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The Navy Wants You!
**Participate in Coastal System Station's Restoration Advisory Board
and Help in Our Environmental Cleanup Activities!**

Coastal System Station (CSS) is expanding and improving opportunities for public involvement in the base's environmental cleanup program. Our first step is to establish a community advisory board, known as the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB will be a forum for two-way communication between community members, the Navy, and local, state, and federal regulatory agencies. The Station's goal is to give all citizens direct and open access to the environmental information and the officials charged with making the cleanup decisions.

The Navy is soliciting interest in the RAB throughout the Panama City Beach area and wants you to participate. The commanding officer of Coastal Systems Station invites the public to attend an information briefing to discuss the purpose of the RAB, the Navy's selection process, and the current status of the base's environmental activities. Meetings are scheduled for the evening of December 5, 1995 and the afternoon of December 6, 1995 at the Woodlawn United Methodist Church.

Many of you may not be aware of the environmental activities that are ongoing at Coastal Systems Station. The station has been working diligently for several years to address problems that have resulted over many decades from using, handling, storing, and disposing of toxic and hazardous materials. In the past, few regulations guided operations involving these materials and little was known about their long term effects on human health and the environment.

In 1975, the Department of Defense (DOD) developed a nationwide program, known as the Installation Restoration Program, to identify and address environmental problems resulting from past operations and waste disposal practices.

Under the Installation Restoration Program, environmental investigation and cleanups follow a step-by-step approach as required by law. In general, the steps are to identify potential sites or contaminated areas, determine the type and extent of contamination through detailed investigations, evaluate cleanup actions, and design and construct the selected cleanup action.

Coastal Systems Station has identified and investigated more than 15 sites over the years and fully evaluated the environmental conditions at the sites. A few sites require further evaluation and engineered cleanup solutions.

The station is now at a very busy stage in the environmental cleanup program and requests the public's participation in the decision-making process. All individuals, and representatives of groups and organizations impacted by cleanup activities at CSS are encouraged to apply for membership on the RAB. No technical expertise is required. The Navy will provide orientation sessions to new RAB members to bring them up to speed with the environmental activities at CSS.

It's a great chance to become involved in our community and gain an understanding of the environmental cleanup issues that face not only the Department of Defense but our nation as a whole. So if you're interested in becoming a member of the Restoration Advisory Board that will look into environmental solutions for the station, call Mrs. Kitty Clark, Public Affairs Officer, at 234-4403, to request an application.

CAN THIS BE A "HIGHLIGHT" BOX.

HOW TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

Come to one of the following meetings to have your questions answered and to hear more about the Station's environmental cleanup program:

Tuesday evening, December 5, 1995

6:00 p.m.: Poster Session

7:00 p.m.: RAB Presentation

at Woodlawn United Methodist Church

or

Wednesday afternoon, December 6, 1995

1:00 p.m.: Poster Session

2:00 p.m.: RAB Presentation

at Woodlawn United Methodist Church

Before the presentation on the RAB, CSS engineers and scientists responsible for managing the cleanup activities will be available for informal, one-on-one discussions with you. Information on the status of the cleanup will be presented on poster displays. The poster session will start one hour before the scheduled presentation on the RAB. Please come early and hear what we've been doing.

RAB applications can be obtained at the meeting or from the CSS Public Affairs Office. RAB applications are due back to CSS by January 8, 1996.