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FACT SHEET 4 RESULTS OF BASEWIDE SAMPLING NCBC GULFPORT MS  
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NCBC GULFPORT



## NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER Gulfport, Mississippi Installation Restoration Program

# 4

*The Installation Restoration (IR) Program is an environmental program conducted nationwide by the Department of Defense to identify and address contamination from past practices which do not meet today's environmental standards. This fact sheet is the fourth in a series informing interested citizens about the Installation Restoration Program at NCBC Gulfport. Fact sheets will be produced at program milestones and in response to other items of public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the Public Affairs Office at NCBC Gulfport, telephone: (601) 871-2393.*

### FACT SHEET 4: Results of Basewide Sampling

#### INTRODUCTION

Results of basewide environmental sampling are provided in this fact sheet. Samples of groundwater (water beneath the surface), surface water (water in streams, ditches, and ponds), and sediment (soil below surface water bodies) were collected for chemical analysis.

Preliminary results of sediment samples collected at location #3 (near the base boundary) identified dioxin compounds. Based on this finding, the Seabee Center expanded the sediment sampling to the north and south side of 28th Street in the City of Gulfport. A "fast-track" analysis of this first round of off-base sampling was obtained by the Seabee Center and results were reported in Fact Sheet 3.

#### BASEWIDE SAMPLING RESULTS

Low levels of dioxins and their chemical cousins furans were found in samples, as shown in Figure 1 on page 2 of this fact sheet. These compounds are reported in parts per trillion in the sediment and soil samples and in parts per quadrillion in water samples. One part per trillion is the same as one molecule of a chemical in 1,000,000,000 molecules of

sediment or soil and a part per quadrillion is one molecule of a chemical in 1,000,000,000,000 water molecules.

#### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT DIOXINS AND FURANS?

A recent EPA study found a surprising fact -- dioxins are everywhere. These compounds are byproducts of some industrial processes such as some paper mills, coal- or oil-burning power plants, and incinerators. Laboratory tests have proven some forms of dioxin cause health effects in animals. Studies of humans are less clear.

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

To prevent the potential movement of sediments off-base, the Seabee Center will place sediment removal traps at several locations. Fact Sheet 5 shows locations where sediment recovery traps will be placed as well as other actions planned in response to basewide and off-base sampling results.

This safety measure is being taken to address the potential for movement of sediment off-base.

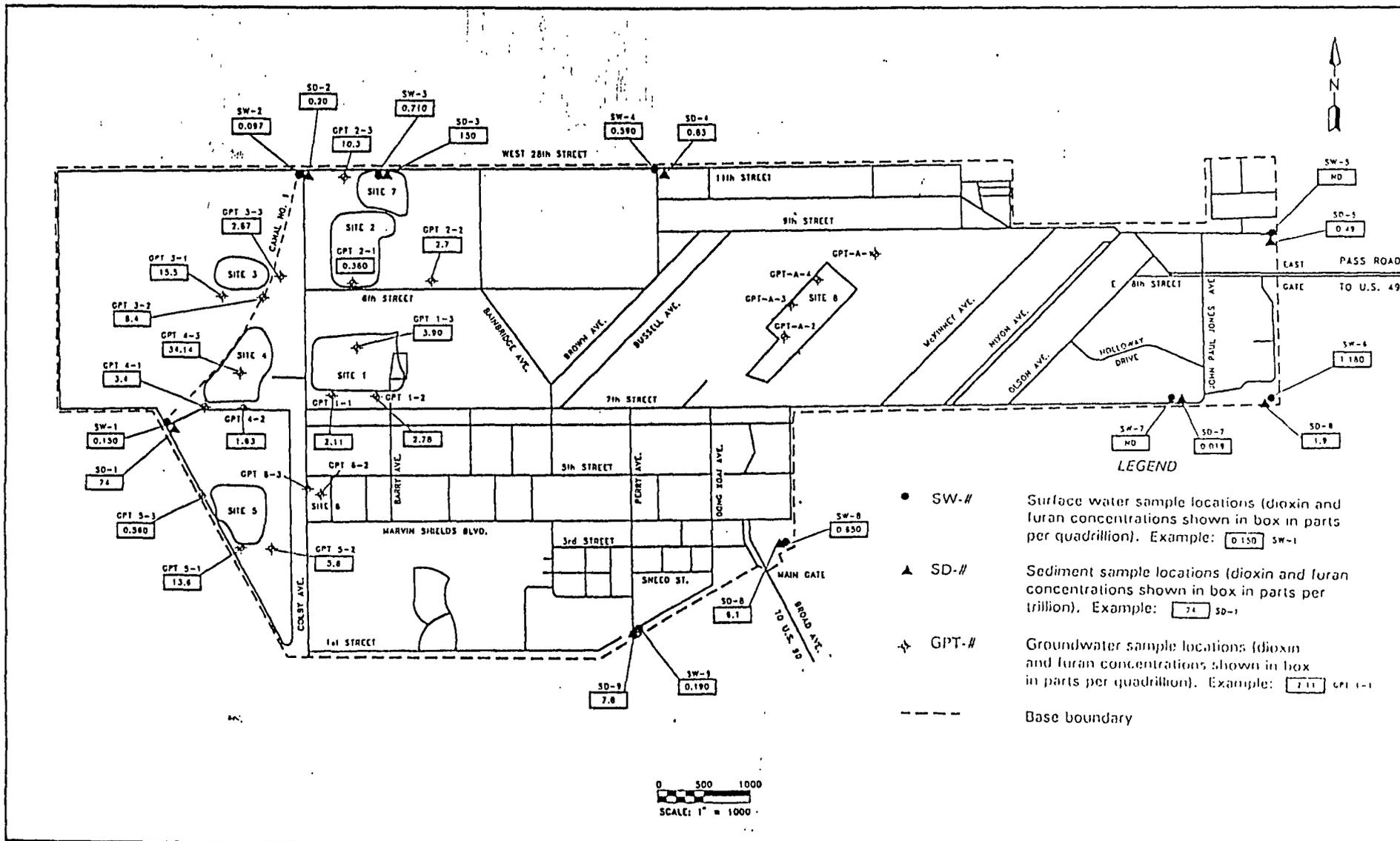


Figure 1. Results of Basewide Sampling