



NAS environmental engineer Ron Joyner assists environmental technician Jimmy Pace in drawing water from one of approximately 200 wells located onboard the air station. The samples are tested for contaminants and migrations which may affect other sites.

NAS cited for environmental clean-up efforts

Story, photo by JO3 David Rush

The Naval Air Station Pensacola Environmental Office was recently recognized for its actions in reducing risk to human health and the environment through basewide clean-up efforts.

Ron Joyner, environmental engineer, has spearheaded the campaign for waste removal on 37 sites.

Under the Department of Defense's Installation Restoration Program (IRP), three sites have undergone interim removal of contaminants. According to Joyner, the sites included, "petroleum in one site, and the other two contained metals.

"Our approach was to remove the source and prevent migration of contaminants. This is the reason why we were selected for recognition in the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Awards Competition," says Joyner.

As IRP manager, Joyner coordinates with several agencies including the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and NASP in order to comply with hazardous material (hazmat) disposal and waste removal procedures.

Joyner explains there are three ways to deal with the various sites.

"Depending on the site, we can introduce treated material, known as bio-remediation, which fosters bacteria growth (to break down materials).

"The other methods include removing material, such as petroleum, and transporting it to reclamation sites. The last resort is having to take hazardous waste to landfills, located in Louisiana or Alabama. There are no land fills in the state of Florida," Joyner says.

Joyner's long-term goal is to get off the Superfund list, which identifies pollution and hazmat sites nationwide. "At the current rate of site remediation and waste removal, it will take approximately 20 years to complete our job," says Joyner.

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