

INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM



**NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE
LITTLE CREEK**

**ATLANTIC DIVISION,
NAVAL FACILITIES
ENGINEERING COMMAND**



FACT SHEET

INTRODUCTION

In 1975 the Department of Defense (DOD) developed a program to investigate past hazardous and toxic materials storage and disposal activities at military installations. The Navy managed its environmental investigations under a program called the Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants (NACIP). The mission of this program, now called the Installation Restoration (IR) Program, is to identify and clean up contamination resulting from past use and disposal practices for protection of public health, public welfare and the environment.

CERCLA

In 1980, Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to investigate and clean up problems resulting from past, formerly accepted, hazardous waste management practices. CERCLA delegated specified responsibilities and authorities to the DOD. In 1986, Congress passed the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The Navy restructured its IR Program to match the terminology and structure used by the Environmental Protection Agency. The DOD set up the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA) to fund studies and cleanups at military installations.

BACKGROUND

Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Little Creek is located in Virginia Beach on the southern edge of the Chesapeake Bay. The 2147-acre facility is bordered to the west by the City of Norfolk; to the south by Shore Drive; and to the east by Lake Bradford. Just prior to World War II, the Navy purchased land from the Pennsylvania Railroad and private landowners. The base was commissioned in July 1945 and in 1946 was designated as a permanent base. The mission of NAB Little Creek is to provide on-

base logistic facilities and support services to local commands, organizations, other U.S. and allied units, homeported ships, and commands of the operating forces to meet the amphibious training requirements of the Armed Forces of the United States.

IMPLEMENTATION

In 1984, an Initial Assessment Study (IAS) was conducted at NAB Little Creek to identify and assess sites posing a potential threat to human health or the environment due to contamination from past hazardous materials operations. Of the seventeen sites identified, six were found to warrant further investigation under the IR Program. In 1986 a series of studies, known as Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Studies (RI/FS), began to characterize the contamination, identify the extent of contamination, and determine the best method to clean up the six sites. In addition, five other sites were added to the program by the Navy. In 1991 a Preliminary Site Inspection was conducted to determine whether these sites required further action. This study concluded three of the sites posed no threat while two of the sites warranted further study.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS AND CURRENT STATUS

The six sites listed below are currently in the RI/FS stage. A Draft Final RI/FS has been sent to TRC members for review. A TRC to discuss these sites is scheduled for June 15, 1994.

SITE 7

Site 7, known as the Amphibious Base Landfill, covers approximately 30 acres and is partially vegetated. It is bordered by Little Creek Cove on the north. Because the landfill was the designated repository for all of NAB Little Creek's wastes during most of its years of operation, potential hazardous waste content can be characterized by the wastes produced on base during

its period of operation from 1962 to 1979. These wastes include inorganics, solvents, pesticides, heavy metals, acids, bases, PCBs, and mixed municipal wastes. The total volume landfilled was estimated to be 500,000 cubic yards and the amount of liquids was estimated to be between 250,000 and 1,000,000 gallons.

SITE 9

Site 9, known as the Driving Range Landfill, covers approximately 6 acres. It was operated from the mid-1950s to the early 1960s. Wastes of concern are the same as those listed for Site 7. The total volume landfilled was estimated to be approximately 40,000 cubic yards. The site is located next to the base golf course and is currently used as a driving range.

SITE 10

Site 10, known as the Sewage Treatment Plant Landfill covers approximately 18 acres. It was operated from 1949 to 1952. Virtually all wastes produced on base during this time were disposed there. Wastes of particular concern include PCBs, pesticide residue and containers, fuels, solvents, and asbestos. An estimated 46,500 cubic yards of wastes were disposed there.

SITE 11

Site 11 is the School of Music Plating Shop located adjacent to the NAB Little Creek School of Music. The Site consists of an in-ground concrete tank, used to neutralize plating baths, and its associated piping. Plating operations were conducted from 1964 to 1974. An estimated 1320 gallons of plating wastes were disposed through this system during the period of operation.

SITE 12

Site 12 is the former Exchange Laundry Waste Disposal Area. During the period of operation, 1973 to 1978, dry cleaning wastes, including tetrachloroethene (PCE), sludges, soaps, sizing, and dyes, were disposed down a storm drain adjacent to the building. The drain flows to a canal located approximately 500 feet to the west. The canal is generally stagnant and connects Lake Bradford with Little Creek Cove. An estimated 1300 gallons of wastes were disposed into the storm drain.

SITE 13

Site 13 is the former location of the Public Works Pentachlorophenol (PCP) Dip Tank and Wash Rack. This site consists of a 300 to 400 gallon tank used to dip lumber in PCP, the drying yard for laying out the treated lumber, a wash rack, and the surrounding area. The

operation was conducted from the early 1960s to 1974. The tank was emptied and dismantled in 1982. The wash rack was used for cleaning items repaired by the Metal Trades Shop. Paint, solvents, kerosene, fuel, tar, and detergents were disposed there.

CURRENT STATUS

A Site Inspection was conducted on the two sites determined to need further study by the Preliminary Site Inspection. It has been determined that one of the sites will receive periodic groundwater monitoring to ensure no releases of contamination occur. The other site consists of approximately 80 cubic yards of soil contaminated with PCB. That site is scheduled for cleanup during the summer of 1994.

The Navy is working in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency on a Corrective Action Program for a number of other sites identified as Solid Waste Management Units at NAB Little Creek. A Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments Permit is scheduled to be funded in 1994 and will include plans to investigate and clean up these sites.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

NAB Little Creek established a Technical Review Committee (TRC) and held the first meeting in February 1989. In addition to Navy representatives, the committee consists of state and federal regulators, representatives from the City of Virginia Beach, the City of Norfolk, and community representatives. The TRC will be converting to a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) to provide expanded public participation in the installation restoration process. The RAB will allow individuals from the community to have an interactive exchange of information with regard to the environmental issues at NAB Little Creek

The Navy interviewed community members and is in the process of drafting a community relations plan to apprise the public of environmental actions being conducted at NAB Little Creek under the IR Program. Upon completion, the community relations plan will be available for review at the Virginia Beach Central Library, Bayside Area Library, Little Creek Library, and NAB Little Creek Library.

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