

# NAS JACKSONVILLE Stakeholder's Report

Spring 1997

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## OU1 Cleanup Design Nearly Complete

- Includes Child Street Landfill

The design portion of the cleanup remedy for Operable Unit One (OU1) is nearing completion, according to members of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville Partnering Team.

The partnering team, made up of members from the Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and environmental cleanup contractors, is reviewing the design, including clarification of future land-use guidelines.

OU1 includes the former Child Street landfill and former transformer storage area, also known as Potential Sources of Contamination (PSCs) 26 and 27, respectively. These areas are in the south-central portion of NAS Jacksonville. The cleanup plan for OU1, agreed to by the partnering team

and the local community, has three main elements:

- Dig up contaminated sediments from the "unnamed tributary" and soil from adjacent areas and place into the landfill.
- Install a cover system over the landfill area.
- Allow for natural breakdown of chemicals in the groundwater, with controlled site access, water use restrictions, and long-term monitoring.

Additional actions will be taken if the monitoring shows that the cleanup plan is not working as expected. These include onsite treatment of the water in the "unnamed tributary" and improvement of conditions for natural contaminant breakdown by adding nutrients to the soil.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## NAS Jax Hosts Joint RAB Meeting

More than 80 people attended the Navy's first-ever "joint" Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting in February at NAS Jacksonville. The meeting was the idea of John Bernard, a community member of the NAS Jacksonville RAB. RABs from NAS Jacksonville, NAS Cecil Field and Naval Station (NAVSTA) Mayport attended.

"I realized that we had three major military installations within 30-40 minutes of each other, that each had RABs, and saw a unique opportunity for us to measure our programs against other cleanup programs and to discuss our ideas with our counterparts," Bernard stated.

*(Continued on page 4)*



Photo by Bill Kollar

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** — (from left) Margo Latham, Diane Lancaster, Cheryl Mitchell, Diane Peterson, and Cmdr. Stephen Gardner, co-chairs for NAS Jacksonville, NAVSTA Mayport, and NAS Cecil Field, respectively, prepare to cut a birthday cake celebrating the RABs' second anniversaries.

## ENVIRONNEWS

➤ **BUILDINGS 106 & 780** — Work is underway at these two buildings. Bldg. 106 is the former dry cleaners; here, Bechtel Environmental, Inc., workers will use an "air sparging" cleanup method that blows air into the groundwater to create bubbles, allowing the contamination to be caught in a vapor. Soil vapor extraction catches contaminated vapors by vacuuming them and treating the vapor in a carbon or charcoal filter unit. At Bldg. 780, the workers will use both soil vapor and groundwater extraction. The groundwater will be collected in wells and treated through a filter that uses air to remove the contaminant. Work should be completed at the two sites by end of the year.

➤ **CASA LINDA LAKE** — Acurex Environmental Corporation, a subsidiary of Gereghty & Miller, has been awarded the innovative technology contract to investigate Casa Linda Lake. Casa Linda Lake is an 11-acre lake adjacent to the golf course, which was the site of a fish kill in May 1979. Initial investigation indicated some contaminants in the sediment, and further study is necessary to see if cleanup is required.

➤ **PSC 18** — Work at Potential Source of Contamination (PSC) 18 is complete. NAS Jacksonville is awaiting a response from the Radiological Affairs Support Office (RASO) for the final approval to confirm the site is cleaned. When the approval comes, according to Diane Lancaster, NAS Jacksonville's Installation Restoration Program manager, the lone remaining sign restricting use of the area will come down and an additional area will be available for picnics and lunches. ■

# Field Results Determine Next Step at Operable Unit 3 (OU3)

Results from recent fieldwork at Operable Unit Three (OU3) show that intermediate cleanup is not required and the site can proceed to the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) phase of the cleanup process. OU3 is in the eastern portion of NAS Jacksonville, adjacent to the St. Johns River, and includes the Naval Aviation Depot complex.

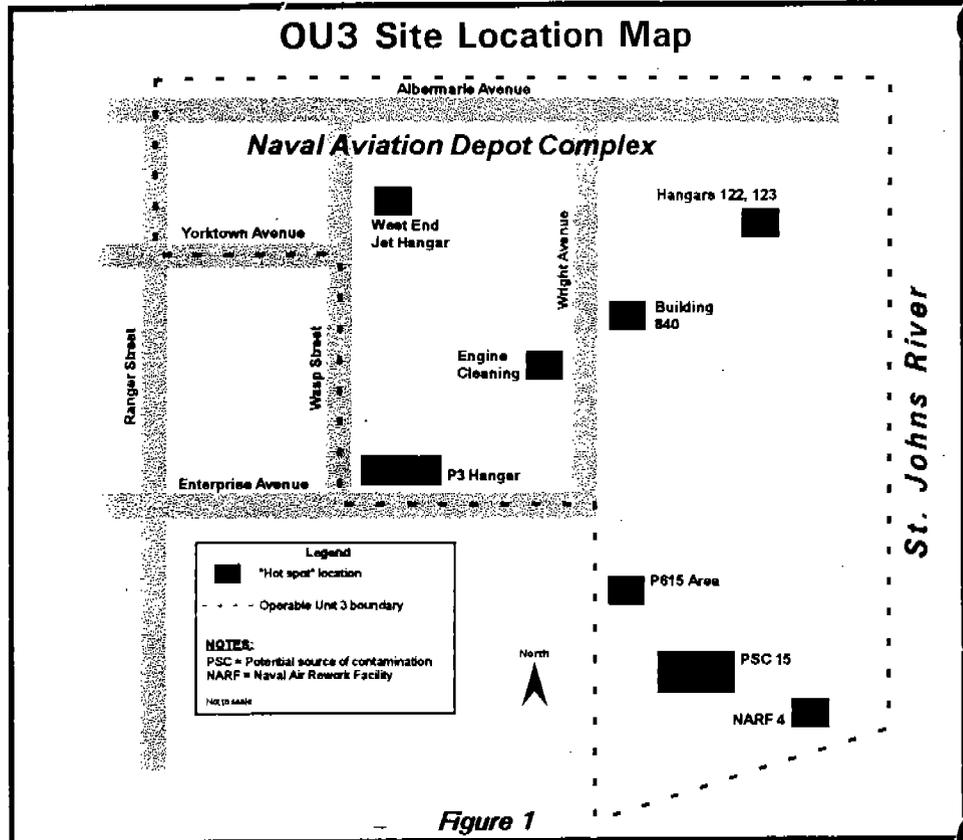
The OU3 fieldwork was completed in September 1996 and focused on eight areas of higher contamination identified during early investigations. The contaminants of concern are chlorinated solvents, chemicals commonly used as industrial cleaners, and degreasers. The identified areas include former maintenance and waste disposal areas and some active facilities (Figure 1).

The objective of the fieldwork was to gather information to determine if immediate cleanup (known as a removal action) was needed. Of particular importance was information concerning the rate at which the groundwater contaminants were moving toward to the St. Johns River. Potential releases into the river represented the most immediate threat to human health and the environment.

Techniques used to collect data included the following:

- Pumping tests at several locations to predict groundwater characteristics,
- Pushing air into the groundwater and vacuuming the air out to determine potential cleanup methods, and
- Breakdown of contamination studies to see if cleanup is occurring naturally.

After analyzing the groundwater pumping data, investigators estimate that contaminants would take a minimum of 60 years to reach the St. Johns River, and in some cases, up to 1,450 years. These timeframes indicate no immediate threat to the river.

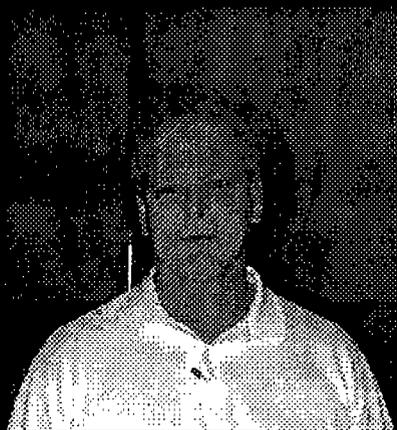


Given these findings, short-term removal actions are not required for OU3. Instead, the NAS Jacksonville partnering team, which is overseeing the base cleanup, can proceed with the remedial investigation to fully understand conditions at OU3.

This will be followed by the feasibility study to evaluate the potential cleanup technologies for the site. The partnering team will then develop a long-term cleanup approach that protects human health and the St. Johns River. ■



## Environmental **STAKEHOLDER**



**Dana Gaskins**  
Restoration Program Manager  
Southern Division

**Name:** Dana Gaskins  
**Home Town:** Charleston, S.C.  
**Position:** Environmental Engineer  
**What does being an environmental stakeholder mean to you?**

*It means participating in the evaluation and cleanup of contaminated sites. How can the local community members aid the cleanup process?*

*By becoming familiar with what is happening environmentally in the community and participating as a member of the Restoration Advisory Board.*

# C.A.P. Corner

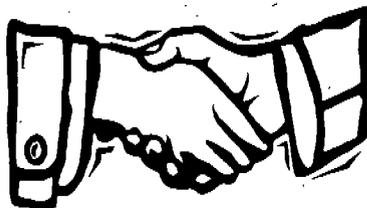
(Concern, Action, Progress)

**Q** *Groundwater monitoring is common to most site investigations. How often is the groundwater sampled? Can investigation wells also be used for treatment or long-term monitoring after a site is cleaned up?*

**A.** Groundwater monitoring is performed quarterly. Monitoring schedules may be adjusted depending on site-specific conditions such as the contaminants present, their concentrations, and regulatory requirements. Groundwater monitoring wells are not typically used as treatment or "recovery" wells, as the latter are strategically located to make them more efficient. Monitoring wells near a contaminant source may be used for treatment purposes, however. Finally, investigation wells can be designed for long-term monitoring to ensure continued compliance with site cleanup goals.

**Q** *We've heard about the partnering process at NAS Jacksonville. Who are the partners? How often do they meet? Describe a typical partnering meeting.*

**A.** The NAS Jacksonville partners represent the Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and environmental contractors. They meet once every 5 weeks, and more frequently, if needed. Jobs such as chairperson, timekeeper, and recorder are assigned in rotation to ensure active participation by all members. Meetings begin with administrative business, including a review of budgets and prior action items. The partners then discuss the installation cleanup program status on a site-specific basis, identifying and assigning new actions items as needed. Meetings conclude with review of agreements reached and action items, ensuring that members understand group positions as well as individual responsibilities. Partnering has improved communication between participants, resulting in a streamlined and efficient cleanup process.



## RAB RAP



Update From  
The NAS  
Jacksonville  
Restoration  
Advisory Board

➤ MEETING  
UPDATE —  
The Feb. 18  
Restoration  
Advisory Board  
(RAB) meeting

(see page 1) wasn't the only RAB meeting held this past quarter. The NAS Jacksonville RAB met on Jan. 21, and Diane Lancaster provided Air Sparging training. Air Sparging blows air into groundwater and the contaminants are released, allowing them to be vacuumed from the soil using soil vapor extraction.

Other items on the agenda included input from RAB members on the presentation for the NAS Jacksonville RAB at the Joint RAB meeting, a site status update, and a decision on how the RAB would select a new community co-chair. Margo Latham, the current community co-chair, is coming to the end of her 2-year term. The community members set up their own selection process and chose Ms. Phyllis Hunter as their new community co-chair.

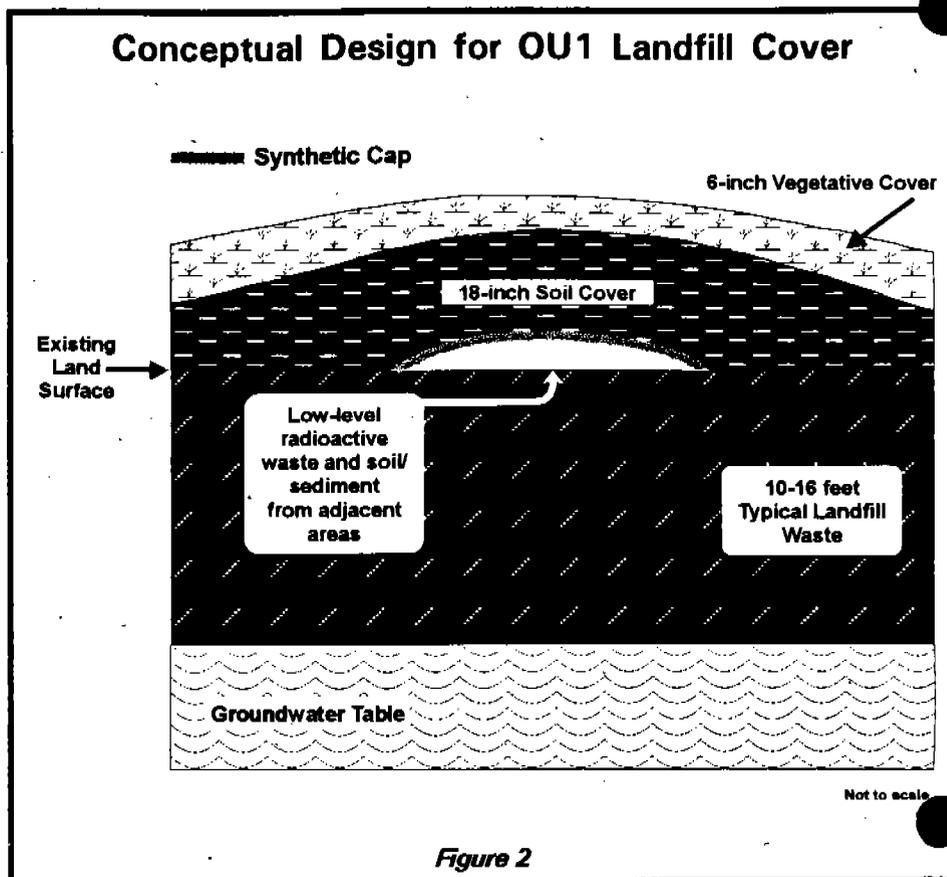
➤ NEW MEMBERS — NAS Jacksonville's RAB is looking for new community members. As a new member, you would serve a vital role as a direct liaison from your community to NAS Jacksonville and would have the opportunity to give your community's input regarding cleanup activities on the installation. Commitment to the RAB requires attending monthly RAB meetings, an interest in the cleanup activities on base, and a desire to be the communications link between your local community and the Navy. Call 772-4032 for more details.

➤ UPCOMING MEETINGS — Mark your calendars for upcoming RAB meetings: May 20 and June 17, 1997, at Timucuan Elementary School, 5429 110<sup>th</sup> St., Jacksonville. ■

## OU1 Cleanup Design (from front page)

The cover system has multiple protective layers specially designed for the particular wastes they cap (see Figure 2).

A durable, waterproof synthetic liner will cover the estimated 2- to 3-acre portion of the landfill where radium-based wastes and the contaminated soil and sediments from outside the landfill have been consolidated. The remainder of the landfill, including the area capped with the waterproof liner, will be covered with approximately 18 inches of clean soil and another 6 inches of ground cover to promote plant growth. The combination of synthetic and natural materials will prevent water from seeping into the radium-contaminated waste. The soil and vegetative cover installed over the entire landfill (approximately 41 acres) will isolate and stabilize the landfill waste below. A major benefit of the OU1 cleanup design is that all waste will be managed onsite, thus eliminating transportation and offsite waste disposal costs.



## Joint RAB Meeting (from front page)

The other two RABs were contacted about the joint RAB meeting and agreed the time was right to get together. The joint meeting afforded each RAB an opportunity to present what they had accomplished since March 1995 when RABs were first formed at the three installations. Presentations made illustrated the different types of involvement in base cleanup activities.

NAS Cecil Field represented an installation on the Base Closure and National Priorities Lists (NPL). NAS Jacksonville, while on the NPL list, is not designated for closure. Naval Station Mayport is not an NPL site, but does operate the east coast Navy Environmental Leadership Program.

"I found the meeting very informative," said Phyllis Hunter, a community member on the NAS Jacksonville RAB. "It was interesting to

see how the other two RABs conducted their community outreach programs, and I saw activities that we could apply to our RAB."

Many members from each RAB found the opportunity to hear from other RABs and network with their counterparts valuable and informative. Having more meetings like this one was a repeated comment that evening.

"I'd like to have more meetings like this," explained Curtis McLemore, a community member with the NAS Jacksonville RAB. "It would be great to hold these meetings at other bases and even visit their cleanup site. I believe these types of meetings contribute to the future interest of our local communities in supporting RABs."

The meeting was also attended by regulators who found the Navy's approach to community outreach

effective. "I enjoyed seeing how each of the RABs operated and how hard they were working to keep the public informed and involved," said Martha Berry from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV office in Atlanta, Georgia.

"It was a great opportunity to hear the different approaches of the three installations in Duval County," said Jorge Caspary from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee, Florida. "There is a great deal of public interest, and that can be directly attributed to the efforts of the Navy and the installation RABs."

A huge birthday cake celebrated the second birthday of each of the RABs and with the desire of the RABs to continue meeting, there will be more birthdays and more successes in the future. ■

# PSC 42 Cleanup Positively Affects Other Sites

Work at Potential Source of Contamination (PSC) 42 is complete. Bechtel Environmental, Inc., the environmental cleanup contractor, completed the cleanup mid-March when the polishing pond was backfilled with clean soil, leveled, and planted in grass.

PSC 42 was a settling pond built in 1970. The pond circulated water from the Wastewater Treatment Plant, through winding turns, allowing the solid waste to settle at the bottom. Once the solid waste settled to the bottom, the water was chlorinated and then discharged into the St. Johns River. The solid waste that settled to the bottom of the manmade pond created a "sludge" layer, which was identified as hazardous.

The NAS Jacksonville Partnering Team, made up of Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and environmental contractor representatives, took the opportunity to do more than just stabilize one site. PSCs 41 and 43 (sludge drying beds) had similar contaminants. PSCs 3 (wastewater treatment plant ex-sludge disposal area) and 4 (pine tree planting area) had small areas of sludge contamination. It was an opportunity to put all the contamination in one place.

"Sludge from PSCs 41 and 43 was dug up, stabilized, and temporarily placed in PSC 41," explained Diane Lancaster, a partnering team member and NAS Jacksonville's Installation Restoration Program manager. "The hole left at PSC 43 was backfilled with clean soil. When we worked on PSC 42, we took the contaminated

soil from PSC 41 and placed it in the pond. Then we backfilled PSC 41 with clean soil. We dug up the hot spots at PSCs 3 and 4 and deposited those in PSC 42 as well. We clean-closed PSCs 41 and

43 and stabilized PSC 42, thus avoiding a \$500,000 feasibility study at PSCs 3 and 4, and now only have to monitor one site instead of five."

The results from work at these PSCs, all part of Operable Unit Two (OU2), allow NAS Jacksonville to complete the OU2 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) by the end of June. The RI/FS will be available in July for public comment, and NAS Jacksonville will announce a time, date, and location for a public meeting to discuss the cleanup actions and OU2 RI/FS with the public.

If you have questions or concerns about NAS Jacksonville cleanup activities, please contact Bill Dougherty, Installation Restoration Public Affairs Officer, at (904) 772-4032. ■

*"It was an opportunity to put all the contamination in one place," said Diane Lancaster, NAS Jacksonville's Installation Restoration Program manager.*



## Acronym Alley

NAS	-	Naval Air Station
NAVSTA	-	Naval Station
OU	-	Operable Unit
PSC	-	Potential Source of Contamination
RAB	-	Restoration Advisory Board
RASO	-	Radiological Affairs Support Office
RI/FS	-	Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study

## NAS Jacksonville RAB Selects a New Community Co-Chair

Phyllis Hunter, a Jacksonville native and graduate of N. B. Forrest High School, was selected by other community members on NAS Jacksonville's RAB to be the new Community Co-Chair.

Hunter, who has served on the RAB for the past 2 years, will coordinate her efforts with Diane Lancaster, the Navy Co-Chair, and with the other seven community members to develop a two-way dialog between NAS Jacksonville and the public regarding the base's cleanup activities.

"It's important to communicate in non-technical terms what type of cleanup work the base is doing," explained Hunter. "As members of the RAB, we are the bridge between the Navy and our local communities."

Hunter said she hopes to move the RAB beyond where it is today, taking on more responsibilities and increasing the RAB's input into the cleanup process.

"This is our opportunity to make a difference -- an 'environmental difference' -- by getting involved. There's plenty of room on our RAB, and we'd love to see more people from the community get involved," Hunter concluded. ■



**Phyllis Hunter**

NAS Jacksonville's New Restoration Advisory Board Community Co-Chair

## Who to Call

➤ For general questions or comments relating to the Installation Restoration Program, contact Bill Dougherty, Installation Restoration Public Affairs Officer, NAS Jacksonville, 772-4032.



➤ For specific technical questions relating to the project and cleanup operations, contact Diane Lancaster, Installation Restoration Manager, NAS Jacksonville, 772-2717, ext. 119.

➤ For information about wells or to make a request that your drinking water well be tested, contact Grazna Pawlowicz, Duval Public Health Unit, City of Jacksonville, 630-3272. ■

## Where to Go

➤ An information repository containing documents related to the Installation Restoration activities at NAS Jacksonville is available at the Webb Wesconnett Branch Library. Documents include workplans, summaries of applicable laws, remedial investigation and cleanup reports, and other site-related documents. They are available at:



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6887 103rd Street  
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