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QUARTERLY ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER FOR NS MAYPORT FL  
6/1/1997  
NAVAL STATION MAYPORT

# NAVY Green

Mayport, FL

Naval Station Mayport

Summer 1997

## Notes from the Field

### Cleanup Actions Underway

Based on the completed Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation for Group III Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), an *interim measure*, or limited cleanup action, has been recommended for three areas. This summer the cleanup actions will be completed at SWMU 23, the Jacksonville Shipyard; SWMU 24, the North Florida Shipyard; and SWMU 14, the Fleet Training Center.

At SWMUs 23 and 24, arsenic and beryllium (likely associated with ship repair and maintenance operations) were found in soils at concentrations or levels exceeding Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) soil cleanup goals for industrial areas. At SWMU 24, a semivolatile organic compound (SVOC), benzo(a)pyrene (likely associated with pesticide use), was also found at levels exceeding acceptable standards. Because chemical levels exceed the State standards or guidelines, the Navy will excavate the affected soil and dispose of or treat the soil in a suitable offsite facility. After the soil is removed and before filling the excavation with clean soil, the Navy will take additional samples to confirm that all contamination has been successfully removed.

SVOCs were detected in sediments in a drainage ditch at SWMU 14. Chemical levels exceeded the acceptable State guidelines for industrial areas. Because coastal grassland and sand dunes are present in the area, the Navy determined that the best cleanup option would be to cap or cover the area with concrete instead of excavating the affected sediments. Capping these small areas would not disturb the contaminants (as would excavation activities), but would still provide protection to human health and the environment.

Presently the Navy's cleanup contractor is collecting additional samples to identify the affected areas that will be excavated and capped during the interim measures. This sampling will help the Navy calculate the amount of soil that will be removed for offsite disposal or treatment. These interim measures are expected to be completed in fall 1997. Upon completion, the Navy does not expect that any further work will be needed at these sites. Complete reports summarizing the interim measures, as well as the RCRA Facility Investigation for Group III, are available to the public in the information repository, located at the Beaches Branch Public Library. For more details on the information repository, see the back page of this newsletter.

### Group IV Investigations

Detailed field investigations have been completed at Groups I, II, and III SWMUs. Cleanup actions are underway or have been completed at several SWMUs within these groups. We are now proceeding with targeted investigations at selected Group IV SWMUs. Group IV SWMUs include utility networks and other support systems. Some of the Group IV sites are being evaluated under ongoing environmental compliance programs established at the base.

Starting this summer, upcoming investigations will focus on the oily waste collection system (SWMU 47), sanitary sewer pipeline (SWMU 53), and the storm sewer and drainage pipes (SWMU 55). Soil and groundwater sampling will be done in the vicinity of these underground systems to determine if contaminants are present. Sampling results will be evaluated to determine if any risk to human health or the environment exists due to contaminants detected at the sites and to determine if further action is needed. Sites will be ranked and prioritized for future work and funding. If additional work is required at these locations, it is expected to be completed in 1998.

## Environmental Open House

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) at Naval Station Mayport will host an Environmental Open House in late fall (October or November 1997). Our last open house was held in April 1996 and was a big success. We are committed to sharing information with our neighbors about our environmental cleanup activities, and what better way to share the information than through an informal get-to-together where the Navy's technical experts can discuss activities and answer your questions.

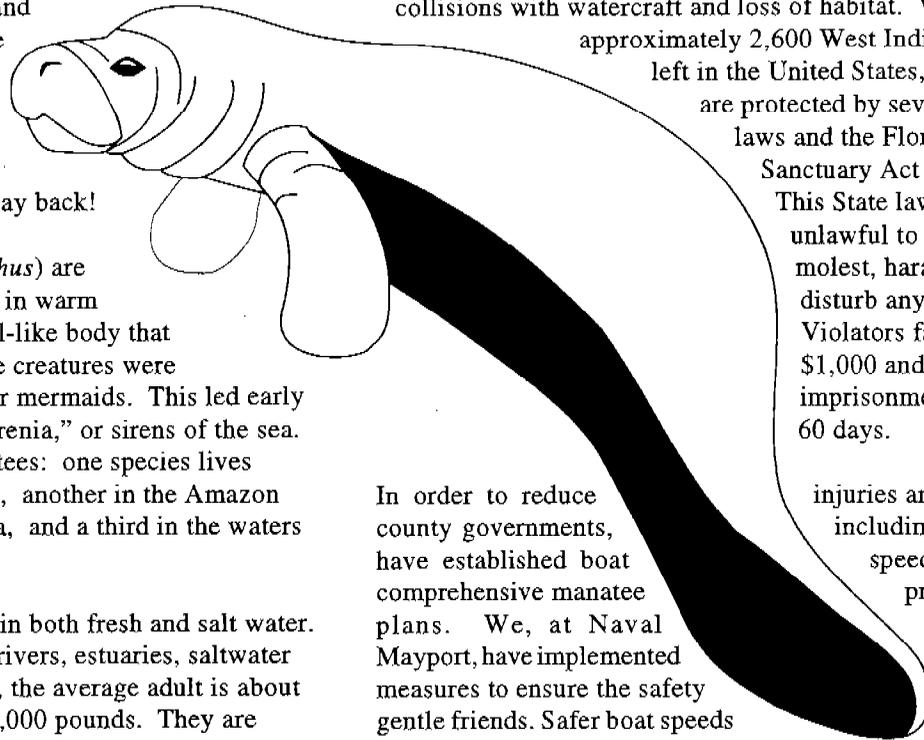
Open Houses are just one way we are keeping you informed about all our environmental investigation and cleanup activities. Through newsletters —like this one— and fact sheets, we want to let everyone know about our efforts to protect the environment. If you would like more detailed information, please attend our quarterly RAB meetings or contact Cheryl Mitchell at (904) 270-6730, extension 13.

# Mermaids or Manatees

Naval Station Mayport shares its precious environment with several endangered or threatened species. We are making a real difference in safeguarding and protecting the manatees that live in our local waters. Our efforts, as well as the efforts of local governments and many organizations in Florida, have paid off. Manatees are on the way back!

Manatees (genus name, *Trichechus*) are large aquatic mammals that live in warm waters. With a streamlined, seal-like body that tapers to a flipper-like tail, these creatures were mistaken by ancient mariners for mermaids. This led early biologists to name the order "Sirenia," or sirens of the sea. There are three species of manatees: one species lives along the western Atlantic coast, another in the Amazon drainage basin in South America, and a third in the waters off West Africa.

These gentle mammals can live in both fresh and salt water. Found in shallow slow-moving rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals, and coastal waters, the average adult is about 10 feet long and weighs about 1,000 pounds. They are strict vegetarians and eat virtually all aquatic plants, including some land plants overhanging the water. On a daily basis, manatees consume between 10-15 percent of their body weight.



Having no natural enemies, manatees may live up to 60 years. Most mortalities are due to human activities, causing collisions with watercraft and loss of habitat. With approximately 2,600 West Indian manatees left in the United States, manatees are protected by several Federal laws and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978.

This State law makes it unlawful to annoy, molest, harass, or disturb any manatee. Violators face fines of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 60 days.

In order to reduce county governments, have established boat comprehensive manatee plans. We, at Naval Mayport, have implemented measures to ensure the safety of our gentle friends. Safer boat speeds and awareness have reduced the number of collisions reported in and around the Station.

injuries and deaths, including Duval, speed zones and protection of our and greater

## RAB Update

Our RAB has been up and running for more than two years. Since February 1995, the community has worked with Naval Station Mayport, the FDEP, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the Station's environmental cleanup program. Naval Station Mayport wishes to thank the community RAB members for their enthusiastic interest, participation, and continued support of the program. RAB members have consistently attended monthly, and now quarterly, RAB meetings, learned about the technical side of environmental cleanup, reviewed documents, and provided insightful and meaningful input into our cleanup decisions. The RAB has also been instrumental in hosting community open houses for the public and in developing an overall community relations plan for the Station. For this tireless support, we thank you!

Although a great deal has been accomplished in the cleanup program, there is still work to be done. As we move into the second half of 1997, the RAB will provide input on several cleanup actions, the second round of NELP, and other environmental initiatives at the Station. The RAB and community involvement are keys to the program's success, and we look forward to continuing work with the RAB through 1997 and into 1998.

A special note of appreciation to Mr. Bob Weiss, our community co-chair for the last two years. Bob has worked closely with the community RAB members and Cheryl Mitchell, the Navy co-chair, to start the RAB on its productive journey and to lead the group during the beginning years. Bob's knowledge and love for the community showed in his work on the RAB and through his other community service projects. Earlier this year, Bob and his wife, Lois, moved from the area to Texas to be closer to family members. We send our best wishes and heartfelt appreciation to Bob and his family. Good Luck and we'll miss you!

During the first quarter 1997, Naval Station Mayport's RAB participated in the first "joint meeting" of the Jacksonville area RABs. RABs from Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, NAS Cecil Field, and Naval Station Mayport met at NAS Jacksonville to celebrate their second anniversaries. Information was shared about each base's environmental cleanup program, RAB involvement, and community outreach efforts. It was a great opportunity to share RAB successes, discuss lessons learned, and network with fellow RAB colleagues. Because participants found the joint meeting to be informative and beneficial, more joint meetings are planned for the future. For more information about the RAB, contact Cheryl Mitchell at (904) 270-6730, extension 13.

# NELP Moves onto the Information Superhighway

As reported in the Fall 1995 edition of the *Navy Green*, Naval Station Mayport is part of the Navy's Environmental Leadership Program (NELP). NELP was established in 1993 by the Chief of Naval Operations to find new and innovative ways to manage environmental programs at Navy bases. As the east coast NELP installation, Naval Station Mayport has a long list of accomplishments and lessons learned from its participation in this innovative and rapidly growing program. We're proud of this record and are using many exciting and state-of-the-art communication techniques to spread the NELP word.

According to Steve Stouter, the Station's NELP Coordinator, one of NELP's goals is to offer a variety of communication options to both Navy and general public audiences. "We've focused on moving from paper to technology, which minimizes paper waste and capitalizes on the Navy's move toward more efficient means of communicating," says Stouter.

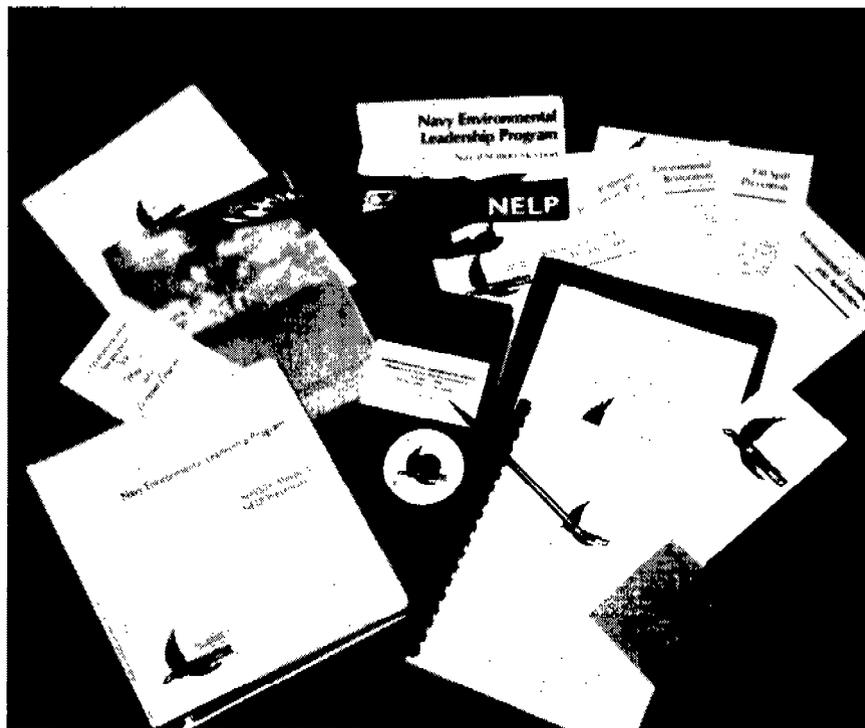
To this end, the NELP team is using a variety of techniques to share program information. These include an Internet web site, a training video, an environmental awareness pocket

guide, fact sheets, electronic mail messages, and news articles. These communication materials are available to Navy personnel and the public by contacting Steve Stouter at (904) 270-6730, extension 21.

NELP's web site summarizes lessons learned and contains information on NELP initiatives. It also provides access to NELP publications, documents, and articles. Fact sheets and annual status reports can also be found on the web site.

NELP has also developed an environmental awareness video for training purposes. Viewers of this 22-minute video can learn more about the Navy's role in national defense and in

environmental leadership. Information is also being shared through the Environmental Awareness Pocket Guide (contact Steve Stouter for a copy). The guide is designed to provide important information about Mayport's environmental resources. Points of contact, a NELP overview, the Navy's environmental vision, and details about the Mayport environment are included in this handy guide. A wealth of information at your fingertips!



*NELP is working hard to get the environmental news out to you.*

*Cruise the NELP web site and check out our environmental news. We believe you'll find it very exciting!*

<http://web.infoave.net/~southdiv/nelp/nelp.htm>

## *For More Information...*

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

**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, FL**  
**(904) 241-1141**

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