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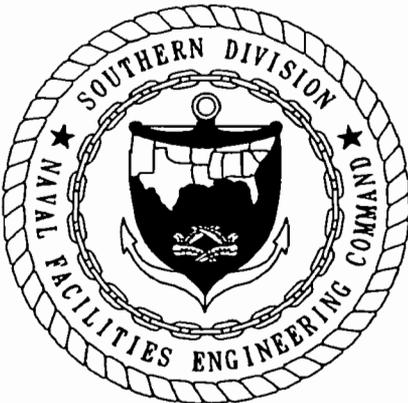


COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

**NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI**

**UNIT IDENTIFICATION CODE: N62604
CONTRACT NO. N62467-89-D-0317/096**

NOVEMBER 1998



**SOUTHERN DIVISION
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
29419-9010**

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INTRODUCTION

The Navy's Environmental Cleanup Program

Since the early 1980s, the Department of Defense (DOD) has conducted an environmental cleanup program known as the Installation Restoration program (IRP) at military bases nationwide. The purpose of the program is to identify and address contamination resulting from past waste disposal practices and accidental spills at military installations. The IRP administers environmental cleanup efforts at the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) in Gulfport, Mississippi. Environmental cleanup efforts are also guided by supplemental Administrative and Agreed Orders of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MSDEQ). The Administrative Order was issued in 1996 to address contamination associated with dioxin from Site 8, the Herbicide Orange Site. This site was the storage location for Herbicide Orange used to destroy unwanted vegetation during the Vietnam War. The Administrative Order was superseded by an Agreed Order in 1997. The Agreed Order serves as a consensus document between the Navy, Air Force, and the State of Mississippi regarding the process for completing the investigations relating to Site 8. The Administrative and Agreed Orders are referred to collectively as the "AO."

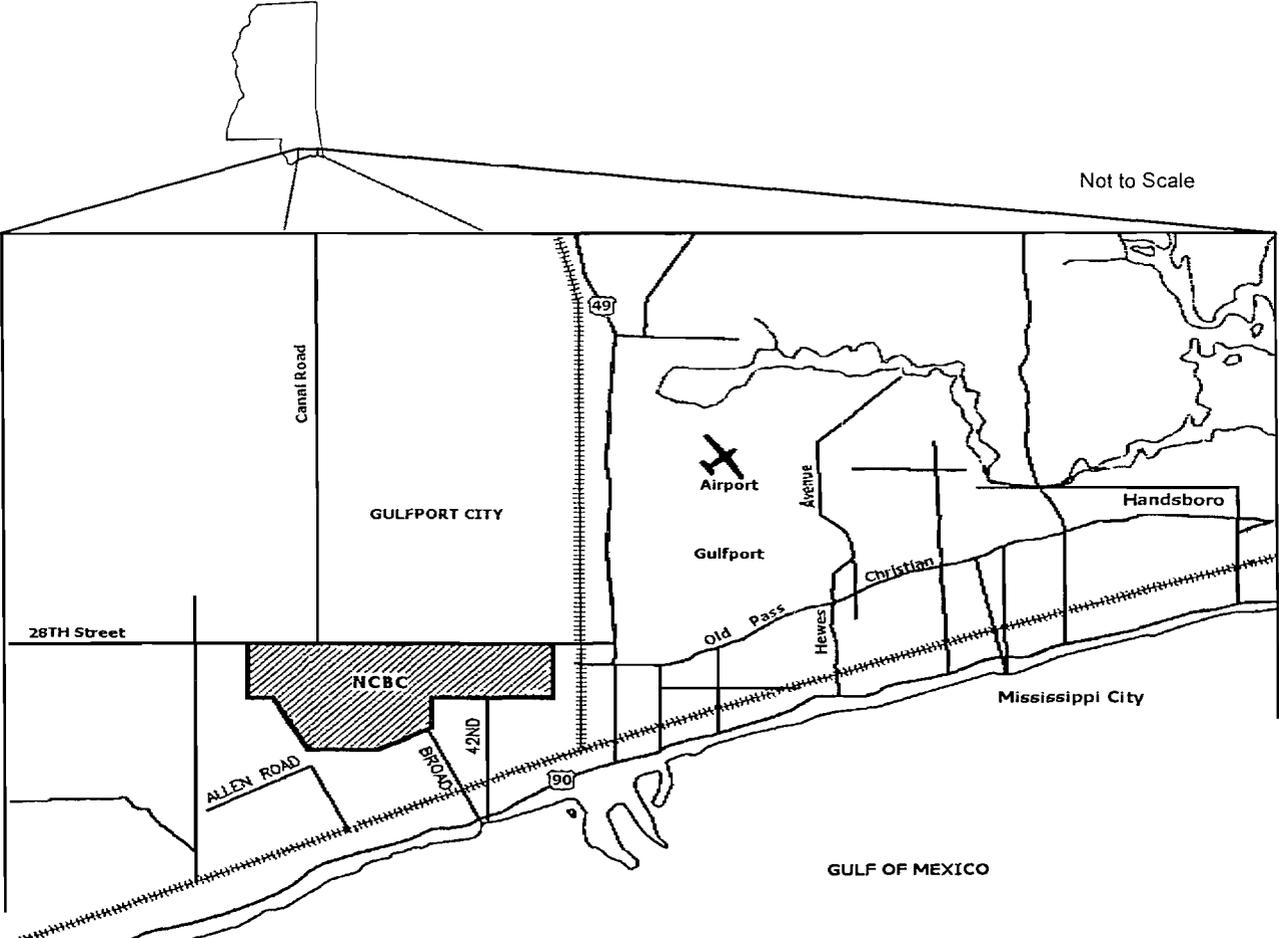


Figure 1 Site Location

Both the AO and IRP are managed by the Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (SOUTHNAVFACENGCOM) in Charleston, South Carolina, in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the MSDEQ. Both programs are conducted in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), and are supported by Federal and State regulatory agency participation. CERCLA is the Federal law, commonly known as "Superfund," which guides the cleanup of hazardous waste sites resulting from past waste disposal practices at both public and privately owned facilities nationwide.

The Community Relations Plan

Purpose and Objective

The purpose of the Community Relations Plan (CRP) is to inform the community of planned and ongoing cleanup actions and involve them in the decision-making process. The CRP is tailored to meet the needs of the surrounding communities most affected by the environmental cleanup at NCBC Gulfport. By using a site-specific plan, the Navy can target its community relations resources where they are most useful.

Implementation

Federal and State laws require public participation as described in the Activities Profile section of this CRP. This CRP update has been prepared in accordance with USEPA's guidance, *Community Relations in Superfund: A Handbook* (January 1992, USEPA/540/R-92/009, OSWER Directive, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response). The original CRP was issued in 1993, and this update is intended to provide guidance for community outreach as the environmental investigation and cleanup progress at NCBC Gulfport.

Contents

The CRP presents a strategy for informing and involving the affected community during environmental restoration activities at NCBC Gulfport. The CRP includes a description and brief history of NCBC Gulfport, an updated report on the environmental conditions at the base, an outline of current community concerns, and suggested means to address those concerns. The outline of the CRP is as follows:

- Introduction
- Base Profile
- Environmental Profile
- Community Profile
- Activities Profile
- Appendices

Public Participation

Federal and State laws, as well as DOD guidelines, require public participation throughout the cleanup process at NCBC Gulfport. The Navy, in partnership with the USEPA and MSDEQ, is responsible for meeting those requirements and implementing the community outreach activities outlined in this plan. One key element of public involvement in the Navy's environmental cleanup program is the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), which is composed of community volunteers, representatives of the City of Gulfport, the Navy, and MSDEQ. The RAB works with the Navy by tracking IRP and AO progress, reviewing program documents, providing input on proposed activities, and communicating related community concerns. RAB meetings are held at a convenient location, and the public is encouraged to attend. RAB members are listed in Appendix A of this report.

Additionally, NCBC Gulfport maintains a comprehensive community mailing list of approximately 800 addresses to insure that all interested parties receive pertinent information about cleanup activities at the Seabee Center. Other outreach techniques

include fact sheets, public availability sessions, RAB meetings, and maintenance of an information repository, which contains IRP and AO program documents for public review. For the information repository location see Appendix B.

Additional Information

Citizens interested in the environmental program at NCBC Gulfport can get involved by participating in the activities outlined in this plan. Comments and suggestions are encouraged from the public at all times, and information may be obtained by reviewing program materials in the Information Repository. If you would like to be included on the mailing list, or if you have comments or questions about this plan or the IRP and AO, please contact:

Public Affairs Officer
Naval Construction Battalion Center
5200 CBC 2nd Street
Gulfport, Mississippi 39501-5001
(228) 871-2393

Other points of contact are listed in Appendix C.

BASE PROFILE

Base Location

NCBC Gulfport is located in the city of Gulfport, which lies on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, approximately halfway between New Orleans, Louisiana; and Mobile, Alabama (Figure 1). The center spans roughly 1,100 acres on the western side of Gulfport in Harrison County. Biloxi, the county's largest city, is seven miles to the east, and the city of Pass Christian is seven miles to the west. The city of Long Beach borders the center's western boundary. Land use within one mile of the center is primarily high-turnover residential and commercial. The center's population includes about 3,693 active military, and 741 civilian workers, as well as 53 contractors and 56 resident business people.

Base History

Naval Construction Force personnel, commonly known as "Seabees," have been the military construction unit of the U.S. Navy since 1942. In April of that year, land was acquired one mile from the Port of Gulfport for construction of an Advance Base Depot. The first Seabee battalion arrived in June. An Armed Guard School, a Cook's and Baker's School, and an Advanced Base Receiving Barracks were added later. In 1944, the site became a U.S. Naval Training Center with 25,000 personnel.

The center became a Naval Storehouse in 1945 for materials such as bauxite for making aluminum, tin, and copper. In 1952, the Naval Construction Battalion Center was established. The center has undergone consistent expansion since the 1960s and has been selected as a finalist in the President's Installation Excellence Award Program.

NCBC Gulfport is a major contributor to the local economy. In the 1996 fiscal year, NCBC Gulfport had a \$222 million economic impact on the city of Gulfport, providing 4,373 direct jobs and 5,082 indirect jobs.

Base Mission

The mission of the center is to support the 20th Naval Construction Regiment, four Naval Mobile Construction Battalions, the Naval Construction Training Center, and other small tenant commands. In providing these functions, the center supports mobilization efforts of 700 Seabees at a time, on seven-month rotations. Basic and advanced training is also provided for active duty and reserve Seabees in their specialty fields.

The center's other primary role is provision of storage and shipping capabilities for the Navy and its fleet. The center contains 37 acres of secured storage, including 1.5 million square feet of covered storage, and 124 acres of open storage. For example, over one million tons of bauxite is stored at the center.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE

Background

The nature of the center's history and mission has required the use, handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. In the past, few if any regulations guided operations involving these materials. Little was known about their long-term effects on human health or the environment. This resulted in conditions that do not meet current environmental standards. To investigate and, if necessary, clean up contamination at installations around the country, the Navy initiated the IRP. At NCBC Gulfport, environmental cleanup is administered jointly under the IRP and the AO. The following is a brief overview of the IRP and AO and how they are set up at the Seabee Center.

The Structure of the IRP

The IRP consists of four steps, as outlined in the CERCLA regulations. The first two steps identify and confirm those sites that may need to be cleaned up. The third step defines the nature and extent of the contamination and develops and evaluates appropriate alternatives for long-term cleanup. If necessary, interim measures may be taken at this time to minimize the impact of a material at a site or to address immediate concerns. The selected cleanup method is then designed and implemented during the final phase. If needed, long-term monitoring and maintenance of the cleanup system is also performed during this step. Details of the IRP are process described below and presented on Figure 2.

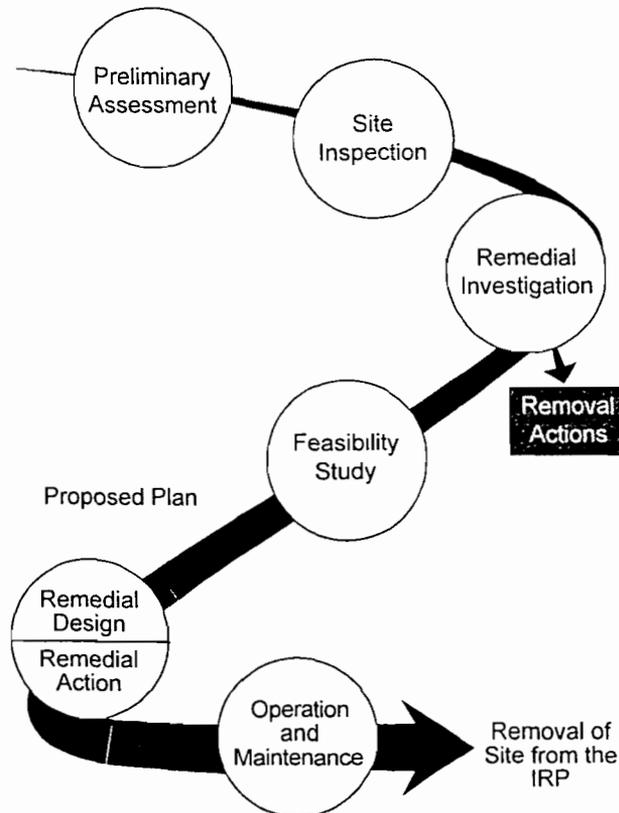


Figure 2 IRP Process

Step One: Preliminary Assessment (PA)

The first step in the cleanup program is to identify those sites that may need to be cleaned up. To do this, all available information about the historical use and past chemical releases at an area are gathered and reviewed. This information can help to determine which sites on the installation may need to be cleaned up.

Step Two: Site Investigation (SI)

If the USEPA determines that further study is needed, the SI collects more information through sampling and laboratory analysis. This confirms whether or not contamination is present at a site and how much contaminant may need to be removed.

Step Three: Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS)

This step determines the type and extent of contamination at the site and identifies possible cleanup alternatives and their associated costs. Interim cleanup actions to address contamination of immediate concern may also be taken at this time. As part of the RI/FS, a risk assessment is conducted to identify potential effects on human health and the environment. The risk assessment is also used to develop appropriate cleanup alternatives that are evaluated in the FS phase. After State and Federal regulators accept the RI/FS, a Proposed Plan is prepared that describes the preferred cleanup method presented in the FS. Community input on the Proposed Plan is requested during a public comment period. A Record of Decision is then developed to explain the cleanup alternative selected for the site.

Step Four: Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA)

This is the engineering and construction phase, when the selected cleanup alternative is actually planned and conducted. After the RA has been implemented, site monitoring then ensures the effectiveness of the cleanup. Maintenance of any treatment systems required under the cleanup is also performed as needed.

Each site will move through the entire series of stages, unless a site is found to require no further action. In this event, the site would be removed from the program. Sometimes sites or stages are combined for efficiency or to maximize resources.

**The IRP at NCBC
Gulfport**

There were originally nine areas of investigation included in the IRP at NCBC Gulfport:

- six landfills, which are currently under investigation,
- one former fire-fighting training area, where a petroleum-contaminated groundwater plume beneath the site is currently being cleaned,
- a former Herbicide Orange storage site and the associated impacted area both on and outside of the base, and
- a concrete pad storage area — Site 9, which was found to be uncontaminated, was deleted from the IRP.

One area has been added to the IRP:

- a site where polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) was detected during soil sampling in the spring of 1997 — named Site 10.

Investigation and cleanup activities for all nine sites were being conducted under the Navy's IRP. However, activities at several sites are being conducted under the AO due to the nature of the contamination at these sites. The AO sites are Site 4 (Golf Course Landfill), Site 5 (Heavy Equipment Training Area Landfill), and Site 8

(Herbicide Orange Storage Area). Sites 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 10 remain in the IRP. Locations of each IRP site are shown on Figure 3, and an overview of each site is presented in Table 1.

The AO at NCBC Gulfport Through early IRP investigations, the presence of dioxin and dioxin-related compounds was confirmed on base and off base. In order to deal with the dioxin contamination and other contamination associated with Sites 4 and 5 in the most efficient manner, the AO created a focused strategy for further investigation of these sites and the resulting dioxin migration. Locations of each AO site are shown on Figure 3 and an overview of each AO site is presented in Table 1.

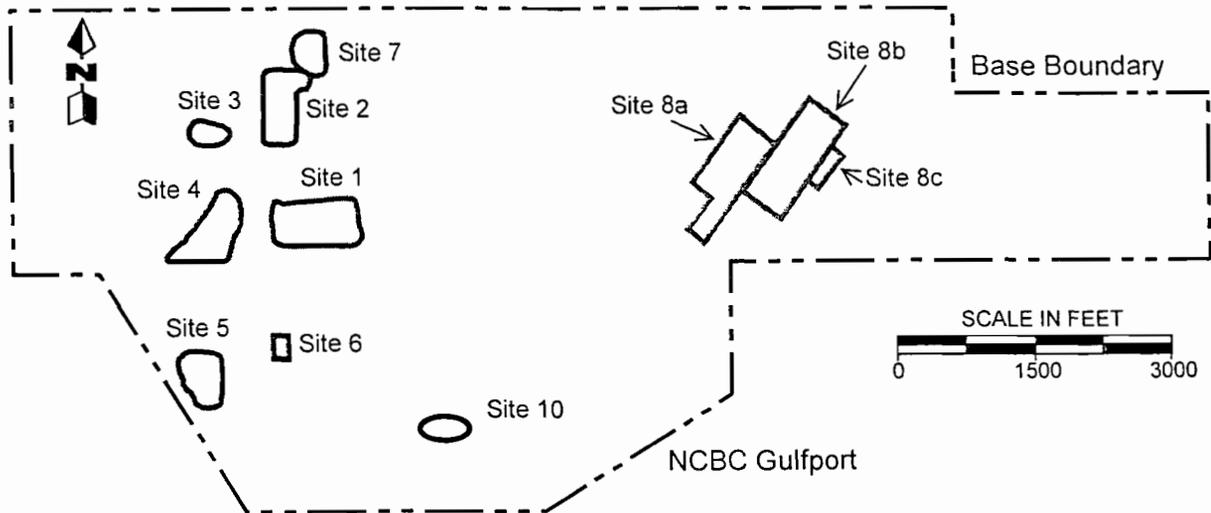


Figure 3 IRP and AO Site Locations

The AO established a strategy and schedule to (1) assess the extent of dioxin contamination, (2) evaluate potential environmental and human exposure to dioxin, (3) prevent further migration of contamination off base, and (4) ultimately remediate the contamination. Below are the specific tasks outlined in the AO.

- **Off-Site Dioxin Delineation**
Identification of dioxin outside the boundaries of the base, as a result of Site 8 activities.
- **On-Site Dioxin Delineation**
Identification of dioxin within the boundaries of the base, as a result of Site 8 activities.
- **On-Site Interim Corrective Measures**
Reduction of further movement of dioxin-contaminated soil associated with Site 8 while a long-term remedy was being pursued.
- **Human Health Exposure Assessment**
An off-base survey to assess the frequency, duration, and amount of human exposure to dioxin (or related contaminants) associated with Site 8.
- **Biological Monitoring**
A study of aquatic animals on and off the base that were potentially affected by the dioxin (or related contaminants) associated with Site 8.

- **Off-Site Remediation**
A strategy for developing, implementing, and monitoring the cleanup of contamination identified by the Off-Site Delineation Workplan.
- **On-Site Remediation**
A strategy for developing, implementing and monitoring the cleanup of contamination identified by the On-Site Delineation studies.
- **Groundwater Monitoring**
An investigation and assessment of the extent of dioxin and other contamination in the groundwater at NCBC.
- **Groundwater Remediation**
A strategy for groundwater cleanup, if needed.

Table 1
Areas of Investigation

Site No.	Program	Site Name	Period of Operation	Waste Types	Estimated Total Quantities	Sources
1	IRP	Disaster Recovery Disposal Area	1942 - 1948	Paints, oils, solvents, paint strippers, and cleaning compounds	Unknown	Public works shops, supply department
2	IRP	World War II Landfill	1942 - 1948	General refuse, paints, oils, solvents, paint strippers, and cleaning compounds	Unknown	basewide waste
3	IRP	Northwest Landfill/Burning Pit	1948 - 1966	Solid waste, oils, fuels, paints, paint strippers, solvents, and cleaning compounds	30,000 tons of solid waste; unknown quantities of other liquid wastes; 130,000 gallons of flammable liquids burned in pit	All NCBC industrial operations
4	AO	Golf Course Landfill	1966 - 1972	Solid waste, oils, fuels, paints, paint strippers, solvents, and cleaning compounds	16,000 tons of solid waste; unknown quantities of other liquid wastes	All NCBC industrial operations
5	AO	Heavy Equipment Training Area Landfill	1972 - 1976	Refuse and tree clippings, DDT, paints, oils, solvents, paint strippers, and cleaning compounds	6,000 cubic yards of solid waste; 50 to 100 drums of DDT	All NCBC industrial operations
6	IRP	Fire-Fighting Training Area	1966 - 1975	Waste fuels, oils, solvents, paint, and paint strippers	500,000 gallons	CED, 20th NCR, NCTC, public works shops
7	IRP	Rubble Disposal Area	1978 - 1984	Concrete, lumber, scrap metal, and similar inert materials	Unknown	Construction and building demolition debris
8	AO	Air Force Herbicide Orange Spill Area	1968 - 1977	Herbicide Orange	Spillage from storage of 15,400 55-gallon drums at site	Air Force activities
10	IRP	PCB in the Ditch		PCB	Unknown	This site was discovered in an undesignated area, so no source is identified.

Note Site 9 was found to be noncontaminated and was deleted from the IRP

IRP = Installation Restoration program.
NCBC = Naval Construction Battalion Center.
AO = Agreed Order.
DDT = dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane.

CED = Construction Equipment Department.
NCR = Naval Construction Regiment.
NCTC = Naval Construction Training Center.
PCB = Polychlorinated biphenyl.

**AO and IRP
Accomplishments at NCBC
Gulfport**

The AO and IR programs at NCBC Gulfport have been aggressively executed to address environmental contamination at the base. Investigative work at the base began with the Initial Assessment Study and has continued through the Herbicide Orange incineration, delisting of the resulting ash, basewide sampling, and other IRP and AO activities. The overview of the history of the environmental accomplishments at NCBC Gulfport is provided in Appendix D.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Background

The City of Gulfport lies along the 28-mile stretch of white, sandy beach that lines the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Known from the turn of the century as an attractive tourist destination, the city has prospered in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing business segments. The Port of Gulfport was completed in 1902, and soon became the nation's leading banana port. Today, the port is considered the most accessible on the Gulf Coast and is located 12 miles from one of the world's major deep-water shipping lanes. Since 1992, legalized gambling in Gulfport and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast has added a new dimension to the region.

Gulfport supports education in the community through the University of Southern Mississippi, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and William Carey College. The city is also host to many religious institutions and considerable medical, recreational, and municipal services.

Demographics

Demographic data for Gulfport is presented below. Two sets of data are presented: one for the entire population of Gulfport and one for the population contained within a one-mile radial ring around the NCBC.

Population

In 1980 the total population of the City of Gulfport was 42,944¹. By 1990, the population had decreased by 5.1 percent to 40,775². However, in 1997 the population of Gulfport was estimated at 42,700³, having nearly returned to its 1980-population level.

In contrast, the population of the one-mile ring around the NCBC has steadily declined since 1980. The 1980 population level of 4,858⁴ dropped to 4,352 in 1990⁵. By 1997, the population level had fallen to 4,340⁶, reflecting a decrease of 10.7 percent in population between 1980 and 1997.

The racial makeup of the city versus the one-mile ring differs considerably. Within the one-mile ring, the racial makeup is 51.2 percent black and 44.8 percent white, while the racial makeup for the entire city is 30.6 percent black and 65.8 percent white.

The 1997 racial makeup estimate for the two data sets is as follows ⁷:

Race	City of Gulfport	1-mile Ring
White	65.8%	44.8%
Black	30.6%	51.2%
Hispanic	2.2%	2.1%
Asian	1.1%	1.6%
All Other	0.3%	0.3%

¹ U.S. Census Report, 1980

² Marketview Comparison Report, Claritas, Inc., Ithaca, NY, estimates.

³ Marketview Comparison Report, Claritas, Inc., Ithaca, NY, estimates.

⁴ U.S. Census Report, 1980.

⁵ U.S. Census Report, 1990.

⁶ Marketview Comparison Report, Claritas, Inc., Ithaca, NY, estimates.

⁷ Marketview Comparison Report, Claritas, Inc., Ithaca, NY, estimates.

Income

The 1997 estimated median household income in Gulfport was \$29,950 while the estimated median household income for the population in the one-mile ring was considerably lower at \$21,015.⁸ Further, 47.5 percent of the households within the one-mile ring of the NCBC have incomes of less than \$20,000; in contrast, 34.0 percent of households in the entire City of Gulfport have incomes less than \$20,000.⁹ The percentage of the population living below the poverty level was not available for the City of Gulfport; however, for Harrison County, Gulfport Area, the 1990 estimate of the population living below the poverty level was 19.0 percent.¹⁰

1997 Estimated Household Income Distribution¹¹:

Income	City of Gulfport	1-Mile Ring
Under \$10,000	16.0%	24.3%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	18.0%	23.2%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	8.5%	11.4%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	7.6%	7.8%
\$30,000 to \$34,999	8.7%	8.8%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	16.0%	12.3%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	13.9%	8.1%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	5.8%	2.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	4.1%	0.8%
\$150,000 and over	1.5%	0.6%

Education

According to the 1990 U.S. Census Report, the population within the one-mile ring has received less formal education than the population of the entire City of Gulfport. Forty-one percent of the ring population did not receive a high school diploma, compared to 25.2 percent for the City of Gulfport.¹² The following table shows that the population within the one-mile ring has less formal education across all levels than the population of the entire city.

The 1990 educational attainment for people 25 year or older are as follows¹³:

Education Level	City of Gulfport	1-Mile Ring
Less than 9th Grade	8.9%	14.7%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	16.3%	26.3%
High School Graduate	28.0%	29.7%
Some College, No Degree	21.6%	15.6%
Associate's Degree	6.8%	4.2%
Bachelor's Degree	11.8%	6.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	6.5%	3.3%

Labor Force

Both the entire city and one-mile ring populations are involved in a range of industries and services. Labor distribution is presented in the tables below. In 1990, the annual unemployment rate for the Gulfport Area, defined here as the cities of Biloxi, Gulfport, and Pass Christian cities, was 6.9 percent, compared to 6.7 percent for

⁸ *Marketview Comparison Report*, Claritas, Inc., Ithaca, NY, estimates.

⁹ *Marketview Comparison Report*, Claritas, Inc., Ithaca, NY, estimates.

¹⁰ Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Labor Market Information Department, 1990, estimates, quoted as Harrison County, Gulfport Area.

¹¹ *Marketview Comparison Report*, Claritas, Inc., Ithaca, NY, estimates

¹² *U.S. Census Report*, 1990.

¹³ *U.S. Census Report*, 1990.

Harrison County and 7.6 percent for the entire State of Mississippi.¹⁴ 1997 unemployment data continue to show a lower unemployment rate for the Gulfport Area (4.9 percent) than for the entire State of Mississippi (5.7 percent) and just slightly above the rate for Harrison County (4.6 percent).¹⁵

1990 labor force of residents 16 years and above¹⁶:

Labor Force	City of Gulfport	1-Mile Ring
Civilian Employed Males	44.1%	46.5%
Civilian Employed Females	40.8%	36.6%
Persons in Armed Forces	7.5%	6.6%
Persons Unemployed	7.7%	10.3%

1990 labor force distribution for residents 16 years and above¹⁷:

Employment Sector	City of Gulfport	1-Mile Ring
Profession and Related Services	26.3%	23.0%
Retail Trade	21.8%	18.6%
Manufacturing	11.0%	13.6%
Public Administration	7.3%	7.4%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	5.9%	1.8%
Construction	5.8%	10.4%
Transportation	4.7%	6.7%
Personal Services	4.2%	4.9%
Communications and Public Utilities	3.7%	1.6%
Business and Repair Services	3.6%	5.0%
Wholesale Trade	3.3%	4.6%
Entertainment and Recreation Services	1.3%	1.1%

Community Concerns on Environmental Issues

NCBC Gulfport has made a serious effort to measure public awareness and attitudes regarding environmental issues at the base. These efforts have been undertaken to identify issues of community interest and concern, and to help focus NCBC Gulfport's community relations resources on addressing them. Major efforts to measure public awareness and attitudes are described below.

1992 Community Interviews

In April of 1992, a series of interviews were conducted to assess community concerns for the 1993 CRP. Local officials, government agency representatives, news media representatives, base residents, neighbors of the base, and local business people were interviewed; follow-up conversations were held with area environmental groups and activists. At the time only the IRP was in place at the NCBC, so the interviews reflect community thoughts and concerns in regards to that program. The results of the interviews are summarized below.

The community expressed support for the NCBC and was interested in its activities. Although there were only a few organized environmental groups in the area at the time, the community at-large seemed quite conscious of local environmental issues. The community depended largely on word-of-mouth for environmental information. At the time of the interviews, the mayor had established a network of citizens to distribute information in the city's neighborhoods. Local news media often relied on the military news source.

¹⁴ Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Labor Market Information Department, 1990.

¹⁵ Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Labor Market Information Department, 1997.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Report, 1990.

¹⁷ U.S. Census Report, 1990.

The interviews were the first time most people had heard of the IRP at the NCBC. Overall, the interviewees responded positively to news of the program and were interested in receiving more information over time. Most people immediately assumed that the program was only addressing the Herbicide Orange Site, the issue with which they were most familiar. This familiarity was due to the proactive community relations by the center when the Herbicide Orange was incinerated on site in 1987 and 1988. However, with the exception of the Herbicide Orange site, the community had little awareness of the current IRP activities.

From the interviews, a list of specific community concerns was compiled. These concerns are listed below, by frequency of mention, in descending order.

- Herbicide Orange Site still poses a threat and is not being addressed quickly.
- Off-base groundwater may be affected. Some nearby residents have private wells for a variety of uses and are concerned that they may be affected.
- Surface water may be affected. Areas near the center are fairly wet, and heavy rain causes minor flooding that could spread contamination or make it more easily contacted.
- Regulatory involvement in the center's environmental programs has appeared sporadic.
- News of the program may affect the city's attractiveness to visitors.
- Seabees often deployed for several months at a time, may not communicate with their families concerning environmental conditions.
- Contaminants may be airborne and harmful to those nearby.

A community relations strategy based on the interview findings was developed in the 1993 CRP. See Appendix E for a summary of community relations activities performed at the Seabee Center since the 1993 CRP.

1997 Community Survey and Exposure Assessment

The Community Survey and Exposure Assessment was an extensive face-to-face survey conducted from September through October 1996. The survey encompassed all residential addresses on base and the majority of addresses within a mile of the base boundary. A total of 1,757 residences were visited, and 815 surveys were completed. The objectives of the survey were to address three primary issues critical to the overall success of the IRP and AO at NCBC Gulfport:

- residential concerns over environmental contamination at NCBC Gulfport,
- effectiveness of the RAB, and
- potential residential exposures to contaminants from NCBC Gulfport.

The issues of residential concerns and RAB effectiveness are particularly relevant to this CRP update. Survey results on these issues are summarized below.

Residential Environmental Concerns

Discussion with residents during RAB meetings or public forums sponsored by the center revealed some public mistrust, both on base and in the surrounding neighborhoods, regarding the storage and subsequent cleanup of the Herbicide Orange at Site 8. Stories of Herbicide Orange spills leaving the base are commonplace. One surprising finding, collected through informal discussions with base personnel, is that mistrust is not limited to residents; many on-base workers have similar concerns and believe that high cancer rates on the base are related to Herbicide Orange exposure.

Over 80 percent of the respondents were either not familiar or only somewhat familiar with the base's environmental program (aside from the Herbicide Orange

issue), while 74 percent expressed concern about environmental conditions at the base. A similar pattern was noted regarding cleanup efforts at the base, with 89 percent of the respondents either somewhat familiar or not at all familiar with these activities. However, it is interesting to note that the residential survey indicated more concern about other safety and environmental issues, such as snakes and trash in the ditches, than about dioxin, which is associated with Herbicide Orange. Additionally, the study found little widespread fear of the word "dioxin" itself.

RAB Effectiveness

To the Navy's knowledge, a quantitative measure of a RAB's effectiveness in reaching the larger community had not been attempted. Therefore, an assessment of the NCBC RAB's outreach was made to help determine how this group could better serve the community.

Ninety percent of the respondents had not heard of the RAB, but eighty percent wanted to learn more about the group and its role in the environmental cleanup process. Likewise, 82 percent of the respondents wanted to learn more about the base's environmental cleanup effort, and 79 percent joined the RAB mailing list. Most of the respondents who had heard of the RAB learned of it through organizations such as churches, civic groups, NCBC Gulfport public availability sessions, or RAB meetings.

Media

The survey also asked respondents for their favorite broadcast outlets, newspapers, and preferred source for local news. The clear choice for both preferred television station and source for news about the Gulfport area was WLOX (Channel 13) in Biloxi, followed by WXXV (Channel 25) in Gulfport. This was not surprising as these two stations are the most powerful and easiest to receive for non-cable subscribers. Appendix F contains a list of the local media.

When asked about radio stations, respondents named many stations, and WJZD 94.5 FM was among the most common. The most common response for both preferred newspaper and newspaper most read for local information was the *Sun Herald*.

1998 Community Interviews

Informal community interviews were conducted in July and August 1998 to reassess community awareness and perceptions on the environmental program at NCBC Gulfport. NCBC Gulfport and Navy contract personnel interviewed a total of 21 people. Eleven interviews were conducted individually, and four interviews were conducted in small groups of two or four people. The interviews were conducted in-person or by telephone and included civilian and base employees, government agency representatives, base and local area residents, local business representatives, local civic groups representatives, religious leaders, representatives from environmental public interest groups, elected officials, and RAB members. The interviewees either worked or lived in the Gulfport area, with the exception of four interviewees from the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, located at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. All respondents lived or worked in the Gulfport area for varying lengths of time, from 1 year to 45 years. A range of demographic characteristics (i.e., age, sex, and race) was represented in the survey. The interview form is provided in Appendix G.

The community interviews were not intended as a public opinion poll, but rather as a means to obtain community perception about the environmental program at the Seabee Center. They were conducted to help program managers gain an understanding of public impressions, evaluate the environmental community relations program, and

modify efforts accordingly. The interview sought information regarding the following issues:

- public awareness of NCBC Gulfport,
- environmental perceptions in the community,
- community concerns in general and those specific to the base, and
- public outreach and participation.

Public Awareness of NCBC Gulfport

All of the respondents were familiar with NCBC Gulfport. Fourteen of the 21 respondents knew about the role of the base as a construction battalion; the rest had little or no knowledge of base activities. Sources of this information were personal experience and word-of-mouth.

Environmental Perceptions in the Community

Most of the respondents were aware of the ongoing environmental program at NCBC Gulfport. Two respondents from the Parent Action Committee for Base Housing were not aware of the environmental program, nor was an NCBC volunteer teacher. However, respondents familiar with the environmental program felt that the base was doing a good or fair job of protecting the environment and noted that the efforts have been continually improving over time. One respondent, who was not aware of the environmental program, felt that the base was doing a poor job and cited the Herbicide Orange issue as the primary reason. People learned of the Seabee Center's environmental program from direct mailings, media stories, publicity, or from personal involvement with the base.

Of the 21 respondents, 12 felt that the Gulfport community was very sensitive to environmental issues, while 7 felt that the community was only moderately sensitive. Interestingly, the two respondents from the Parent Action Committee for Base Housing felt that the community was not sensitive at all to environmental issues.

Community Concerns

Interviewees were asked to cite issues and concerns about the Gulfport area in general and those associated with NCBC Gulfport in particular. Not including NCBC environmental issues, overall community concerns according to the respondents are listed below in order of frequency:

- Development (poorly planned growth and impacts on the environment, over-development, increased traffic, increased population, and inadequate infrastructure)
- Casino and gambling issues
- Public safety (insufficient police resources, drugs, neighborhood security, and street lighting)
- Employment, economic development
- Poverty
- Environmental protection (wetlands, storm water runoff and erosion control, and environmental impact from the development)

The most frequently cited issues and concerns regarding the environmental work at NCBC Gulfport were all centered on dioxin in the environment. The following are the NCBC environmental concerns listed in order of frequency:

- Dioxin migration
- Status of the planned cleanup

- Impact on groundwater and water supply
- General and short-term health effects
- Potential risks of fish consumption
- Public information

When asked about issues associated with NCBC Gulfport that have attracted the most community interest or media coverage, environmental issues and the public service of the Seabees ranked the highest. Deployment of the battalion and a recent tuberculosis outbreak in the area were also mentioned. When asked which of these issues most concerned them, respondents cited the environmental issues. Some people elaborated with specific concerns, including, water supply safety, the possibility of additional dioxin sources, and ways of getting information to the public.

Public Information and Outreach

According to the survey, the best way to distribute information about environmental program status and activities is by mail. Newspapers, public meetings, and radio and television were also mentioned. On-line services were listed as the least preferable way to receive information about events. One respondent suggested distributing information through local churches. The following newspapers were mentioned by respondents as sources for their information: *Sun Herald*, *Clarion Ledger*, and the *Mississippi Press*. WLOX was the television station most mentioned by the respondents, and a recommendation of advertising on an afternoon news program, "Newswatch 13," was made. One respondent made an additional suggestion that information should be distributed through radio stations with predominantly African-American audiences.

Only 4 out of the 21 respondents said they had not heard of the RAB. Ten of the respondents said that they had attended a RAB meeting. Almost all of the respondents said they would be interested in attending or learning more about RAB meetings. Only six people had attended any of the environmental open houses or public availability sessions presented by the Seabee Center. These six had learned of the open houses either by association with the RAB, by mail, or through a personal invitation. Those that had attended the open houses had a positive impression overall. The strengths of the open houses were their informal and informational setting. The major weakness cited was poor advertisement. Suggestions on topics to encourage public attendance at the open houses included

- general information about the program,
- general environmental effects of the contaminants,
- information on health effects,
- cleanup schedule and methodologies, and
- environmental preservation efforts.

The survey showed community centers are the preferred location for community events and public meetings. Public libraries, schools, on-base facilities, and local conference facilities were also mentioned as a convenient locale for public meetings. A few respondents suggested other locations, such as city hall, a casino, a hotel, or the community college.

The survey asked if the respondents were aware that information on the NCBC Gulfport environmental program was available for review at the Gulfport Public Library. Half of the respondents were not aware of the availability of this information, but 18 of the 21 respondents indicated they were interested in reviewing

this information. Half of the respondents felt that the Gulfport Public Library was conveniently located for them.

All of those interviewed were either on the NCBC community mailing list or were interested in being added to the list. Some suggestions on information to include in the newsletter were general information on the environmental program, health effects of the contaminants, information on water quality, cleanup schedules, and detailed investigation findings. Some respondents who receive the newsletter indicated that the existing information and format is useful. Two suggestions to increase visibility and community involvement in the environmental program were to hold off-base RAB meetings and to visit community groups such as the Ministers' Alliance and the Rotary Club.

ACTIVITIES PROFILE

History of Community Involvement

The Navy has implemented numerous outreach efforts, as outlined in the 1993 CRP, to encourage community awareness and involvement in the NCBC Gulfport environmental program. A list of these completed activities can be found in Appendix E of this update. The public participation and feedback generated by these efforts indicate an increased level of trust in the Navy's handling of environmental cleanup at the base. The Navy has a proactive approach to public involvement and makes efforts to provide information and opportunities for meaningful public participation. The Navy intends to use the information collected for this CRP update to ensure a continuing dialogue with the community.

Point of Contact

The NCBC Gulfport PAO is the point of contact for all IRP and AO related information for the news media and the community and will be listed in all communications with the public. As the point of contact, the PAO will

- answer questions with assistance from IRP and AO project staff;
- keep track of community concerns and recommend additional community relations activities, where public interest warrants;
- provide information to the news media as their sole official source;
- manage the mailing list for fact sheets by adding names of people who contact her with interest in the IRP or AO and who identify themselves at public involvement activities;
- arrange site tours and speakers for local groups;
- oversee the status of the Information Repository and Administrative Record; and
- attend public involvement activities.

The primary point of contact is the Public Affairs Officer (see Appendix C).

Activities

Based on the concerns and suggestions of the Gulfport community, the following activities have been planned for the IRP and AO at NCBC Gulfport. These activities are planned in consideration of the economic, demographic, and political factors that make the community unique. The activities listed here are the minimum to be conducted in the program. In the event the community indicates a greater interest or need for information and involvement, these activities may be conducted more frequently or other activities may be added, at the discretion of the center's Public Affairs Officer (PAO), the IRP project team, and regulatory representatives.

Information Repository and Administrative Record Files

These are files that allow public access to IRP and AO documents. The Information Repository contains site information, program findings, and public involvement information. The Administrative Record contains documents specifically regarding the process leading to the cleanup decision. Because each stage of the IRP and AO results in a final document, the public will have access to up-to-date information on the status of those program elements that interest them (see Appendix B).

elements, findings, and actions of the program, in layman's terms, to the public. Fact Sheets also may be produced to address other topics of emerging community interest over time, at the discretion of the PAO. Fact Sheets are available from the PAO.

Public Announcements and Notices

During the program, the PAO will coordinate the distribution of public notices and announcements to draw attention to particular program events. These program resources events include

- the availability of the Information Repository and Administrative Record;
- notification of dates when proposed plans for remedial actions are offered for public review and comment (these notices will include a summary of the proposed action);
- notification of citizens of removal actions;
- announcements of directions for all public comment periods;
- notification of when a remedial action has been selected; and
- announcements of public meetings and other public involvement activities.

Public Comment Periods

Public comment periods will be held to solicit public input on proposed remedial actions in the IRP and AO. Comment periods will be at least 30 days long, with opportunities for extension, and will commence with a public notice. The notice will provide specific directions for submitting comments. Comment periods will be held

- when proposed plans for remedial actions are available for public review, and
- in the event of non-time-critical removal actions.

Public comments are considered in the selection of remedial actions. Comments will be addressed in the Responsiveness Summary portion of the Record of Decision in the Administrative Record.

Public Meetings

Public meetings will be held to discuss proposed remedial actions, prior to the selection of an action. Meetings will be held at a time and place of public convenience and will be well publicized in advance. Center personnel and regulatory representatives will host the meetings. Public meetings offer the opportunity for the public to receive information about IRP and AO actions and to ask questions about the program or the proposed action. Fact sheets will be available, as will the opportunity to be added to the mailing list for future newsletter mail-outs. Meetings during public comment periods will be transcribed or videotaped and included in the Administrative Record

Site Tours and Speaker Presentations

In order to reach interested citizens, site tours and speaker presentations will be coordinated through the Public Affairs Office at the center. Site tours will allow small groups, as approved by the center, to view IRP and AO sites and ask questions. Speaker presentations will be offered to local groups by knowledgeable center staff. Requests for tours and presentations should be directed to the Public Affairs Office.

Restoration Advisory Board

The RAB provides a forum for two-way communication between the Seabee Center and the community with regular meetings to discuss program developments. It is

composed of local citizens and representatives for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Protection and the Seabee Center. RAB community members provide input to the Navy regarding the Seabee Center's environmental program and share information with the rest of the community. RAB members as of August 1998 are listed in Appendix A.

Other Activities

Any site undergoing an environmental investigation of this kind may be selected for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL includes sites that are USEPA priority for investigation and cleanup; these sites are called Superfund sites. As of this writing, the USEPA has indicated that NCBC Gulfport does not warrant further evaluation for inclusion on the NPL. However, in the unlikely event that NCBC Gulfport is included on the NPL in the future, an Availability Session will be publicized and held, at a time and place of public convenience, to address public concerns raised by the listing. Seabee environmental personnel and the PAO will also consider other activities at that time.

APPENDIX A

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Atchison
2619 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39531

Gordon Crane
NCBC Gulfport
5200 CBC 2nd Street
Gulfport, MS 39501-5001

Steve Dickerson (Community Co-Chair)
City of Gulfport
Business Development Coordinator
1410 24th Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501

Eddie Dreher
100 24th Street
Gulfport, MS 39507

Joseph Ford
2536 Old Bay Road
Biloxi, MS 39531

Andy Guerra
885 Carolee Circle
Biloxi, MS 39532

Joe Halasz
P.O. Box 6246
Gulfport, MS 39506

Lieutenant Matthew Haupt (Navy Co-chair)
NCBC Gulfport
5200 CBC 2nd Street
Gulfport, MS 39501-5001

Arthur Holzweissig
208 S. Seashore Avenue
Long Beach, MS 39560

David W. Marshall
510 N. Forest Avenue
Long Beach, MS 39560

C.A. "Skip" McDaniel
#6 Greenbriar Drive
Gulfport, MS 39507

Bob Merrill
MSDEQ
P.O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39289

Patricia A. Ramos-Membrado
P.O. Box 4885
Biloxi, MS 39535

Carolyn Rushing
1104 Lewis Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501

Ron Schmidting
102 Driftwood Drive
Long Beach, MS 39560

Joyce M. Shaw
511 Ward Avenue
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Philip W. Shaw
1124 Oak Place
Gulfport, MS 39501

Jeffery Stawowy
12365 Windward Circle
Gulfport, MS 39503

Barbara J. Thomas
2810 34th Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501

Earl C. Whittemore, Jr.
17571 Old Hwy 49
Saucier, MS 39574

APPENDIX B

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Documents relating to the IRP and AO at NCBC Gulfport are available for review at the following location:

Gulfport Harrison County Library
Reference Section
21st Avenue (Highway 90)
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 863-6411

Please call, hours may be seasonal.

Photocopying available. Handicap accessible.

APPENDIX C

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM POINTS OF CONTACT

Public Affairs Officer
Building 1
NCBC Gulfport
5200 CBC 2nd Street
Gulfport, MS 39501-5001
(228) 871-2393

Mr. Gordon Crane
Environmental Program Manager
NCBC Gulfport
5200 CBC 2nd Street
Gulfport, MS 39501-5001
(228) 871-2485
gwcrane@cbcgulf.navfac.navy.mil

Mr. Art Conrad
SOUTHNAVFACENCOM
2155 Eagle Drive
P.O. Box 190010
North Charleston, SC 29419-9010
(843) 820-5520
alconrad@efdsouth.navfac.navy.mil

APPENDIX D

ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ Initial Assessment Study (1985) The initial assessment study was primarily a records search to identify potential hazardous waste sites and eventually more completely describe the IR sites.
- ❖ Verification Study (1987) The Verification Study installed the first monitoring wells and collected numerous surface water and sediment samples. This study is noteworthy for reporting almost no contamination at any site. It did not concentrate on Site 8.
- ❖ RI Workplan (ABB Environmental Services, Inc. [ABB-ES], 1993) This investigative workplan was developed to more completely investigate all of the IR sites, and to fill in data gaps that were identified through the Initial Assessment Study and Verification Study. It was never implemented.
- ❖ Military Construction (MILCON) Investigation (referred to as HO I) was conducted south of Site 8 to test for the presence of dioxins at a proposed warehouse location. The study found low levels of dioxin, and the warehouse site was moved north due to contractual issues.
- ❖ Basewide Sampling (1994) A series of surface water and sediment samples collected at all of the major outfalls around the base for this study. It was initiated by the results of earlier work done at Site 8 that showed the possibility of migrating dioxins. The sampling discovered elevated (197 parts per trillion [ppt]) levels of dioxins and furans just inside of Outfall 3 and Canal No. 1.
- ❖ Site 6: Free Product Discovered in October 1992 A full assessment of the former fire-fighting training pits (Site 6) was conducted from January to July 1994. The site assessment discovered approximately 2.5 feet of product resulting from two burn-pits. The performance specifications for the remediation plan were completed by December 1994. The plan called for a recovery trench with three extraction wells. The extraction and treatment system was installed in September 1995 and is still operating.
- ❖ Ash Sampling and Groundwater Sampling Workplan (referred to as HO II) (ABB-ES, 1994) HO II was amended from Versar's 1992 workplan and called for statistical sampling of selected ash piles and installation of groundwater monitoring wells in support of the Ash Delisting Addendum.
- ❖ Ash Sampling and Monitoring Well Installation (April 1994) Ash samples were collected and groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the Herbicide Orange Site (Site 8). Low levels (<25 ppt) of dioxin were detected in the ash, and low levels of dioxin (<60 parts per quadrillion [ppq]) in the water. This initiated a quarterly groundwater sampling program for one year.
- ❖ Off-Base Sediment Sampling and 28th Street Delineation Sampling (April 1995) Delineation sampling was conducted along 28th Street and 11th Street in advance of road widening and drainage improvement activities. Three main areas of contamination were discovered in the way of the road construction projects (Outfall 1, Outfall 3, and Outfall 4 North). There were several add-on studies, including the first total Organic Carbon-Dioxin toxicity equivalent relationship analysis and the Triplicate Study.
- ❖ 28th Street Removal (July 1995) was completed along the delineation boundaries established in Delineation Sampling. In total 300 cubic yards of sediment were moved into a designed sediment handling area. Additionally, the first set of 10 temporary Sediment Recovery Traps (SRTs) were constructed to control runoff and dioxin migration in the ditches.
- ❖ Perry Avenue Removal (June 1996) Contaminated soil along Perry Avenue was sampled, analyzed, and removed within a one-week time frame to allow completion of two MILCON projects.
- ❖ Administrative Order (AO) Issued by Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MSDEQ) (February 1996) This AO required the initial completion of On-base and Off-base Dioxin Delineation Workplans (May 1996), as well as an Interim Corrective Measures Workplan (September 1996). Follow-up plans included the Groundwater Study, Exposure Assessment, and Remediation Workplans.

APPENDIX D: ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ On-Base and Off-Base (Phase I) This delineation work started in March 1997 and focused on the ditches and streams that may be transporting dioxin-contaminated sediments from Site 8 (Site 4 and Site 5 were investigated as well). It also served to determine the mechanisms of transportation of contaminated sediment so that future remedial activities could be made more effective.
- ❖ Interim Corrective Measure (April 1997) This workplan initiated the performance sampling of the existing SRTs. Newly designed SRTs were installed under this program in October 1997.
- ❖ PCB Contamination was Discovered in a Section of a Ditch Near Parade Field (June 1997) This add-on study was performed to delineate the extent (about 120 feet of ditch) of the PCB contamination. This was followed by a Letter Report detailing these findings.
- ❖ Second Addendum for Ash Delisting (August 1997) This addendum was completed with the additional information gathered during the HO II activities. The addendum argued that based on mass balance, the ash (containing only low levels of dioxins) did not significantly contribute to groundwater contamination observed during HO II, and that if delisted the material would be handled along with the other contaminated materials already on site.
- ❖ On-Base and Off-Base Phase I Results (September 1997) These results showed elevated levels of dioxins (4 parts per billion) near Site 8, and decreasing levels with increasing distance. Secondary sources of on-base contamination were also observed at Sites 4 and 5. Off-base dioxin contamination was primarily restricted to the Outfall 3 swamp and the lower-level sections of Brickyard Creek.
- ❖ SRT Performance Monitoring Report (September 1997) This report indicated that the SRTs are mitigating dioxin migration in the ditches. The report found that upstream levels were on the average 4.5 times higher than downstream samples.
- ❖ Groundwater Study Workplan (June 1997) This report called for the downgradient sampling at all Installation Restoration (IR) sites that potentially contain HO-related dioxins and furans. Additionally, permanent downgradient monitoring wells will be installed at all IR sites that do not already have them. A hydrologic study will be conducted to investigate the interaction between surface water and shallow groundwater.
- ❖ Exposure Assessment (September 1996) This assessment was an extensive face-to-face survey of the Seabee Center area to address residential concerns, effectiveness of the Restoration Advisory Board communication, and potential residential exposures to contaminants from NCBC Gulfport.
- ❖ Ash Delisted (July 1997) The State also worked closely with the Seabee Center to delist the ash from the Air Force's incineration of dioxin-contaminated soils in the late 1980s. The close and trusting relationship between the MSDEQ and the IR Program Team has paved the way, after years of discussion and denied petitions, to finally delist the ash.

APPENDIX E

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fact Sheets

- Fact Sheet #1: Field Investigations at Site 6, Former Fire-Fighting Training Area (October 1994)
- Fact Sheet #2: Formation of a Restoration Advisory Board (October 1994)
- Fact Sheet #3: Basewide Sampling, December 1994 (March 1995)
- Fact Sheet #4: Results of Basewide Sampling (April 1995)
- Fact Sheet #5: NCBC Gulfport Response to the Results of the First Round of Off-Base Sampling (April 1995)

- Fact Sheet #6: Site 1, Disaster Recovery Disposal Area (April 1995)
- Fact Sheet #7: Site 2, World War II Landfill (April 1995)
- Fact Sheet #8: Site 3, The Northwest Landfill and Burn Pit (April 1995)
- Fact Sheet #9: Site 4, Golf Course Landfill (April 1995)
- Fact Sheet #10: Site 5, Equipment Training Area Landfill (April 1995)
- Fact Sheet #11: Site 6, Former Fire-Fighting Training Area (April 1995)
- Fact Sheet #12: Site 7, Rubble Disposal Area (April 1995)
- Fact Sheet #13: Site 8, Former Herbicide Storage Site (April 1995)
- Fact Sheet #14: Results of Second Round of Off-Base Sampling (May 1995)
- Fact Sheet #15: Installation of Sediment Recovery Traps (May 1995)
- Fact Sheet #16: The Exposure Assessment (January 1996)
- Fact Sheet #17: Removal Action, 28th Street Construction Project (October 1995)
- Fact Sheet #18: Engineering Award for 28th Street (April 1997)
- Fact Sheet #19: Dioxin Results - On Base (September 1997)
- Fact Sheet #20: Dioxin Results - Off Base (September 1997)
- Fact Sheet #21: Upgrade Sediment Recovery Traps (SRTs) and SRT Evaluation (September 1997)
- Fact Sheet #22: Results of Phase II Dioxin Sampling (August 1998)
- Information Sheet: Environmental Sampling (April 1997)
- Information Sheet: Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
- Information Sheet: Delisting Ash at the Gulfport Seabee Center (May 1997)
- Information Sheet: Timeline - Air Force HO Cleanup
- Information Sheet: Installation Restoration Program
- Information Sheet: Facts About Dioxin
- Information Sheet: Continuing the Environmental Cleanup
- Information Sheet: Biological Monitoring (August 1998)

Public Availability Sessions

- Environmental Solutions Open House Meeting (January 11, 1996)
- Dioxin Sampling Environmental Open House (April 1-3, 1997)
- Petition to Delist Ash Environmental Awareness Community Workshop (May 14-15, 1997)
- Phase I Dioxin Sampling Results and Sediment Recovery Trap Improvements Environmental Information Session (September 22-23, 1997)
- NCBC Gulfport Environmental Update Session (Phase II sampling results, biological monitoring, updated RAB roster, August 6, 1998)

RAB Meetings

- Establishment of RAB and RAB Charter (October 1994)
- Regular (monthly) RAB Meetings (October 1994 - present)

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Community Surveys and Interviews

- Community Interviews for 1993 Community Relations Plan
- 1996 Exposure Assessment Survey

Other

- Newsletters that serve as RAB Meeting announcements and include project updates (with every RAB meeting)
- Environmental Information Van: The Environmental Information Van followed the dioxin-sampling team as they sampled in the community to give out information. (April 1997)
- School Visits: Presentations were given at six local schools to explain the purpose of the Seabee Center's sampling efforts. (April 1997)
- Administrative Record: The Administrative Record is currently being updated and will be housed in the Gulfport Harrison County Library.
- Information Repository: An Information Repository was set up that contains all of the NCBC Gulfport environmental cleanup program documents for community review. The Information Repository is housed in the Gulfport Harrison County Library
- Mailing List: NCBC Gulfport has set up a mailing list of over 800 address in the local community for information and mail distribution.
- Site Tours: NCBC Gulfport has provided regular tours of the Installation Restoration program and Agreed Order sites as the cleanup progresses.
- Support and presentations given to Community Outreach and Education Program at Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.

APPENDIX F

LOCAL MEDIA

Television Stations

WLOX-TV Channel 13/ABC
208 DeBuys Road
Biloxi, MS 39531-3501
(228) 896-1313

WXXV-25 TV
14351 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
(228) 832-2525

Radio Stations

WAOY American Family Radio Gulfport
12280 Ashley Drive
Gulfport, MS 39503
(228) 831-3020

WQFX Radio 1130 AM
1401 Pass Road
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 374-9739

WCPR-FM/Real Rock 97.9
212 DeBuys Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 388-2771

WTOC
13012 Jim Byrd Road
Biloxi, MS 39532
(228) 831-5505

WGCM/FM/Coast 102
11737 Klein Road
Gulfport, MS 39503
(228) 832-5111

WVMI 570 AM
163 Rue Magnolia Street
Biloxi, MS 39530
(228) 374-1570

WJZD JZ94.5
1331 Magnolia Street
Gulfport, MS 39507
(228) 896-5307

WXBD-Unforgettable 1490 AM
212 DeBuys Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 388-6000

WKNN/K 99-FM
286 DeBuys Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 388-2323

WXLS-SURF 107.1 FM
212 DeBuys Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 388-6000

WMJY/Magic 93.7
286 DeBuys Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 875-9393

WXRG-Rock 96.7 FM
212 DeBuys Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 388-6000

WOSM Radio Station
4720 Radio Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 432-1032

WXYK-105.9 KISS FM
212 DeBuys Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 388-6000

Radio Stations, continued

WZKX
11737 Klein Road
Gulfport, MS 39503
(228) 832-5111

Newspapers

Biloxi-D'Iberville Press
135 Main Street
Biloxi, MS 39530
(228) 374-1630

Clarion-Ledger
715 Cox Avenue
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 875-7124

Coast Business Journal, Inc.
2600 Beach Boulevard #18
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 594-0004

Edgewater Newsstand
2650 Beach Boulevard #7A
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 385-1900

Good News Newspaper
1419 Pass Road
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 868-0057

Keeler News/Seabee Courier
205 DeBuys Road
Gulfport, MS 39507
(228) 896-2492

Mississippi Conservative
19 Marks Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 875-9776

Mississippi Press Register
1222 Highway 90
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 875-8144

Ocean Springs Record
715 Cox Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 875-2791

Sea Coast Echo
124 Court Street
Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520
(228) 467-5473

The Sun Herald
205 DeBuys Road
Gulfport, MS 39507
(228) 896-2100

APPENDIX G
INTERVIEW FORM

NCBC Gulfport
Community Relations Plan Interview Form

Interview Tracking Number: _____ Name of Person Interviewed: _____

Date: _____ Interviewer: _____

Location of Interview: _____

Background

1. How long have you been living or working in the Gulfport area? ____ years ____ months

Where do you live or work? _____

2. Are you familiar with Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport?

yes no (if no, skip to Question 3)

What do you know about activities and operations on the base? __

What is the source of this information? _____

Environmental Perceptions in the Community

3. In your opinion, is the community sensitive to environmental issues in general?

very sensitive moderately sensitive not sensitive don't know

4. In general, what kind of job do you think NCBC Gulfport is doing in protecting the environment?
 good job fair job poor don't know

5. Are you aware of the ongoing environmental cleanup program at NCBC Gulfport?
 yes no (if no, skip to Question 6)

If yes, how and when did you learn of the program? _____

What issues or activities related to the environmental work at NCBC Gulfport interest or concern you? _____

Regarding the environmental program at NCBC Gulfport, describe your understanding of the coordination between the base and regulatory agencies that are involved (Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). _____

Choose the impact you think this coordination has on the environmental program.

- positive negative little or no impact don't know

General Community Perceptions

6. Excluding environmental issues, what are some other significant issues impacting the community or the Gulf Coast region right now? _____

7. Which issues associated with NCBC Gulfport have attracted the most public interest or media coverage? _____

Which of these issues interests or concerns you most? _____

Public Information and Outreach

8. What is the best way for you to get information about environmental program status and activities?

- mail meetings newspaper radio/TV (list stations) online services

others _____

9. Have you heard of the NCBC Gulfport Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)?

- yes no (if no, skip to Question 10)

Have you attended any RAB meetings?

- yes no

10. The RAB is a group of interested citizens, Navy representatives, and regulatory agency representatives who work together on environmental cleanup issues. Would you be interested in attending or learning more about their meetings?

- yes no

11. Have you heard about or attended any of the environmental open houses or public availability sessions that have been presented by NCBC Gulfport?

- yes no (if no, skip to Question 12)

If so, how did you learn of the meeting? _____

What was your overall impression of the event?

- positive negative no opinion

What were the specific strengths or weaknesses of the event you attended? _____

12. If you have not attended any of these events, what information could be presented to encourage your attendance? _____

13. What is the most convenient location for community events or other public meetings?

- public library school other public buildings on the base
 local conference facility other community center

14. Are you aware that information on the NCBC Gulfport environmental program is available for review at the Gulfport-Harrison County Library?

yes no

Do you have any interest in reviewing this information?

yes no

Is the Gulfport-Harrison County Library conveniently located for you?

yes no

15. Do you belong to any community/civic groups or organizations?

yes no (if no, skip to Question 16)

If yes, what is the group's name and does it have meetings, events, or publications that NCBC Gulfport could participate in and/or contribute to?

no yes _____

16. Are there other persons, community organizations, or interest groups whom you would suggest that we contact to conduct an interview? _____

17. Would you like to be added to a mailing list to receive NCBC Gulfport's environmental newsletter and other general information on the base's cleanup program?

no yes (if yes, request mailing address)

18. What information would you like in the newsletter?

19. Is there anything else you want to mention or receive information about?

Interviewee's Mailing Address

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Additional Notes:

APPENDIX H

AGENCIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

City of Gulfport Department of Urban Development
1410 24th Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 868-5715

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
Xavier University
7325 Palmetto Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 486-9544

Harrison County Health Department
Environmental Health Office
4521 Old Pass Road
Gulfport, MS 39501
(228) 863-1110

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39289
(601) 961-5650

State of Mississippi Department of Health
Region IX Office
15151 Community Road
Orange Grove, MS 39503
(228) 831-5151

APPENDIX I

ACRONYMS

AO	Administrative Order/Agreed Order
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CRP	Community Relations Plan
DOD	Department of Defense
FS	Feasibility Study
IRP	Installation Restoration program
MSDEQ	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
NCBC	Naval Construction Battalion Center
NPL	National Priorities List
PA	Preliminary Assessment
PAO	Public Affairs Officer
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
RA	Remedial Action
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RD	Remedial Design
RI	Remedial Investigation
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SI	Site Investigation
SOUTHNAV- FACENCOM	Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

APPENDIX J

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Administrative/Agreed Order	The Administrative Order, issued by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Protection in 1996, was set up to set in motion a focused strategy for investigation, and cleanup, if needed, of contamination of dioxin associated with Site 8. The Agreed Order superseded the Administrative Order in 1997, and served as a consensus document between the Navy, the Air Force and the State regarding the process for completing the investigations.
Administrative Record	A required file of documents containing the information used to make site-management decisions, including the Responsiveness Summary. The record is a maintained file for public review.
Bauxite	Mineral used for making aluminum.
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)	A Federal law passed in 1980, amended in 1986 by SARA. The acts created a special tax that goes into a trust fund known as "Superfund" to investigate and remediate abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.
Feasibility Study	A description and analysis of the potential cleanup alternatives for a site. Usually recommends a cost-effective alternative. It ordinarily starts as soon as the Remedial Investigation is underway, together referred to as the RI/FS.
Groundwater	The supply of water found below the earth's surface.
Herbicide Orange	A substance used to kill leaves and foliage during the Vietnam War.
Hazardous Waste	By-products of society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment.
Information Repository	A public file containing site information, documents on site activities, the Administrative Record, and general information about the Superfund program.
Installation Restoration Program (IRP)	The Department of Defense program to identify, investigate, evaluate and, if necessary, clean up sites to protect human health and the environment.
National Priorities List (NPL)	The USEPA's list of hazardous wastes sites that are a priority for investigation and response. The list contains both public- and private-sector sites, although only private-sector sites are eligible for Superfund monies.
Preliminary Assessment	The process of collecting and reviewing available information about a known or suspected waste area or release.
Record of Decision (ROD)	A public document that explains which remedial alternatives were selected based on technical analysis and in consideration of public comments and concerns.
Remediation	Cleaning up or safeguarding hazardous wastes.

Removal Action	Any action to reduce or remove the impact of conditions at a site. Time-critical actions begin within six months of the decision to act. Non-time-critical actions do not require action within six months of the decision to act.
Responsiveness Summary	A summary of public comments and questions received during a public comment period and the responses to them, ordinarily accompanying a Record of Decision.
Remedial Investigation	An in-depth study to gather data to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site and to establish criteria for site cleanup. Usually done with the Feasibility Study, together they are called the RI/FS.
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)	A board made up of community members and representatives from the Installation and regulatory agencies; serves as a conduit for sharing information with public and the Installation.
Risk Assessment	The qualitative and quantitative evaluation performed to define the risk posed to human health or the environment by specific contaminants.
Seabees	Military personnel assigned to a Construction Battalion Center.
Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)	1986 Act that modified CERCLA to include Federal facilities on the National Priorities List.
Site Inspection	The collection of information to determine the potential existence and severity of hazards posed to human health or the environment.
Superfund	The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA and SARA that carries out the USEPA's solid waste emergency and long-term remedial activities. These activities include maintaining the National Priorities List and overseeing or conducting remedial actions.