

BLUEJACKET 5  
January 21, 1993

## Survey will address environmental concerns

An informal survey will be taken by the Naval Air Station Memphis Public Affairs Office Jan. 25-29, 93, to measure community awareness of base environmental programs. The survey will be conducted randomly and will include local elected officials, residents, and business owners.

The results of the survey will be used to develop a community relations plan which will address local environmental concerns and identify methods of disseminating information. Upon completion, the community relations plan will be placed in an information repository.

The following information is taken from a fact sheet on current regulations and procedures. Information on specific site descriptions will be obtained in later articles.

### Installation restoration at Naval Air Station Memphis

**Purpose:** NAS Memphis is addressing similar challenges facing other military bases and private companies. Environmental regulations require all Department of Defense facilities to review past disposal activities to determine if any contamination has been released into the environment or if a potential exists for future release.

The Navy meets these requirements through the Installation Restoration Program which includes compliance with local, state and federal environmental laws. This fact sheet provides information on current regulations and procedures. Information on site descriptions will be published in later fact sheets.

#### Regulations

In 1980, Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. This law set up a "Superfund" for

cleanup of hazardous waste sites nationwide, placing the responsibility for these sites with the Environmental Protection Agency. When first implemented, CERCLA did not apply to federal facilities. Therefore, DoD established the Installation Restoration Program, which paralleled CERCLA requirements. The Navy has been engaged in installation restoration since 1980 and has taken an aggressive approach to resolving environmental issues. In 1986, Congress amended CERCLA with the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, requiring for the first time that DoD and other federal facilities meet the regulations outlined in CERCLA.

In 1976, Congress passed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act which established a national strategy for the management of ongoing solid and hazardous waste operations. RCRA was amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984. Under HSWA, section 3004(u) requires corrective action be included as a permit condition for past releases of hazardous wastes or constituents from any solid waste management unit.

An SWMU, according to the "Federal Register," is "any discards, waste management unit from which hazardous constituents may migrate, irrespective of whether that unit was intended for the management of hazardous waste." The RCRA corrective action process is virtually equivalent to a CERCLA response action. As required by law, NAS Memphis holds a RCRA hazardous waste permit and consequently is regulated under the RCRA corrective action process.

#### Procedures

The NAS Memphis IRP follows the RCRA corrective action process outlined below:

-The RCRA Facility Assessment identifies

potential or actual contamination releases through a records review and visual examination of every SWMU.

-The RCRA Facility Investigation confirms contamination and determines its nature. The RFI also examines the extent and rate of any migration through the implementation of a work plan. It also provides baseline data for the evaluation of corrective measures.

-The Corrective Measures Study develops and evaluates corrective measures alternatives. This study recommends the most appropriate corrective measure.

-The Corrective Measures Implementation designs, constructs and operates maintenance and monitoring of the performance of the corrective measure or measures selected.

-Interim Measures are corrective actions to stabilize, control or limit further releases. Interim measures can be imposed at any point in the process.

### Community involvement

A community relations plan is being developed which will be followed throughout the environmental activities at NAS Memphis. In order to ensure that the needs and concerns of the Millington area are addressed by the community relations plan, interviews with local officials and citizens are being conducted. The community relations plan will identify methods of keeping the community informed about project activity and progress as well as describe opportunities for community involvement in the decision-making process.

#### For more information contact:

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