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FACT SHEET DISCUSSING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AT SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 CSS PANAMA CITY FL
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CSS PANAMA CITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Fact Sheet 2

 27
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This fact sheet has been developed to inform the public about on going environmental cleanup activities at the Coastal System Station (CSS) Panama City in Panama City, Florida. The base Installation Restoration (IR) Program investigates and cleans up areas of contamination from past practices at military installations nationwide. Fact sheets will be produced at program milestones and in response to public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the CSS Panama City Public Affairs Office (850) X- X

Environmental Cleanup Activities CSS Panama City SWMU3

What is going on?

The U.S. Navy has been working toward cleaning up the environment through many programs, including the Installation Restoration (IR) Program. By finding and cleaning up contamination from past waste management and disposal activities, we at Coastal Systems Station (CSS) Panama City can better protect public health and the environment today. We want you to know how far we have come in our cleanup efforts.

What area is being cleaned up?

The Navy calls sites being investigated under the Federal Government Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Areas of Concern (AOCs) and Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs). Several sites have already been investigated fully and have progressed to the point of cleanup. One of these areas is termed SWMU3.

SWMU3 is the former landfill C, a burn and disposal area. SWMU3 was used for waste disposal from 1953 to 1959. The wastes disposed at the former landfill have included general household garbage, scrap lumber and metal, tree limbs, paint, paint thinner and solvent cans, bilge water, and waste oil. Piles of waste were pushed together with bulldozers, then doused with gasoline, and ignited. The resulting unburned materials and ash piles were covered with sand. Aerial photos from the late 1950s show an area of beach with debris extending along the shoreline.

Currently a portion of SWMU3 is used for the Amphibious Assault Landing Craft Area. This area was constructed over a former wetland area; therefore, the Navy was required to construct a tidal inlet to replace the destroyed wetland as required by the National Wetlands Protection Act. As a result of the tidal inlet construction, during low tide, debris could be seen in the water in the area of the inlet. A wetland has also been identified at SWMU3 that may have been affected by the past activities at the site.

The Pensacola Public Works Center manually removed debris in the shoreline area. Approximately five tons of non-hazardous debris (metal parts, concrete, etc.) were removed and disposed of at an acceptable landfill.

What Cleanup Activities Will Be Initiated?

Because the debris has been removed from the shoreline, the remaining activities at SWMU3 are limited to the monitoring of the existing wetland area. Monitoring of the wetland area will continue for a 5-year period and will include the collection and testing of wetland sediment samples each year. These samples will be tested to detect specific chemicals that may appear in the wetland. If the chemicals are found in the wetland area, tests results will be compared each year to identify changes in the amount of chemical to see whether or not the chemicals are decreasing through naturally occurring wetland processes.

Testing of wetland organisms will also be completed to determine if specific chemicals have effected the wetland ecology. Results from the sampling will be compared with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sediment screening values, Florida Department of Environmental Protection soil cleanup target levels, background sediment samples, and previously collected sample results to evaluate the site activity.



What has been done so far?