

MILITARY

Toxic sites to be cleared by late 1998

By Charles Ashby
Newt Journal staff writer

The \$300 million Naval Air Technical Training Center that opens next year will help speed the cleanup of some hazardous waste sites at Pensacola Naval Air Station, but most won't be completed until late 1998.

Still others — some containing heavy metals, pesticides and solvents — will be sealed and left alone, said Bill Hill, environmental engineer for the North Charleston, S.C.-based Southern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

While most of the 44 hazardous waste sites at NAS contain volatile materials ranging from asbestos to PCBs, some contain material that is not dangerous, said Hill, one of two project managers heading up the cleanup.

“Some were placed (on the list of sites) because of records that said something happened there or perceptions that there might be

See NAS, 16A

ABOUT THIS STORY

This is the second of a two-part series on hazardous materials at Pensacola Naval Air Station.

■ **Thursday:** Workers exposed to hazardous wastes at Pensacola Naval Air Station raise questions of safety on the military base.

FROM IA

something there.' Hill said. The site that makes no sense to me at all for being on the list is site 5... It's a pit that someone thought had something dumped in there. There's nothing there.'

Most were listed by the Environmental Protection Agency as Superfund sites in 1989, meaning there is federal money available to pay for cleaning them. That cleanup will cost about \$110 million, Hill said.

FIVE OF the sites lie beneath the 200-acre Naval Air Technical Training Center, which will bring 1,500 full-time workers and up to 4,500 students a year to NAS. Those sites will be cleaned as the center is built, years before they otherwise would have, Hill said.

Six others sites, all of which contain some petroleum-based waste, likely won't be cleaned until after the turn of the century. Those sites have been placed under the Florida Underground Storage Tank Program and are being monitored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

To date, NAS has removed about 120 aging underground fuel tanks, 12 of which were at Chevalier Field where the center is being built. There are 31 other underground tanks on the base that the Navy is planning to remove.

While most of the hazardous sites were created over the span of years dating to the early part of this century, some are as recent as the 1980s and early '90s.

SITE 36, for example, was used from 1971 until September, when the Naval Aviation Depot closed. The site is 5.5 miles of sewer line from various depot buildings that lead into an industrial wastewater treatment facility just north of Chevalier Field.

The facility, used to treat industrial waste from the depot, is being converted into a sewage treatment plant for the technical training center.

The sewer lines are being cleaned and pressure tested to make sure there are no leaks. The Navy also is testing soil around the lines to make sure leaks haven't tainted the surrounding area and ground water, which ultimately washes

into Pensacola Bay, said Ron Joyner, an environmental engineer working on cleaning up the base.

In 1981, Navy workers received skin burns from a black slimy liquid in the soil, according to Navy records. The liquid was industrial waste from the depot that had leaked from the sewer line.

FROM THE 1940s to 1973 when the industrial treatment plant was built, heavy metals, solvents and cyanide flowed from the depot into a storm sewer system, which ultimately drained into Pensacola Bay just south of where the center is being built. In the 30 years waste was dumped into the bay, fish kills were common, records show.

Another site on Chevalier Field includes trace amounts of radioactive waste from the depot's old Radium Dial Shop, which was closed in 1976. There, used cleaning solutions and luminous paint were disposed of through the building's sanitary sewer system.

To date, only one of the 44 sites have been cleaned.

Among the sites to be left alone include three located within the waste treatment facility. Those sites, 32, 33 and 35, are industrial drying beds or waste treatment ponds. They contain pesticides and industrial sludge, all of which stem from the depot, once Pensacola's largest industrial employer with up to 3,000 workers.

"We've determined they pose no human or environmental threat," Hill said. We plan to propose (to the EPA) that nothing be done with them on the understanding that nothing will be built on or near them.'

THE OLDEST site on the 6,000-acre base contained oak timbers immersed in salt water. Called Commodore's Pond, the site was placed on the list because pitch from wood can sometimes build to such quantities that it poses an environmental hazard, Pill said.

Testing has revealed that is not the case and the site will be left alone.

In the mid-19th century, shipbuilders stored shaped oak timbers in sea water to preserve them. In the 1960s, the wood was moved to a rubble disposal area at Magazine Point, another Superfund site that will be left alone.

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There are **44 hazardous waste sites** at Pensacola Naval Air Station, most of which are listed by the Environmental Protection Agency as Superfund sites. Six others are petroleum-based contaminants that are being monitored and cleaned under the Florida Underground Storage Tank Program. Unknown cleanup dates listed below are either in the next century or no cleanup is planned.

SITE 1: SANITARY LANDFILL
Contaminants: Solvents, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), plating solutions, oils, paints, mercury, asbestos

Cleanup date: October 1996
SITE 2: WATERFRONT SEDIMENT AREA
Contaminants: Solvents, cyanide, metals

Cleanup date: May 1997
SITE 3: CRASH CREW TRAINING AREA

Contaminants: Petroleum, leaded gasoline
Cleanup date: Unknown

SITE 4: ARMY RUBBLE DISPOSAL AREA
Contaminants: Timber, pipes, other wastes

Cleanup date: No cleanup anticipated
SITE 5: BORROW PIT
Contaminants: none

Cleanup date: No cleanup needed
SITE 6: FORT REDOUBT DISPOSAL AREA

Contaminants: Concrete, timber, metal, plastic
Cleanup date: No cleanup anticipated

SITE 7: FIREFIGHTING SCHOOL
Contaminants: Petroleum, oils, lubricants

Cleanup date: No cleanup anticipated
SITE 8: RIFLE RANGE DISPOSAL AREA

Contaminants: Solid waste (mostly paper)
Cleanup date: No cleanup anticipated

SITE 9: NAVY YARD DISPOSAL
Contaminants: Solid municipal wastes
Cleanup date: Contaminated soil to be hauled away this year

SITE 10: COMMODORE'S POND

Contaminants: Wood timbers
Cleanup date: No action likely
SITE 11: NORTH CHEVALIER FIELD DISPOSAL AREA

Contaminants: Industrial wastes, oil, lumber and other ignitable material
Cleanup date: January 1998

SITE 12: SCRAP BINS
Contaminants: Garbage
Cleanup date: January 1998

SITE 13: MAGAZINE POINT RUBBLE DISPOSAL AREA
Contaminants: Concrete, asphalt, brick, mortar, metal pipes, wood and empty metal drums

Cleanup date: May 1996
SITE 14: DREDGE SPOIL FILL AREA
Contaminants: Dredging material, sediment

Cleanup date: To be hauled away by late 1996
SITE 15: PESTICIDE DISPOSAL AREA

Contaminants: Pesticides (carbamates, organophosphates, chlorinated hydrocarbons)

Cleanup date: October 1997
SITE 16: BRUSH DISPOSAL AREA
Contaminants: Brush and tree limbs, some metal

Cleanup date: No action expected
SITE 17: TRANSFORMER STORAGE YARD

Contaminants: Dielectric oils, PCBs
Cleanup date: December 1997

SITE 18: PCB SPILL AREA
Contaminants: PCBs (suspected)
Cleanup date: No action expected

SITE 19: FUEL FARM PIPELINE LEAK
Contaminants: Petroleum

Cleanup date: Unknown
SITE 20: BERTHING PIER PIPELINE LEAK

Contaminants: Marine diesel fuel
Cleanup date: Unknown

SITE 21: SLUDGE DISPOSAL AT FUEL TANKS
Contaminants: Leaded gas, jet fuel

Cleanup date: Unknown
SITE 22: REFUELER REPAIR SHOP
Contaminants: Leaded gas, jet fuel

Cleanup date: Unknown

SITE 23: CHEVALIER FIELD PIPELINE LEAK
Contaminants: fuel oil, marine diesel fuel

Cleanup date: Unknown
SITE 24: DDT MIXING AREA
Contaminants: fuel oil, DDT

Cleanup date: No cleanup anticipated
SITE 25: RAMM SPILL AREA
Contaminants: radioactive radium (suspected)

Cleanup date: January 1998
SITE 26: SUPPLY DEPARTMENT OUTSIDE STORAGE

Contaminants: Industrial wastes
Cleanup date: January 1998

SITE 27: RADIUM DIAL SHOP SEWER
Contaminants: Cleaning solvents, phosphors, pigments, paint acids, caustics, radium solutions

Cleanup date: January 1998
SITE 28: TRANSFORMER ACCIDENT SITE

Contaminants: Dielectric oils, PCB
Cleanup date: No cleanup anticipated

SITE 29: SOIL SOUTH OF BUILDING 3460
Contaminants: Industrial chemicals

Cleanup date: Contaminated soil already hauled away
SITE 30: PLATING SHOPS

Contaminants: Plating bath solutions, solvents, cyanide, heavy metals, chlorinated organics, acids

Cleanup date: January 1998
SITE 31: PAINT SHOP

Contaminants: Paints, solvents, paint sludge, lead
Cleanup date: Has been combined with Site 30

SITE 32: INDUSTRIAL SLUDGE DRYING BED
Contaminants: Industrial treatment sludge

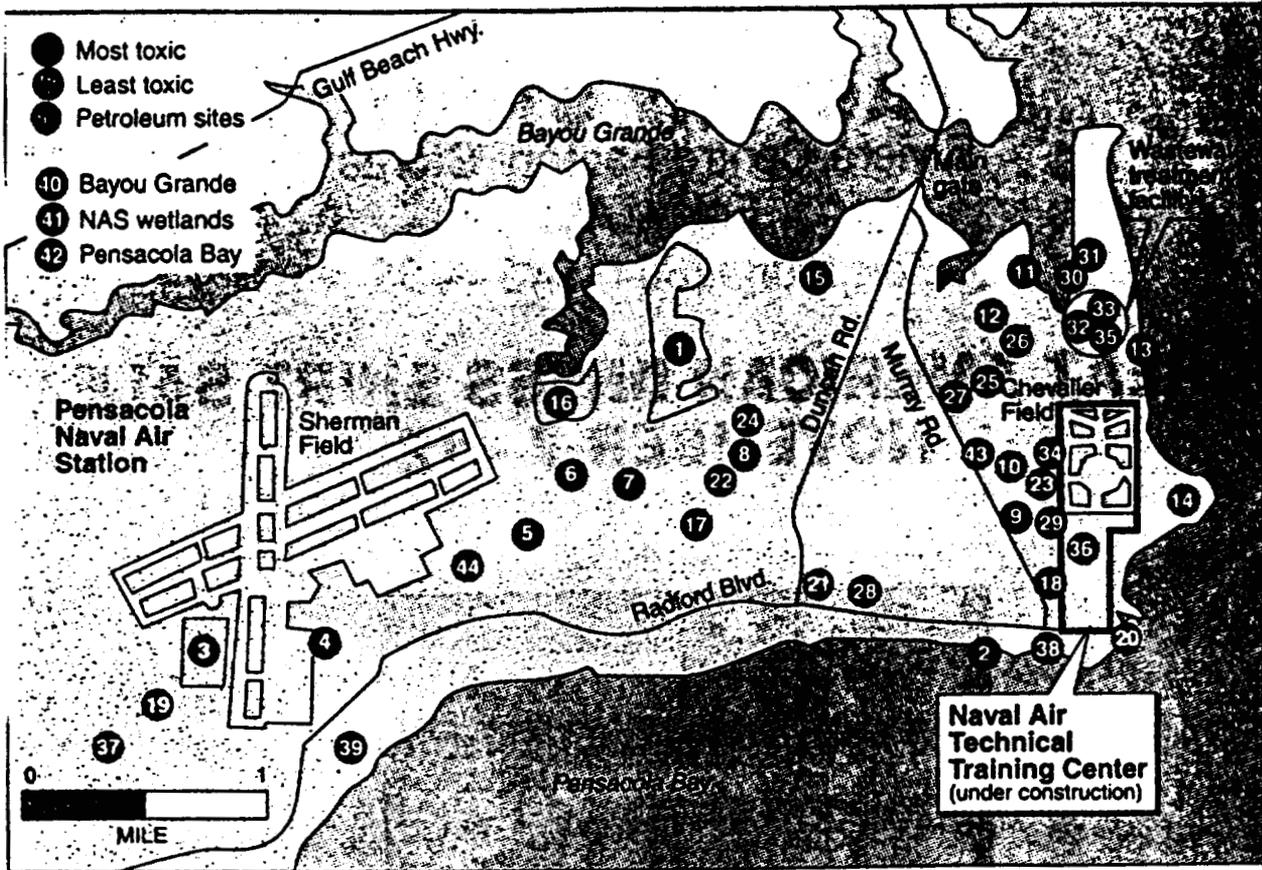
Cleanup date: No cleanup planned
SITE 33: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PONDS

Contaminants: Industrial wastes
Cleanup date: No cleanup planned

SITE 34: SOLVENT SPILL SITE
Contaminants: Chlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons

Hazardous waste headache

The Navy is trying to clean 44 Superfund environmental sites at Pensacola Naval Air Station at an estimated cost of \$110 million. The sites, some of which date to the late 1800s, include wastes ranging from asbestos to wet garbage. Five of those sites are where the Navy is building the \$300 million Naval Air Technical Training Center. Workers must wear protective gear such as boots, gloves and overalls before going into some construction sites that are tainted with hazardous materials.



Louis Matalon/News Journal staff artist

Cleanup date: Contaminated soil to be hauled away this year

SITE 35: MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Contaminants: Industrial wastes and sludges

Cleanup date: No cleanup planned

SITE 36: SEWER LINE

Contaminants: Industrial wastes, paint stripper, heavy metals, pesticides, radioactive wastes, fuels, cyanide, solvents and waste oils

Cleanup date: February 1996

SITE 37: FUEL FARM LEAK

Contaminants: jet fuel, leaded gas

Cleanup date: Unknown

SITE 38: BUILDING 71 AND SEWER LINE

Contaminants: Paint stripper, heavy metals, pesticides, fuels, cyanide, solvents and waste oils

Cleanup date: September 1997

SITE 39: OAK GROVE CAMP-GROUND

Contaminants: Petroleum, debris

Cleanup date: Completed

SITE 40: BAYOU GRANDE

Contaminants: Anything used at NAS

Cleanup date: October 1998

SITE 41: NASWETLANDS

Contaminants: Anything used at NAS

Cleanup date: October 1998

SITE 42 PENSACOLA BAY

Contaminants: Anything used at NAS

Cleanup date: October 1998

SITE 43: METALWASTE SITE

Contaminants: scrap metals

Cleanup date: No cleanup anticipated

SITE 44: UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK

Contaminants: Metal, pesticides, solvents

Cleanup date: No cleanup anticipated

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