

NAS JACKSONVILLE

Stakeholder's Report

NAS JAX SIGNS ROD

The signing of the first Record of Decision (ROD) marked a major environmental milestone for NAS Jacksonville. Captain Robert D. Whitmire, the station's commanding officer, signed the document during a ceremony held at the Officer's Club on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 1997.

More than 20 people, including Rear Adm. Paul D. Moses, U. S. Navy, Retired, Deputy Secretary for Florida's Department of Environmental Protection, attended the signing.

"The ROD is a formal statement saying how the Navy will remediate the hazardous wastes sites within Operable Unit One (OU1)," said Capt. Whitmire.

OU1 contains two Potential Source of Contamination (PSC) sites which include PSC 26, the old Child Street Landfill, and PSC 27, a former transformer storage area. These PSCs are located north of the Naval Hospital and family

housing along Child Street.

In 1978, the transformer storage area was closed after station officials found vandalism resulted in a spill of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The soil in the area was dug up and transported off site. The landfill, closed in January 1979, was the primary disposal site on NAS Jacksonville since the station opened in 1940. Discarded automobiles, household and sanitary wastes, liquid industrial wastes, construction debris, and low level radioactive waste was disposed at this site.

"This was the disposal practice at the time," explained Diane Lancaster, NAS Jacksonville's Installation Restoration (IR) Manager. Lancaster coordinates the cleanup efforts at sites like PSCs 26 and 27.

"We've learned a great deal over the past several decades, and we now know

Continued on back page



➤ **BUILDINGS 106 & 780** -- The trenching and piping at these two buildings is complete. The piping is part of the air sparging (blowing air into the groundwater and vacuuming the vapors), soil vapor extraction (vacuuming vapors from the soil and treating with charcoal filters) and groundwater extraction (removing contaminated water) systems. Equipment to operate these systems is being purchased and has been installed. Bechtel will operate these systems, beginning in January 1998, for one year, then evaluate the effectiveness of the systems.

➤ **LOOKING FOR OTHER SITES** -- NAS Jacksonville has identified 51 Potential Sources of Contamination (PSCs). Occasionally, station personnel find new areas of contamination during the course of investigations of other sites; i.e., construction projects or through historical research and interviews with current and past employees. If you are a current or past employee of the station, and can provide information about past disposal sites, please contact Diane Lancaster, the Installation Restoration Manager, at 542-2717, ext. 119.

➤ **JOINT RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD** -- Plans are underway for a second Joint Restoration Advisory Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 1998, at 7 p.m., the NAS Cecil Field Officers Club. Restoration Advisory Boards from NAS Jacksonville, NAS Cecil Field, and Naval Station Mayport will provide updates about their cleanup programs. The joint meetings allow the RABs to compare programs and look for common approaches that can be applied to their cleanup programs.



RECORD OF DECISION SIGNING -- NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Captain Robert D. Whitmire signs the Record of Decision formalizing the Navy's action to cap and cover the former Child Street Landfill. Celebrating the signing with Captain Whitmire were (from left) Rear Adm. Paul D. Moses, U.S. Navy, Retired, Deputy Secretary for Florida's Department of Environmental Protection, and NAS Jacksonville Restoration Advisory Board members Curtis McLemore, Diane Lancaster (Navy Co-Chair), Jerry Young, Margo Latham, John Baty, Phyllis Hunter (Community Co-Chair), and Henry Anner. (Photo by Bill Dougherty)

PUBLIC MEETING ADDRESSES COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Naval Air Station Jacksonville hosted a public information session on Oct. 7, to discuss results of the investigation into recently discovered Potential Source of Contamination (PSC) site 51. The investigation was started after fuel and solvents were found in the groundwater of the former fire fighting training area located at the south end of the base.

More than 30 people attended the public information session which discussed site characterization, drinking wells, water sampling, health affects, and exposure. Representatives from the Navy, City of Jacksonville, Duval County Health Unit, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were on hand to answer questions.

Contamination was found up to the fenceline and as a precautionary measure, the Navy and City of Jacksonville, with permission from residents, took well water and groundwater samples off station in the Collins Road area. Surface water and sediment samples were also taken in a ditch just south of the fenceline. The results of the off-station sampling

showed that the well water and groundwater met federal and state drinking water standards.

The two chemicals of concern were benzene, which comes from fuel products, and vinyl chloride, which results naturally from a breakdown of solvents. Contamination is measured based on how many parts of contamination there are in a million or billion parts of groundwater. Groundwater samples at the NAS Jacksonville fenceline found benzene at 28 parts per billion (ppb) and vinyl chloride at 4 ppb. Maximum contaminant levels required to meet state drinking water standards are 1 ppb for benzene and vinyl chloride.

"It's a relief to see the samples showing no contamination outside the fenceline," said Diane Lancaster, the station's cleanup manager. "Now we can work to identify the contaminated area of groundwater on the base and develop plans to deal with that contamination."

The site was discovered through interviews of current and former employees, and historical research. Navy aircraft were once transported to the site

for cleaning. Fuel and solvents were also dumped into a pit. After sampling revealed the contamination, Lancaster said the station moved quickly to determine extent of the contamination and to notify residents.

Lancaster said the Navy will continue to monitor the contamination at PSC 51 and take steps necessary to deal with the contamination.

"The cleanup process is detailed and exact," explained Lancaster. "We know that we (the Navy, FDEP, EPA) will conduct a thorough investigation of the site and develop a cleanup plan."

Lancaster added that community involvement was key to developing that cleanup plan. "We need the community's input," she said. "Our Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meets once a month and our meetings are open to the public. Public meetings will be held and the public can call us any time with comments or questions."

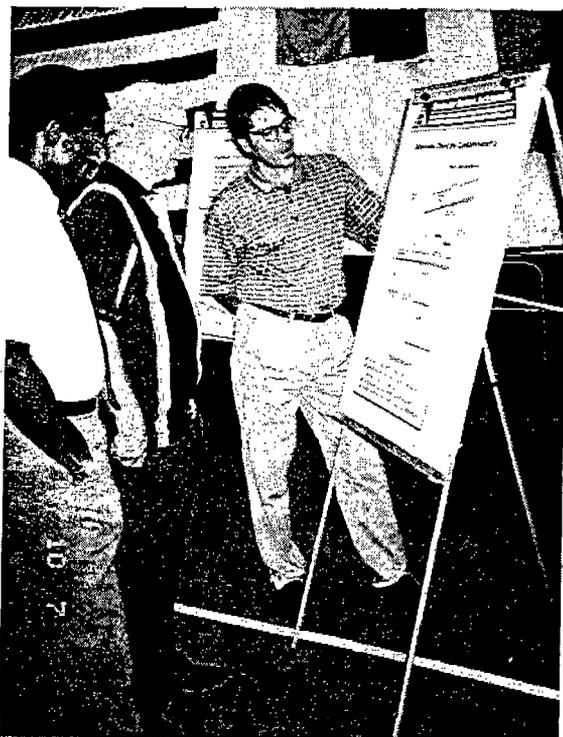
For more information on PSC 51 or any other cleanup activity at NAS Jacksonville, call Bill Dougherty at the Public Affairs Office, 542-4032.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT — (from left) John Baty and Curtis McLemore, NAS Jacksonville RAB members, get their questions answered by Bill Kollar, ABB Environmental Services, Inc. Community Relations Director, during a Public Information Session at the NAS Jacksonville Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center on Oct. 7. (Photo by Bill Dougherty)



ACRONYM ALLEY

EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
FDEP	-	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
IR	-	Installation Restoration
NAS	-	Naval Air Station
NPL	-	National Priorities List
OU	-	Operable Unit
PCBs	-	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PPB	-	Parts Per Billion
PSC	-	Potential Source of Contamination
RAB	-	Restoration Advisory Board
RI/FS	-	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
ROD	-	Record of Decision



C.A.P. CORNER

(CONCERN, ACTION, PROGRESS)

Question: *How are people exposed to environmental contamination and what kind of health affects could result?*

Three things must be present for humans, plants and animals to be exposed to environmental contamination:

➤ **Contamination:** The contamination must be in the air, soil, sediment, or water.

➤ **Receptor:** The receptor is humans, plants and animals. It even includes the bugs and microorganisms in the soil.

➤ **Contact:** There must be contact

with the contamination through eating, drinking, breathing, or skin contact.

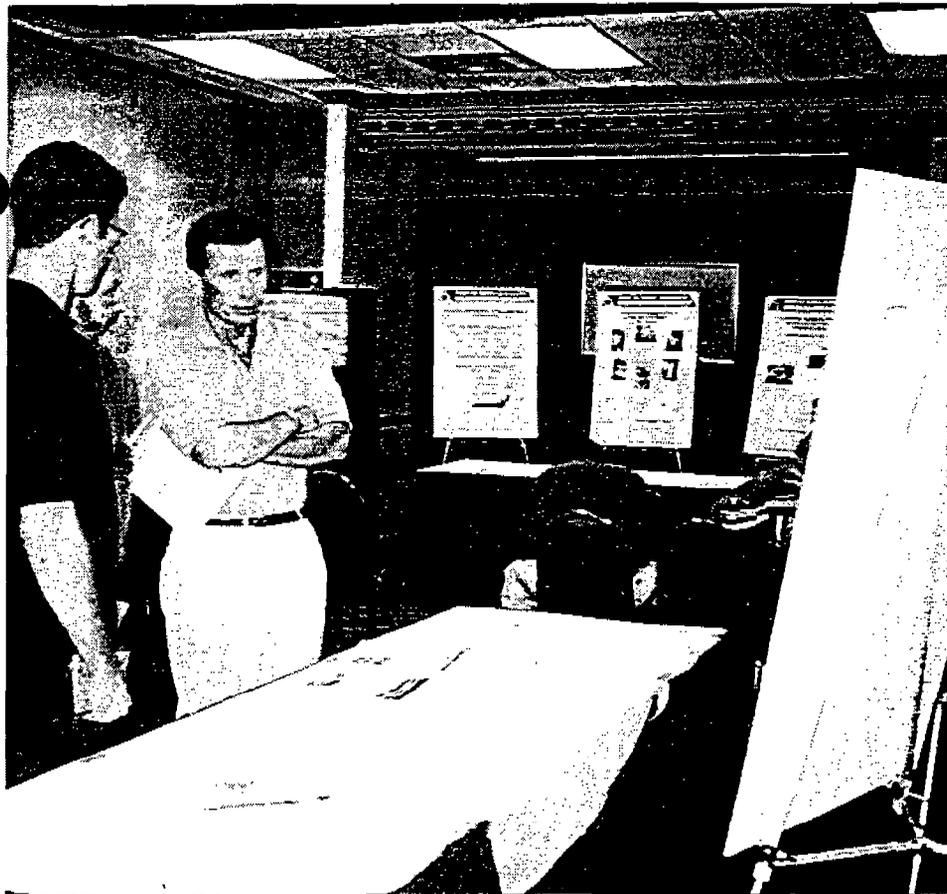
When you combine these three elements (contamination, receptor, contact), you have exposure.

The affect on health of humans, plants and animals exposed to contamination is based on two factors:

➤ How much of the contamination you are exposed to, and

➤ How long you are exposed to the contamination.

For questions about exposure or other cleanup actions at NAS Jacksonville, call 542-4032.



PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBIT — (from left) Jim Palumbo, Mark Reasoner, and Kevin Gartland discuss a poster exhibit during the Public Information Exhibit hosted at the Holiday Inn Orange Park on Tuesday, August 19. The exhibit highlighted cleanup actions at Operable Unit Two, Buildings 106 and 780, and a special section on Natural Attenuation (natural breakdown of contamination in groundwater). (Photo by Bill Dougherty)

RAB RAP

UPDATE

FROM THE
NAS
JACKSONVILLE
RESTORATION
ADVISORY BOARD



➤ **NAS JACKSONVILLE HOME PAGE** — NAS Jacksonville has a "home page" and visitors to the home page can review RAB meeting minutes. You can reach the "home page" on the world wide web at "www.nasjax.org." Click on "environmental and the minutes will come on the screen. Once the RAB has approved the minutes to a previous month's meeting, those minutes will be posted on the "home page." For questions about the "home page" or RAB minutes, call Bill Dougherty at the NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs Office at 542-4032.

➤ **NEW MEMBERS** — NAS Jacksonville's RAB is looking for new members. Members serve vital roles as direct liaisons from their communities to NAS Jacksonville and have the opportunity to input and affect decisions 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 542-4032 for more details.

➤ **UPCOMING MEETINGS** — Mark your calendars for upcoming RAB meetings, all are open to the public: January 20 and February 17, 1998. Meetings are held at the Timucuan Elementary School, 5429 110th Street, Jacksonville. A Joint RAB meeting is being planned for February or March. The date, time and location of the joint meeting will be provided by mail. Call 542-4032 for further more information.

ROD SIGNING (CONT.)

that this type of disposal was hazardous to human health and the environment.

Now there are strict laws in place to direct how we dispose of hazardous wastes," Lancaster said.

Work toward the ROD began back in 1979 when the first soil samples were taken around the landfill. When the station was placed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL) in December 1989, OUI was targeted as one of the first areas to be investigated. In 1990, more sampling was done and has continued until the Navy developed alternatives to deal with the contamination at these two sites.

"It was the community involvement that helped the Navy decide which would be the preferred alternative," said Lancaster. "Our Restoration Advisory Board, which meets each month, told the station which alternative they thought would work best and the Navy agreed."

The alternative selected is a cap/cover system. Here's how it works:

➤ Contaminated soil around the landfill is excavated and consolidated into the landfill.

➤ The cap is a thick plastic liner that will cover low level radioactive material, and excavated soil and sediment, to prevent contamination from leaching into the groundwater after heavy Florida rains. The cap will cover a specifically designated area.

➤ The cover will be two feet of clean soil over the entire 38-acre landfill, covered with grass to prevent erosion.

➤ The final phase is monitoring the groundwater and surface water areas to measure how well the contamination is naturally breaking down and becoming non-hazardous.

➤ A review of the ROD will take place after five years, including a close look at monitoring records, to determine if the area could be used.

"Landfill capping is the preferred remedy of EPA," explained Lancaster. "In other locations, old landfills are used for recreation areas. It's possible to do that here if the review shows the area is safe." The station cleanup manager said the site would never be used for residential use.

Work at the landfill has begun and is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 1998. It will cost \$5.2 million.

"The ROD is a milestone because it signals the end of the investigative process and the start of turning dirt," said Capt. Whitmire. "It's the first of what we hope will be many RODs as we work to clean up all the sites at NAS Jacksonville.

There are 51 PSCs at NAS Jacksonville and three Operable Units. All the sites are in some phase of the cleanup process, from site characterization (the beginning) to the ROD (final decision), to cleanup action (remediation), to a "No Further Action Required" status.

Who To Call

➤ For general

questions or comments relating to

NAS

Jacksonville's

Installation

Restoration

Program,

contact Bill

Dougherty,

Installation Restoration Public Affairs Officer, NAS Jacksonville, 542-4032.



➤ For specific technical questions relating to the project and cleanup operations, contact Diane Lancaster, Installation Restoration Manager, NAS Jacksonville, 542-2717, 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.

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

Webb Wesconnett Branch Library
6887 103rd Street
Jacksonville, FL 32210
(904) 778-7305

Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 102
Naval Air Station
Jacksonville, FL 32212-0102

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1176
Jacksonville, FL

Phylissa Miller
ABB Environmental Services, Inc.
1536 Kingsley Ave. Suite 127
Orange Park, FL 32073