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Serving the Cradle of Naval Aviation Pensacola, Florida

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Staff photo by Art Giberson

Environmental agreement... Capt. K. Delaney, commanding officer NAS Jacksonville, M. R. Nordman, commanding officer NAS Cecil Field, Florida Department of Environmental Regulation Secretary Dale Twachtmann, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Jacqueline Schaler, EPA Regional Administrator Greer Tidwell and Capt. Richard I. Burns, commanding officer NAS Pensacola, met in Tallahassee last week for the signing of an environmental study and hazardous waste site cleanup agreement between the Navy and state of Florida.

NRS signs cleanup agreement with state

By Art Giberson

The commanding officers of three Florida naval air installations—NAS Pensacola, NAS Jacksonville and NAS Cecil Field—met with federal and state officials in Tallahassee last week for the signing of an environmental agreement. When the state and the Navy. The agreement pledges that the Navy will cooperate with the state in solving any environmental problems presently existing or discovered at a later date on board the military installations.

"This agreement," said Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment) Jacqueline Schaler, "establishes a framework for the restoration and protection of the environmental quality of NAS Cecil Field, NAS Jacksonville and NAS Pensacola. The agreement sets timetables for the procedural steps for the complex and technical analysis necessary to support decisions about the best way to clean up the contamination and to protect the surrounding environment," the secretary told reporters.

"But it (the agreement) is important for another reason," Schaler said. "This agreement is called a federal facilities agreement. It's not a truce. It's not a judicial order. It's a declaration of our determination to work together to solve problems. It won't eliminate differences in judgment, but it does provide a mechanism for resolving technical problems as we move forward."

Secretary Schaler said that the estimated cost for cleaning up hazardous waste sites at the three air stations is around \$1 million. The sites are contaminated with oil, solvents, paints and spilled fuel. The 68-page federal facilities agreement outlines the responsibilities of the Navy, Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation.

According to an NAS Pensacola environmental representative, 37 hazardous waste sites have been identified aboard the Pensacola Naval Air Station. The sites are listed on the EPA Superfund but the money for actual cleanup will come from a special

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fund established for military bases. The most critical site on board NAS, according to environmental officials, is the old NAS sanitary landfill, west of the A.C. Read Golf Course. For more than 20 years the area was used for both sanitary and industrial waste.

In addition to the federal facilities agreement, the Navy and Florida Department of Environmental Regulation signed a petroleum contamination agreement which covers all 22 Navy and nine Naval Reserve facilities in Florida.

Secretary Schaler said the three-way federal facilities agreement shows that the "Navy-Marine Corps team is, and will continue to be, a good neighbor. We are eager to rectify the environmental problems of the past and to fulfill our responsibility to protect the nation and the environment."

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