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QUARTERLY ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER FOR NS MAYPORT FL  
12/1/1995  
NAVAL STATION MAYPORT

A Quarterly Environmental News

# NAVY Green

Mayport, FL

Naval Station Mayport

Winter 1995

## Dear Neighbor:

On behalf of the more than 12,000 members of the Naval Station Mayport team, I am pleased to present the flagship issue of our quarterly environmental newsletter, *Navy Green*. This publication is just one of the tools we will use to keep you abreast of the environmental happenings at Mayport.

Sound environmental stewardship is one of the responsibilities we hold in the highest regard at your Naval Station. We are committed to protecting and preserving the environment you have entrusted to us. With a full mile of beach front, 4.5 miles of river shoreline, and nearly half of our land classified as wetlands, brackish marshlands, or beaches, we truly realize what an immense responsibility it is.

In fact, we have incorporated environmental stewardship into the Naval Station Mayport vision statement. Together with customer service, quality of life for our people, and community involvement, sound environmental management is one of the very cornerstones of our operation at the Naval Station.

You have a lot to be proud of with respect to the environmental programs at Naval Station Mayport. We have been designated the Navy's East Coast Environmental Leadership base. Under this new program, the Naval Station has been charged with leading the Navy into the 21st century by developing innovative environmental cleanup techniques and protection practices and exporting our initiatives throughout the Navy and Marine Corps. We will keep you updated on our progress.

We also have a very aggressive waste management and recycling program on base. In 1994 alone, our recycling efforts removed more than 489,000 tons of recyclable materials from the waste stream, saving more than \$288,000. And our recycling program doesn't stop at the main gate; it reaches into the local community in the form of partnerships with local schools, other government agencies, and community residents.

Our hazardous materials minimization program is one of the best in the fleet. Through a centralized inventory and control system, we have greatly reduced the risk of spills or mismanagement and have avoided more than \$1.3 million in hazardous waste disposal and hazardous material purchase costs over the past 2 years.

In December, we held a public meeting to brief you on our environmental cleanup program and to solicit membership on the Naval Station's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The Board will serve as a two-way communication link between the Naval Station and the community to ensure you have a voice in our environmental restoration efforts. We had a great response to our solicitation for RAB members, and you can read more about the selectees on page 3.

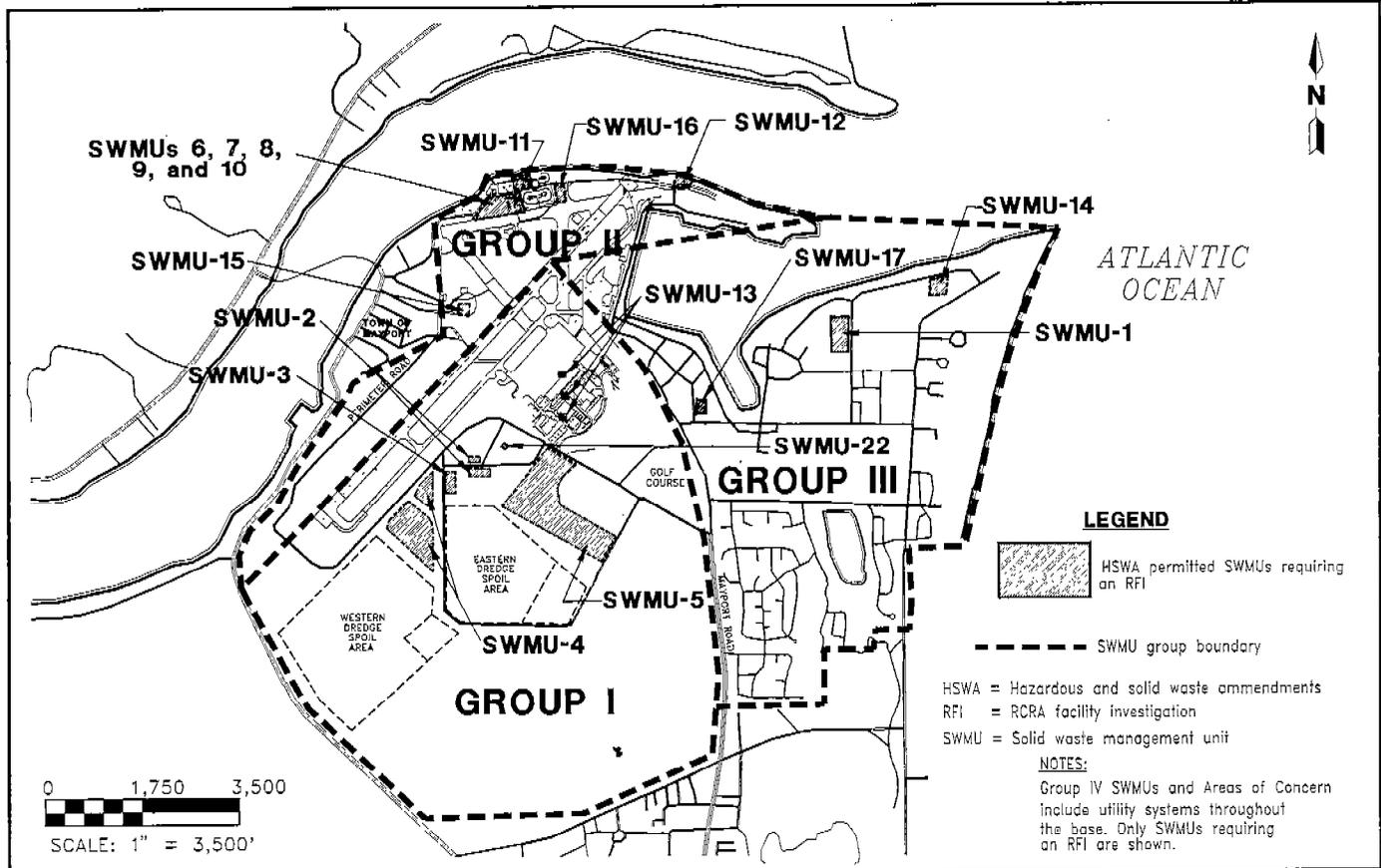
And our environmental efforts go on and on, from protection of endangered species to an aggressive pollution prevention program which will reduce the amount of pollution generated at the Naval Station by 40 percent by 1999. You can read more about these programs in this and future editions of *Navy Green*.

I am very encouraged to see such a terrific level of interest in our environmental programs at Mayport.



Thus far we have received hundreds of business reply cards from those of you who wish to receive regular environmental updates from us, and I promise we will keep you informed at every turn.

SCOTT T. CANTFIL  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer  
Naval Station Mayport



*Naval Station Mayport Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) Locations and Groups.*

## Notes From the Field

Field investigations, known as RCRA Facility Investigations (RFI), will soon begin again as part of the cleanup program at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Mayport. Engineers and scientists will begin field work in March and expect to complete activities within 6 months.

Due to its large size, NAVSTA Mayport was divided into three geographic areas (groups) to make environmental investigations more manageable. Investigations at Groups I and II, on the western side of the base, have been completed. Upcoming investigations will be performed at Group III, on the eastern side of the base between Mayport Road and the beach (see map above). The investigation concentrates on suspected or known contamination sites, known as Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs). Investigations will focus on three key sites:

- Landfill A (SWMU 1)
- Mercury/Oily Waste Spill Area (SWMU 14)
- Carbonaceous Fuel Boiler (SWMU 17)

Ship repair contractor sites, other industrial areas, and the wastewater treatment facilities at NAVSTA

Mayport will also be subject to investigation. These include:

- Fleet Training Center (FTC) Diesel Generator Sump (SWMU 18)
- Jacksonville Shipyard, Inc. (JSI) Area (SWMU 23)
- North Florida Shipyard, Inc. (NFS) Area (SWMU 24)
- Atlantic Marine, Inc. (AMI) Area (SWMU 25)
- Wastewater Treatment Facility Clarifiers 1 and 2 (SWMU 44)
- Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Drying Beds (SWMU 45)

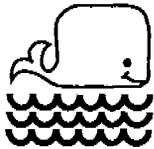
In-depth investigations at NAVSTA Mayport involve:

- collecting soil or sludge samples;
- installing monitoring wells to sample groundwater; and
- conducting geophysics surveys at SWMUs 1, 23, 24, and 25. For these surveys, ground-penetrating radar will be used to "see" underground and evaluate soil conditions.

## Doing the Right (Whale) Thing

The area around NAVSTA Mayport is home to a variety of rare animals. The Navy is fully committed to protecting threatened and endangered species and preserving the area's abundant natural resources. One of the endangered species NAVSTA Mayport safeguards is the Right whale.

### The Right Whale



Right whales are listed by the State and Federal governments as an endangered species. Before whaling, more than 100,000 Right whales swam in the oceans of the world. Experts now estimate that only 2,300 remain, 350 of

them in the North Atlantic, making them among the rarest whales in the world.

Right whales can grow to over 60 feet long and weigh as much as 100 tons! Their primary calving grounds, used during the winter, are about 15 miles from Jacksonville Beach. Just outside the surfline, Right whales (mostly mothers and their young) skim the surface of the water gathering small plants and animals for food.

### Naval Station Mayport is Helping

NAVSTA Mayport has been commended by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for its financial and operation support of Right whale aerial sightings and its use of ships and other utility vessels to assess injured or sick whales. All vessel commanders and pilots are aware the area is a Right whale habitat, and extra lookouts are posted on ships as they arrive at and leave NAVSTA Mayport during calving season, when whales are plentiful in the area. When Right whales are spotted, they are reported to the FDEP. Navy vessels in the area are then ordered to slow down to prevent harming the whales.

You can help too! Right whales can usually be identified by the rough, white-colored patches of skin on their heads. If you sight a Right whale in Florida waters, call (800) 342-5367.

Several other endangered species share their home with NAVSTA Mayport, and we try to be as protective of their well-being as possible. Future issues of *Navy Green* will highlight threatened or endangered animals living at or near NAVSTA Mayport and let you know what we are doing to protect and preserve these species.

## Your Voice In the Process

NAVSTA Mayport recognizes the importance of community involvement during the environmental cleanup process. To help give the surrounding communities a greater voice in this process, a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is being formed at NAVSTA Mayport.

RABs are being formed at military installations all across the country. The purpose of the RAB is to provide a forum for effective dialogue among the public, the Navy, and regulatory agencies. As an advisory committee, the RAB reviews environmental documents and plans, provides advice and community concerns to the Navy, and relays information back to the community.

The RAB serves as an important focal point in a comprehensive public involvement program established at NAVSTA Mayport, ensuring that the community becomes a full partner in the cleanup process.

### Naval Station Mayport Thanks Community Members Serving on the RAB

**Jay R. Carver**

*Retired Environmental Manager*

**Bronson E. Lamb, III**

*Mayport Business Owner*

**Patricia A. Lauderdale**

*Naval Station Mayport Employee*

**Paul I. Perez**

*Local Attorney*

**Robert O. Weiss**

*Atlantic Beach City Commissioner*

**Cheryl L. Mitchell**

*Navy Co-Chair*

**James H. Cason**

*FDEP Representative*

**They will be joined by:**

*Natural Resource Trustees*

*USEPA Representative*

For more information about the RAB, or to find out about future RAB meetings, contact Cheryl Mitchell at (904) 270-6730.

# Questions & Answers

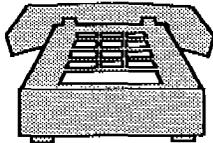
## Naval Station Mayport - who to call:

For general questions or information about Naval Station Mayport and the environmental program, contact:

**Lt. John Wallach**  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
**(904) 270-5226**

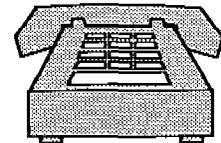
For more specific technical questions relating to the Installation Restoration program or cleanup activities, contact:

**Cheryl Mitchell**  
**Environmental Engineer**  
**(904) 270-6730**



An Information Repository containing documents related to the environmental cleanup activities at Naval Station Mayport is also available to the public. The Information Repository is located at:

**Beaches Branch Public Library**  
**600 Third Street, Neptune Beach**  
**(904) 241-1141**



Become involved in the environmental program at Naval Station Mayport, **attend a RAB meeting!** These meetings are held regularly and are open to the public. Notices of RAB meetings are published in the *Florida Times-Union* and in the *Beaches Leader*

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