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INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM BROCHURE NCBC GULFPORT MS
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**Naval Construction
Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi**

*"Home of the
Atlantic Fleet Seabees"*

**Installation
Restoration
Program**

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Installation Restoration Program

Introduction This brochure has been developed as a part of the Community Relations Program for the environmental cleanup process at Naval Construction Battalion Center (CBC), Gulfport, MS. It gives a brief history of the Center, the regulatory background for cleanup, and a description of the program. The brochure is part of the process for developing two-way communication between the Seabee Center and interested citizens in the community. It reflects the Navy's desire to keep the community informed about project activities.

History Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, is a 1,100-acre installation located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, approximately 75 miles east of New Orleans, LA, and 75 miles west of Mobile, AL. The Center is the home of the Atlantic Fleet Seabees and is commonly known as the Seabee Center.

The history of the Seabee Center dates back to April 1942 when land for the installation was acquired on a plot a mile northwest of the Port of Gulfport. The base was officially established on June 2, 1942. The mission of the base changed through the years from a receiving organization, to a Naval Training Center, then to a storage depot. It has been an active Seabee Center since 1966 when increasing commitments for construction forces in Southeast Asia led the way to an increased mission for the Center.

The mission of the Center is four-fold: to operate a Naval base, to support deployed Seabees, to operate

a strategic storage site, and to support mobilization and Seabee reserves.

The nature of the Center's history and mission has required the use, handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. In the past, few or no regulations guided operations involving these materials. Little was known about their long-term effects on human health or the environment. This resulted in conditions related to past operations that do not meet today's stricter and more comprehensive environmental standards. Present operations meet today's standards to prevent similar conditions from being created.



Regulatory Background

Since 1980, the Department of Defense (DOD) has given high priority to properly managing its hazardous wastes. DOD implemented a program, called the Installation Restoration (IR) program, to locate past disposal sites and to eliminate their hazards in an environmentally responsible manner. This program is designed to provide DOD compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), or Superfund. The Superfund Amendments and Authorization Act (SARA) of 1986, Section 211 requires the Secretary of Defense to establish a program (with the States) of environmental cleanup at DOD facilities. This program is known as the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) and must conform

with Sections 120 and 121 of CERCLA. Section 211(d) also allows the Secretary of Defense to enter into agreements on a reimbursable basis with each state to support this cleanup effort and to respond to hazardous waste problems that may threaten human health and the environment.

In 1985, the Seabee Center began a comprehensive process of identifying potential hazardous waste problem areas on the Center for eventual cleanup under the IR program. The Center's IR program is under the Center's Environmental Program Manager and is funded by the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA). Many DOD bases have been placed on the Superfund National Priority List (NPL), a list of the most hazardous sites requiring immediate cleanup. The Seabee Center is not on the NPL.

The IR Program The U.S. Navy Began Environmental cleanup activities under the IR program in 1983. Activities have been conducted in compliance with Federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Studies have been completed at the Center to identify potentially contaminated sites. In an initial assessment, interviews with Center personnel were conducted and records were reviewed to identify where hazardous waste material may have been handled or disposed at the Center. During this assessment, eight sites were identified for further evaluation.

IR Program Sites at CBC Gulfport

Disaster Recovery Disposal Area, 1942 to 1948

Site 1 is an inactive landfill where a mock disaster recovery training area is currently located. The landfill served as the primary disposal area for chemical wastes generated by Public Works shops or the Supply Department.

World War II Landfill (two sites), 1942 to 1948

Sites 3 and 7 are inactive landfills. A planted pine forest and dense underbrush now occupy the area. General refuse collected from dumpsters located throughout the Center was disposed at these sites.

Burning Pit, 1948 to 1966

Site 2 is an inactive landfill that was the primary disposal area from 1948 to 1968. From the mid-1950's until 1966, a burn pit used for fire-fighting training was located in the northwest part of the site. Upon closure of the site, the pit was filled with soil and there is now no indication of the pit at Site 3.

Golf Course Landfill, 1966 to 1972

Site 4 is a inactive 4-acre landfill. As the only landfill operating from 1966 to 1972, almost all waste produced at the Center was disposed at this site.

Equipment Training Area Landfill, 1972 to 1976

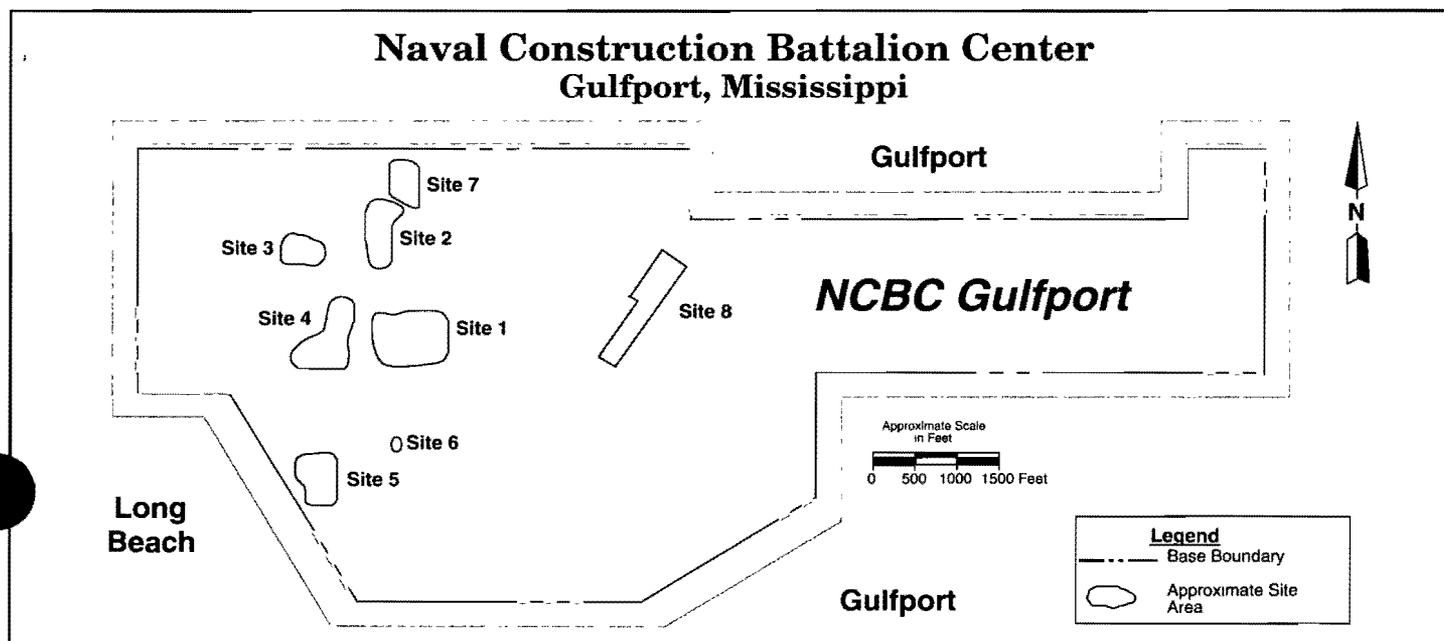
Site 5 is an inactive landfill presently used as a heavy equipment training area.

Fire-fighting Training Area, 1966 to 1975

Site 6 consists of two filled pits. One of the pits is presently partially covered by a building.

Former Herbicide Storage Site, 1968 to 1977

Site 8 was used to store Herbicide Orange during and after the Vietnam war.



Common IR Program Acronyms

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, a Federal law (PL 96-510) passed on December 11, 1980, is a series of programs to address the cleanup of hazardous waste disposal and spill sites.

DERA: Defense Environmental Restoration Account is the DOD funding program for the IR program.

DERP: Defense Environmental Restoration Program is the DOD program mandated in SARA, Section 211, that includes the IR program as a component.

FS: Feasibility Study is the means for development, evaluation, selection, and description of remedial action alternatives.

IR Program: The Installation Restoration program was established in 1976 to help identify, investigate, and clean up contamination that may be present at DOD facilities as a result of past operations and waste disposal activities.

NFA: No Further Action (also referred to as site closeout) may occur during several different stages of the cleanup process with appropriate documentation.

PA: Preliminary Assessment is the process of collecting and reviewing information about a known or suspected hazardous waste site or release. The Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), or the State uses this information to determine if the site requires further study.

PEA: Preliminary endangerment assessment is a study conducted to determine the nature and extent of contamination and the risks posed to public health and/or the environment.

RA: Remedial action is the actual construction or implementation phase that follows the remedial design (RD) of the selected cleanup alternative at a site.

RAP: Remedial Action Plan describes the site conditions, alternatives considered, and recommended cleanup plan. A minimum 30-day public comment period is allowed for the draft RAP after the public meeting. The RAP is the State equivalent of the Federal Record of Decision (ROD).

RD: Remedial design is an engineering phase that follows the Remedial Action Plan or Record of Decision. Technical drawings and specifications are developed for the subsequent remedial action.

RI: Remedial investigation is the IR program or CERCLA related process to determine the nature and extent of the problem posed by a release or threatened release of hazardous substances. The RI emphasizes data collection and site characterization of hazardous substance release sites in an interactive fashion with the feasibility study.

RPM: Remedial Project Manager is the Navy official responsible for overseeing remedial response activities at Navy IR program sites in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan and Navy policies.

SARA: Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (PL 99-499), enacted on October 17, 1986, modifies and updates CERCLA.

SI: Site inspection is a technical phase, which follows a preliminary assessment, designed to collect more extensive information on a hazardous waste site. The information is used to score the site with the Hazard Ranking System to determine whether response action is needed.

(All of the above Acronyms are not necessarily used in this brochure)

Mailing List Information

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CBC Code 470
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Gulfport, Mississippi 39501-5001

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