

Work begins on NASP re... Lions

At NAS Pensacola, every effort is being made to clean up sites which were identified under the Department of Defense's Installation Restoration Program (IRP). Three sites on the base have been chosen for early removal initiatives. The removal actions are conducted in compliance with state and federal decisions. The IRP is being conducted at bases nationwide to identify and address potential contamination from past practices. These past practices are no longer used because they do not meet today's environmental standards.

At any site where there has been a release or spill that could potentially impact human health or the environment, a removal action may be performed to remove the source of possible contamination. Removal actions are designed to prevent, minimize or mitigate damage to the public health or welfare to the environment.

Removal actions may be appropriate for several types of sites. These include sites where hazardous materials, such as chemicals or petroleum products, spilled or leaked into the ground in the past and could have a great impact

on human or environmental health.

Removal actions may involve heavy equipment to remove dirt from the site. In the case of a storage tank, the tank must be carefully cleaned and exposed before being removed from the ground. This typically requires time, planning, equipment and expertise, and is not an easy procedure.

The three sites selected for early removal actions are known as site 30, a wetland area; site 32, a former wastewater treatment plant; and site 39, Oak Grove campground.

Approximately 200 feet south of Oak Grove campground, a circular area approximately 300 feet in diameter, is littered with broken brick, concrete, tile, glass, coal and nails. Soil is darkly stained and surrounded by sparse vegetation. The soil is stained by used motor oil. Reportedly, old railroad ties were once stored in this area.

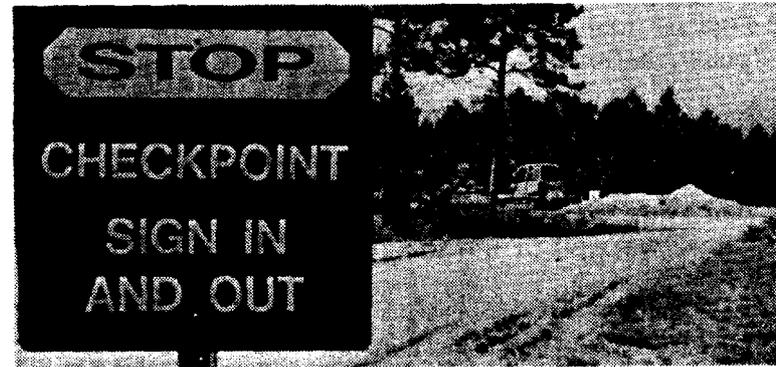
A risk assessment has determined that the chemical concentrations at this site, site 39, pose no risk to recreational users, but they may not meet the most restrictive residential standards.

The chemicals could pose a

risk to local groundwater if left in place. Tests indicate no contamination has occurred, however, it may if no action is taken.

Currently, the Navy Public Works Center (NPWC) is clearing the top 12 inches of soil from the site. After removal it will be disposed of. After the area has been completely excavated and tested for remaining contamination, the site will be filled with clean soil and replanted.

A steel waste-receiving structure at site 30 is the focus of this removal action. The structure may have received plating wastes generated from the 1940s through the 1970s.



Staff photo by Ens. James Lewis

Work is now under way by NPWC on the removal action at site 39, near Oak Grove campground. Workers are removing the top 12 inches of soil and disposing of it properly in a designated landfill. After the site is tested and deemed clean, it will be backfilled and returned to its natural state. Work will begin soon on two other early removal actions sites.

Several byproducts of the plating process were present in samples of the sediment from around the structure, inside the structure and in surface water around the structure.

The concern is that this structure will continue to leak contaminants, impacting plant and animal life. The structure will be emptied, and the contents removed and disposed of. After steam cleaning, the structure will also be removed and disposed of.

Site 32, located on Magazine Point Peninsula, is the site of a former wastewater treatment plant. Three main structures at

the site, a sedimentation tank, sludge drying beds, and a chlorine contact chamber, are affected by this removal action.

The system was only designed for sanitary sewage, but industrial wastes from the plating operation may have been disposed of through this plant. Analytical results identified concentrations of metals and chemicals in the sludge in samples taken from the contact chamber, the sedimentation tank and the drying beds.

All three structures will be emptied. All small or removable solid materials will be placed in roll on/roll off containers and properly disposed of. All materials too large to remove, including the tank walls, will be steam cleaned to ensure that no contamination remains. Any wastewater created will be captured and placed in proper containers for disposal.

After these tasks have been completed, and tests have confirmed contamination removal, the final step will be to backfill or cap the contaminated structures, preventing further access. It is possible that the structures themselves will be removed and properly disposed of.