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NAB LITTLE CREEK
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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP ACTIONS PLANNED AT TWO BASE
LOCATIONS" NAB LITTLE CREEK VA
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THE GATOR

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Environmental Cleanup Actions Planned at Two Base Locations:

You may have noticed the fenced area along Amphibious Drive with the "Caution PCB Contamination: KEEP OUT" signs posted. Under the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program, this area is scheduled for cleanup during the month of November 1994. The other less visible site which is scheduled for cleanup around the same time, is located behind the School of Music. This is where the former musical instrument Plating Shop was located.

The IR Program is an ongoing DoD program conducted at military bases nationwide to identify, characterize, and if necessary cleanup sites as the result of past waste disposal practices. Currently there are eight sites at NAB Little Creek that are being investigated to determine the impact of past disposal practices on human health and the environment. Several studies have been conducted to date. An information repository has been established at the base library which contains all pertinent information concerning the sites.

During the early 1980s, a pole-mounted transformer containing PCB fluid was struck by lightning. Less than five gallons of the fluid leaked out. Past investigations have determined the exact extent of contamination. Since the levels of PCBs in the soil are above federal standards, a Corrective Measures Plan (CMP) was prepared to evaluate possible cleanup alternatives. Many factors were evaluated to determine the best overall cleanup method. It has been determined that the best alternative is to excavate the contaminated soil, dispose of it in a specially permitted landfill, and restore the area with clean fill. Confirmatory sampling will be performed to ensure that the cleanup goals are met before clean fill is used to restore the area. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality have been involved with reviewing and approving the cleanup action. The Navy Public Works Center Norfolk has been tasked with planning and executing the work to accomplish the cleanup action. It is anticipated that the cleanup will be completed within three weeks after the start of excavation.

The former School of Music Plating Shop was located in Building 3651 behind the School of Music. During its period of operation, 1964-1974, the shop used a variety of heavy metal plating baths, cyanide, lacquer and lacquer stripper. An underground concrete tank located just outside the plating shop was used to treat the plating solutions before being discharged to the storm sewer system. The tank is approximately five feet wide and eight feet deep and contains approximately 2.5 cubic yards of limestone chips. The limestone chips were used to treat the acidic plating solutions. It has been determined that the high concentrations of "heavy metals" (i.e. chromium, cadmium, and lead) in the

neutralization tank represent a potential risk to human health and the environment. After determining the cleanup goals, the cleanup method alternatives were evaluated. The best alternative involves the removal and disposal of the neutralization tank contents, the tank itself, and all associated piping from the former Plating Shop to the storm sewer catch-basin. The tank, contents, and piping will be removed and disposed of as a hazardous waste. Confirmatory sampling will be performed to ensure that the cleanup goals are met before clean fill is used to restore the area. A cleanup contractor has been tasked with planning and executing the cleanup work.

NAB Little Creek has recently established a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) which provides the opportunity for a variety of people to become involved with and provide advice on the restoration program. This group represents state and federal regulators, local officials, environmental groups, and concerned residents and citizens. The RAB will conduct regular meetings which will be open to the public. The RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community and the installation. The RAB will work in partnership with the installation on clean-up issues and related matters.

If you have any questions about these cleanup actions, the base's Installation Restoration Program, or would like to be involved with the RAB, contact Mr. Richard Stryker from the Base Civil Engineer Department, Environmental Quality Division, at 363-4571.