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NAVY FUNDING SUPPORTS CLEAN UP EFFORTS

The Navy will spend over \$25 million during the next several years to investigate and clean up, as needed, 42 former waste disposal areas at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville according to the station Commanding Officer Capt. Kevin F. Delaney.

The Navy's environmental engineers and technical consultants are currently conducting tests on the suspected areas to determine the extent of any existing contamination and what clean up may be necessary. The areas involved are potentially contaminated by waste oil, solvents, paint and spilled fuel according to Navy environmental engineers.

Representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER), St. Johns River Water Management District, and the City of Jacksonville Water Resources Division met with Navy officials January 30 - 31 to look at ways to speed up the time required for site investigations while affording adequate public review periods by all interested parties.

Plans to clean up the most contaminated sites will be completed in 1991 and 1992 according to Navy officials. Actual clean up will begin shortly after.

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Funding for the clean up will be provided by the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA), part of the annual Department of Defense budget. While the Navy will plan and implement clean up actions, the Environmental Protection Agency and Florida Department of Environmental Regulation will provide oversight of the projects.

A public information repository containing all information on past studies and decisions is available for public review at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 6887 103rd Street. As clean up plans are developed, they will be added to the record at the library and public comment will be solicited.

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