

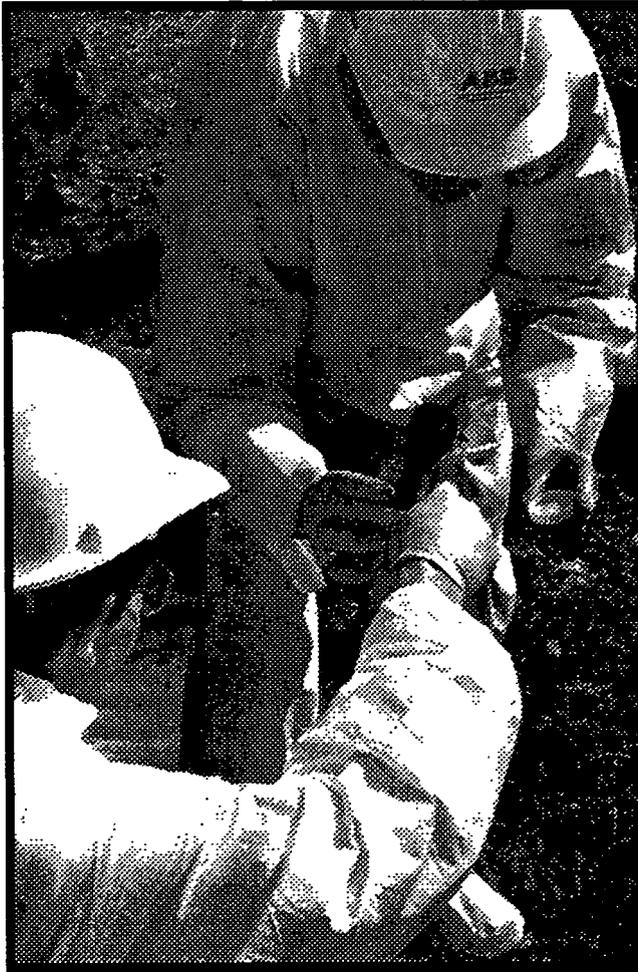
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ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING" NCBC GULFPORT MS
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Environmental Sampling

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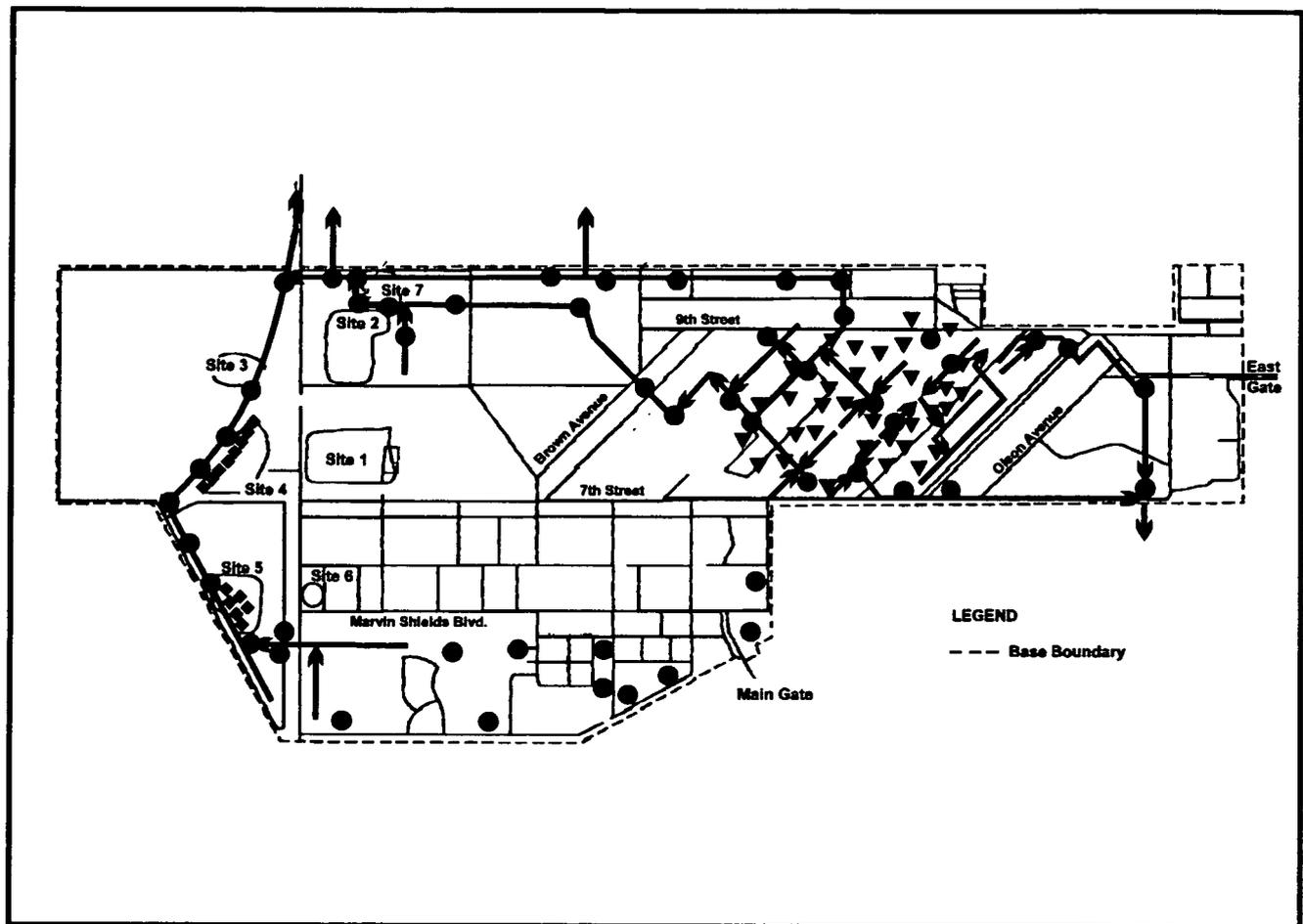


Scientists wear safety suits when they collect samples. They are looking for dioxin. Dioxin is a chemical that can cause health problems in people and animals.

Soil samples are tested for dioxin. The laboratory then sends a report to the Seabee Center. The report will be placed in the Gulfport Harrison County Public Library on Highway 90.



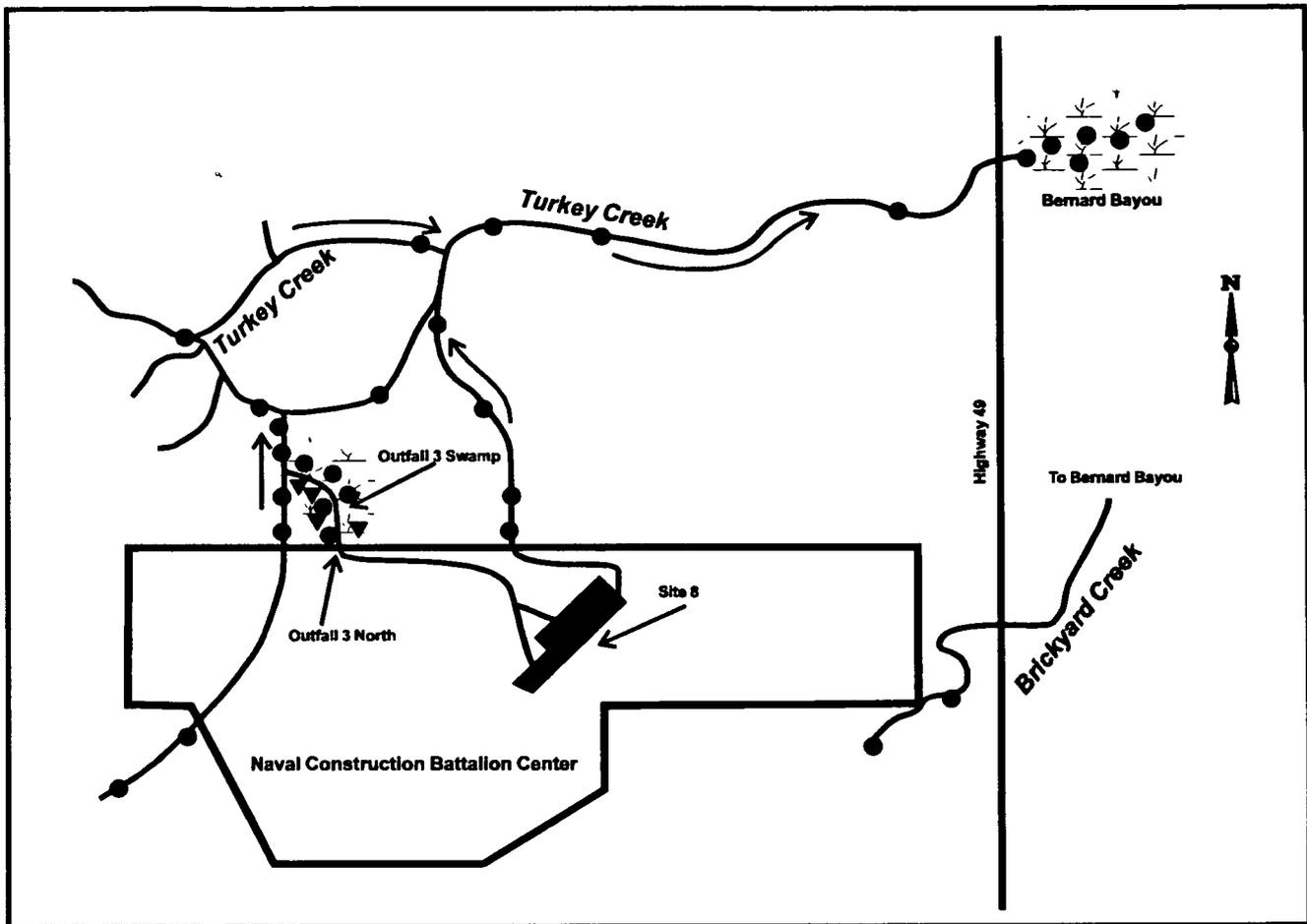
Onsite at Seabee Center



Scientists are taking soil and water samples from ditches on the base. The map shows where they are taking these samples.

- ↑ Drainage ditch flow direction
- Sample locations for surface water and sediment
- ▼ Sample locations for surface soil
- ◆ Sample locations for water

Offsite at Seabee Center



This map shows where scientists are taking samples from ditches outside the Seabee Center. Dioxin sticks to soil. Water that flows through the ditches can move soil and dioxin from place to place.

- Sample locations for surface water and sediment
- ▼ Sample locations for surface soil



Questions and Answers



The Seabee Center began taking part in a program to study the environment, called the Installation Restoration Program. Scientists studied places on the base where waste may have been spilled or buried. They also studied how to clean up these places. When scientists at the Seabee Center tested soil and mud in ditches on the base, they found low amounts of dioxin. Dioxin is a chemical that can cause health problems in people and animals. In 1995, soil samples were taken along 28th Street, near the base. These samples of mud from the ditches had low levels of dioxin. The mud with the dioxin was taken out of the ditches.

Q. Why is the Seabee Center collecting samples again?

A. Scientists at the Center will do more testing to look for dioxin both inside and outside the base. Test results will be used to see if the ditches require additional testing or cleanup.

Q. Where is the Seabee Center taking samples?

A. The maps on the second and third pages show where the samples are being collected. Three kinds of samples are being taken: (1) sediment (soil in the bottom of ditches) and surface water (the water in streams and ditches) both on and off the Seabee Center; (2) groundwater (underground water) beneath two former landfills; and (3) soil from the surface of the former storage site for Herbicide Orange.

Q. When will the Seabee Center start taking samples?

A. Sampling on the base begins on March 31, 1997, and will end during the week of May 20, 1997. Sampling off the base will begin during the week of April 21, 1997, and will last three to five days.

Q. Why are the scientists dressed in special clothes?

A. Scientists are required by law to wear special clothes when collecting samples. This is the same law that requires construction workers to wear hard hats and safety glasses.

Q. What happens next?

A. Scientists at the laboratory will test the samples to look for dioxin. A report about the test results will be written and Seabee Center will hold a community meeting to share the results.

Q. When will the information be available?

A. You can look for the report in the Gulfport Harrison Public Library near the end of 1997.

Q. Should people stay away from the ditches?

A. Ditches are unhealthy environments most of the time. Any ditch can contain glass, trash, snakes or pollutants.

Q. Is it OK to eat fish from the ditches?

A. We will be able to answer that question after our biological study is completed. The biological study will begin later this year and will last for a full year. Results will be ready in 1998.