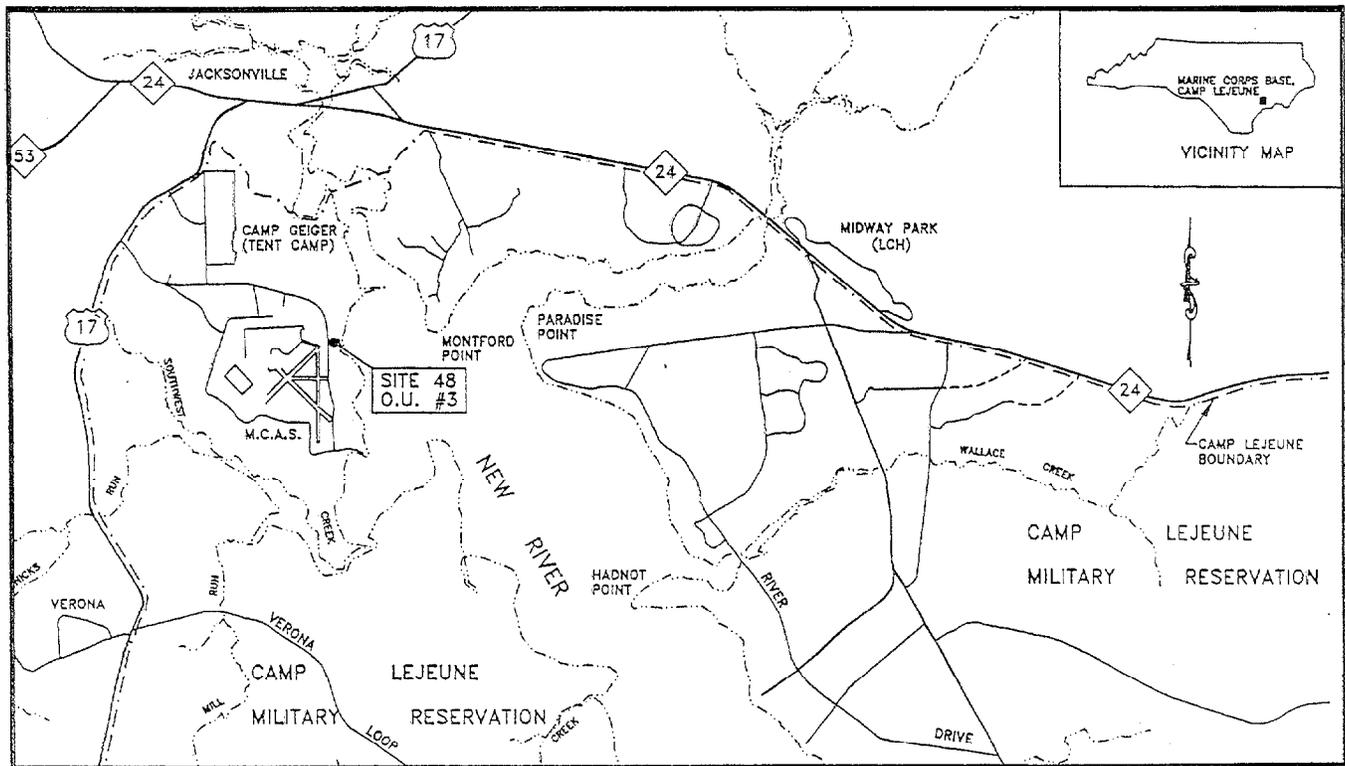
SITE 48 PROFILE

The MCAS Mercury Dump (Site 48) is situated between Longstaff Road and the New River and covers an area of approximately 4 acres (see figure and photograph on pages 2, 3). The site is bordered to the north by an unnamed tributary and to the east by the New River. The tributary discharges into a marsh which is part of the New River. The only structures at the site are Buildings AS-804, AS-805 and AS-807. AS-804 was used as the Administration Office and Photographic Laboratory from 1955 to 1990.

During a ten year period (1956-1966), mercury was reportedly drained from delay radar units and disposed behind Building AS-804. It has been reported that approximately one gallon of mercury per year was randomly disposed behind the building. However, there is no physical evidence to support this report.

The site area surrounding the building is flat and is covered with grass (see photograph). There are no visual signs of stressed vegetation or disposal areas. However, analysis of historical aerial photographs depicted three areas that may be related to disposal areas or surface spills. One of the three areas (a probable disposal area) is located between Building AS-804 and the New River. Another area of concern

A C R O N Y M S	
DEHNR	Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources
DON	Department of the Navy
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
MCB	Marine Corps Base



MCB Camp Lejeune: New River MCAS Site 48 Location

(probable liquid discharge area) was identified just north of the building. The third area of concern (ground scarring) was identified across Longstaff Road. These historic photographs are available for public review at the libraries listed on Page 4.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The Remedial Investigation at Site 48 was performed in accordance with a Federal Facilities Agreement between the Department of the Navy (DON), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV, and the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (DEHNR). The Federal Facilities Agreement was signed by these three parties following the inclusion of MCB Camp Lejeune to the National Priorities List. This is EPA's list of the most contaminated sites in the country; confirmed contamination of several of the base's former waste disposal sites prompted the entire base to be nominated and placed on the National Priorities List.

The Remedial Investigation was conducted at Site 48 to determine whether past mercury disposal has adversely affected soil, groundwater, or surface water and sediment quality. The Remedial Investigation involved: soil sampling at each of the three areas of concern (previously

described); installing five monitoring wells and sampling groundwater (shown in photograph); collecting surface water and sediment samples from the New River, the marsh area, and the unnamed tributary; and conducting an aquatic survey of the New River and marsh.

Study Results: Mercury was not detected in soil at any of the three areas of concern or in the groundwater. Low levels of mercury were detected in some of the sediment and surface water samples collected from the marsh, the unnamed tributary, and the New River. However, mercury was detected in upstream surface water and sediment samples at similar levels. This indicated that low levels of mercury are likely present in the New River from other sources not necessarily related to MCAS Site 48.

The levels of mercury in surface water and sediment are not likely to result in impacts to wildlife or human health. Fish and crabs collected from the New River were analyzed for mercury. No mercury was detected in any of the fish or crab samples.

Risk Assessment: A baseline risk assessment was conducted to assess potential impacts to human health and the environment. The assessment concluded that Site 48 does not pose any adverse impact to human health or the envi-

ronment. Because there is no human health or environmental risk associated with Site 48, a feasibility study to evaluate remediation (cleanup) alternatives for Site 48 was not conducted.

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE

The alternative proposed for Site 48 is No Action. This alternative will consist of leaving the site as is. No additional sampling or monitoring will be required as a result of this alternative since the site does not pose a threat to human health or the environment.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN SELECTING ALTERNATIVES

The public is encouraged to participate in the decision making process.

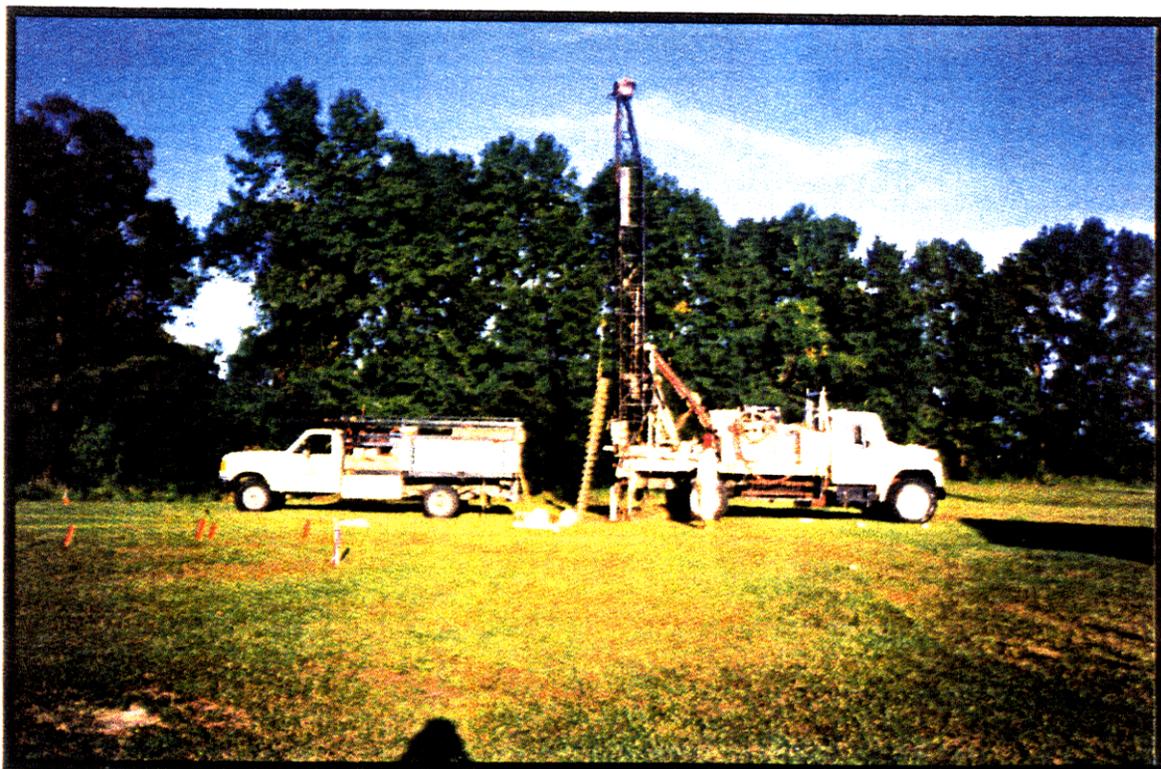
Information Repositories: The Proposed Plan is available for review along with the Administrative Record at the Information Repositories at the Onslow County and Camp Lejeune Libraries. The Administrative Record is a compilation of all the information evaluated to develop the Proposed Plan. The library hours of operation and addresses are on Page 4.

Public Meeting: Additionally, a Public Meeting will be organized to present the information and solicit comments.

The Public Meeting will be held on Monday, June 21 at 7:00 PM at the Tarawa Terrace No. 1 Elementary School Gymnasium (see Page 4 for details). At this meeting, DON, in coordination with EPA Region IV and the North Carolina DEHNR, will discuss the investigation, results of the baseline risk assessment, and the No Action alternative described in the Proposed Plan. Upon completion of the presentation, public questions will be addressed. Comments offered at the public meeting will be considered as formal comments and included in the Administrative Record. Transcripts of the meeting will be included in the Information Repository at the libraries.

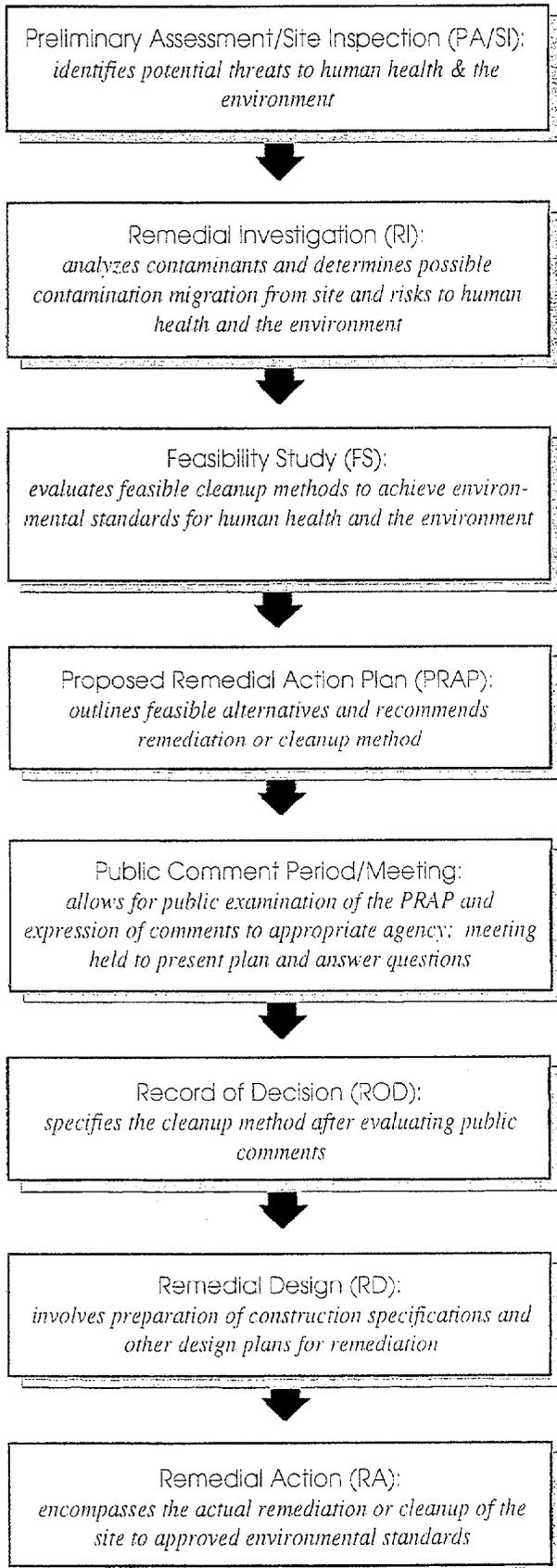
Public Comment Period: The public comment period will be held from June 21, 1993 to July 21, 1993. Opinions and concerns may be forwarded in writing to the Navy's Project Manager, Ms. Linda Berry, PE (address on Page 4).

Verbal comments received at the public meeting and written comments received during the public comment period will be considered in selecting the remedial alternative. These public comments will be addressed in the Responsiveness Summary portion of the Record of Decision, which describes the final decision for remedial action.



Installing groundwater monitoring wells at New River MCAS Site 48

INSTALLATION RESTORATION
PROGRAM PROCESS



INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Onslow County Library
58 Doris Avenue East
Jacksonville, North Carolina 28540
919/455-7350

Hours:
M-Th: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
F-Sa: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday: closed

Camp Lejeune Central Library
Building 1220
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542
919/451-5724

Hours:
M-Th: 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
F: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Sa-S: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Meeting will be held on June 21, 1993 at 7:00 PM at:
Tarawa Terrace No. 1 Elementary School Gymnatorium
on Tarawa Boulevard near the intersection of Corbin Road and
Lejeune Boulevard (Highway 24).

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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