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NAS WHITING FIELD  
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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN NAS WHITING FIELD FL  
3/24/2003  
TETRA TECH NUS



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0303-A015

March 24, 2003

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Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
ATTN Code ES31, Linda Martin  
Remedial Project Manager  
2155 Eagle Drive  
North Charleston, SC 29419-9010

Subject: Community Relations Plan  
NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Florida

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62467-94-D-0888, Contract Task Order No. 0028

Dear Ms. Martin:

Tetra Tech NUS, Inc. is pleased to submit both hard and electronic copies of the Community Relations Plan for Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Florida.

Copies of the document have also been forwarded to the persons listed below on behalf of Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command for Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

Please call me at (865) 220-4727 if you have any questions or comments regarding this submittal.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa R. Campbell" followed by a small mark.

Phillip E. Ottinger  
Task Order Manager

PEO:ckf

Enclosure

c: Mr. Craig Benedikt, USEPA (1 Hard Copy and 1 CD)  
Mr. Jim Cason, FDEP (2 CDs)  
Mr. Terry Hansen, Tetra Tech NUS (1 CD)  
Mr. Jim Holland, NAS Whiting Field (1 Hard Copy and 1 CD)  
Mr. Larry Smith, Tetra Tech NUS (1 CD)  
Mr. Ron Joyner, NAS Whiting Field (1 Hard Copy and 1 CD)  
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File/Edb

# **COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

Naval Air Station  
Whiting Field  
Milton, Florida  
USEPA ID No. FL2170023244



**Southern Division**  
**Naval Facilities Engineering Command**  
**Contract Number N62467-94-D-0888**  
**Contract Task Order 0028**

**March 2003**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

**NAVAL AIR STATION  
WHITING FIELD  
MILTON, FLORIDA  
USEPA ID No. FL2170023244**

**COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM  
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION NAVY (CLEAN) CONTRACT**

**Submitted to:**

**Department of the Navy, Southern Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
2155 Eagle Drive  
North Charleston, South Carolina 29406**

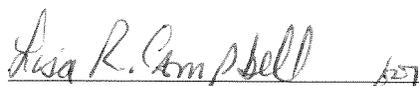
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**CONTRACT NO. N62467-94-D-0888  
CONTRACT TASK ORDER 0028**

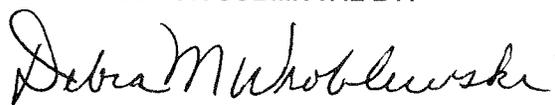
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## ACRONYMS

CERCLA CRP	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Community Relations Plan
DoD	Department of Defense
FDEP FS	Florida Department of Environmental Protection Feasibility Study
HRS	Hazard Ranking System
IAS IRP	Initial Assessment Study Installation Restoration Program
LUC	Land Use Control
NA NACIP NAS NCP NPL	No Action Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants Naval Air Station National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan National Priorities List
PA	Preliminary Assessment
RA RAB RD RI ROD	Remedial Action Restoration Advisory Board Remedial Design Remedial Investigation Record of Decision
SARA SI	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Site Investigation
TAPP	Technical Assistance for Public Participation
USEPA UST	United States Environmental Protection Agency Underground Storage Tank

## **1.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) serves as a guide in developing and maintaining a community relations program for the environmental investigation and cleanup program (known as the Installation Restoration Program or IRP) at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field, Milton, Florida. This document is an update of the CRP prepared for NAS Whiting Field in 1995. Future updates to the CRP will be prepared as required.

NAS Whiting Field is located in Santa Rosa County and is geographically separated from the larger town of Pensacola by Escambia Bay. The CRP is tailored to communicate with the communities most affected by the environmental cleanup activities at NAS Whiting Field: Milton, Bagdad, Pace, Jay, Navarre, and Gulf Breeze. The town of Milton is most impacted by NAS Whiting Field because of its proximity to the Base. However, because the other communities in the County are economically impacted by NAS Whiting Field, they are also discussed in this CRP.

The CRP presents a program to establish effective two-way communication between NAS Whiting Field and the local communities. Effective communication and timely information exchange with the communities are essential during IRP cleanup and restoration activities. It is the Navy's goal to maintain a high level of community understanding and support for its environmental program at NAS Whiting Field.

The purpose of the CRP is to outline activities to inform the community about cleanup actions and to provide opportunities for the public to offer valuable input in the decision-making process. The CRP identifies issues of community concern regarding NAS Whiting Field and outlines community relations activities to be conducted during the cleanup process.

Federal and State laws require public participation throughout the cleanup process. The Navy, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), is responsible for meeting these requirements and ensuring implementation of the public activities outlined in this CRP. The Navy is required by law to involve the community in NAS Whiting Field's environmental cleanup process, and the Base has historically maintained a proactive relationship with the surrounding communities. Federal laws establish minimum requirements but, because NAS Whiting Field recognizes the importance of community involvement, the Navy goes beyond these requirements to ensure two-way communication with the surrounding communities.

Additional information regarding this CRP, or any aspect of the environmental program at NAS Whiting Field, is available from the Navy contacts listed in Appendix A.

## **1.2 COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN ORGANIZATION**

An overview of the CRP is presented in Section 1.0. Section 2.0 provides a capsule facility description, discussing the historical, geographical, and technical details of NAS Whiting Field and its cleanup process. Section 3.0 provides a community profile for the area surrounding NAS Whiting Field, a chronology of community involvement, a discussion of community concerns, and information regarding environmental justice at NAS Whiting Field. Highlights of the CRP are presented in Section 4.0. Section 5.0 describes the types and timing of specific community relations activities and grant opportunities.

Appendix A provides contact lists for community leaders, media outlets, regulatory agencies, and Navy contacts. The information repository location and suggested meeting locations are presented in Appendix B. The questionnaire used to interview members of the community in 1995 is included in Appendix C. A copy of the latest newsletter "Whiting Field Progress Report" is provided in Appendix D.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1.1 Location

NAS Whiting Field is located in Santa Rosa County, in the northwest coastal section of the Florida panhandle, approximately 5.5 miles north of Milton and 25 miles northeast of Pensacola (Figure 2-1). The Town of Milton is situated on the Blackwater River at the head of Blackwater Bay. Other towns in the immediate vicinity of NAS Whiting Field include Bagdad, Pace, Jay, Navarre, and Gulf Breeze.

#### 2.1.2 Description

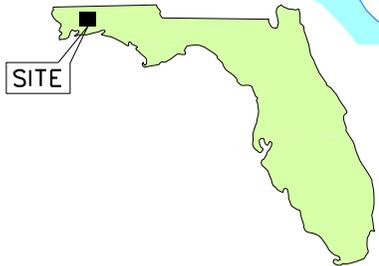
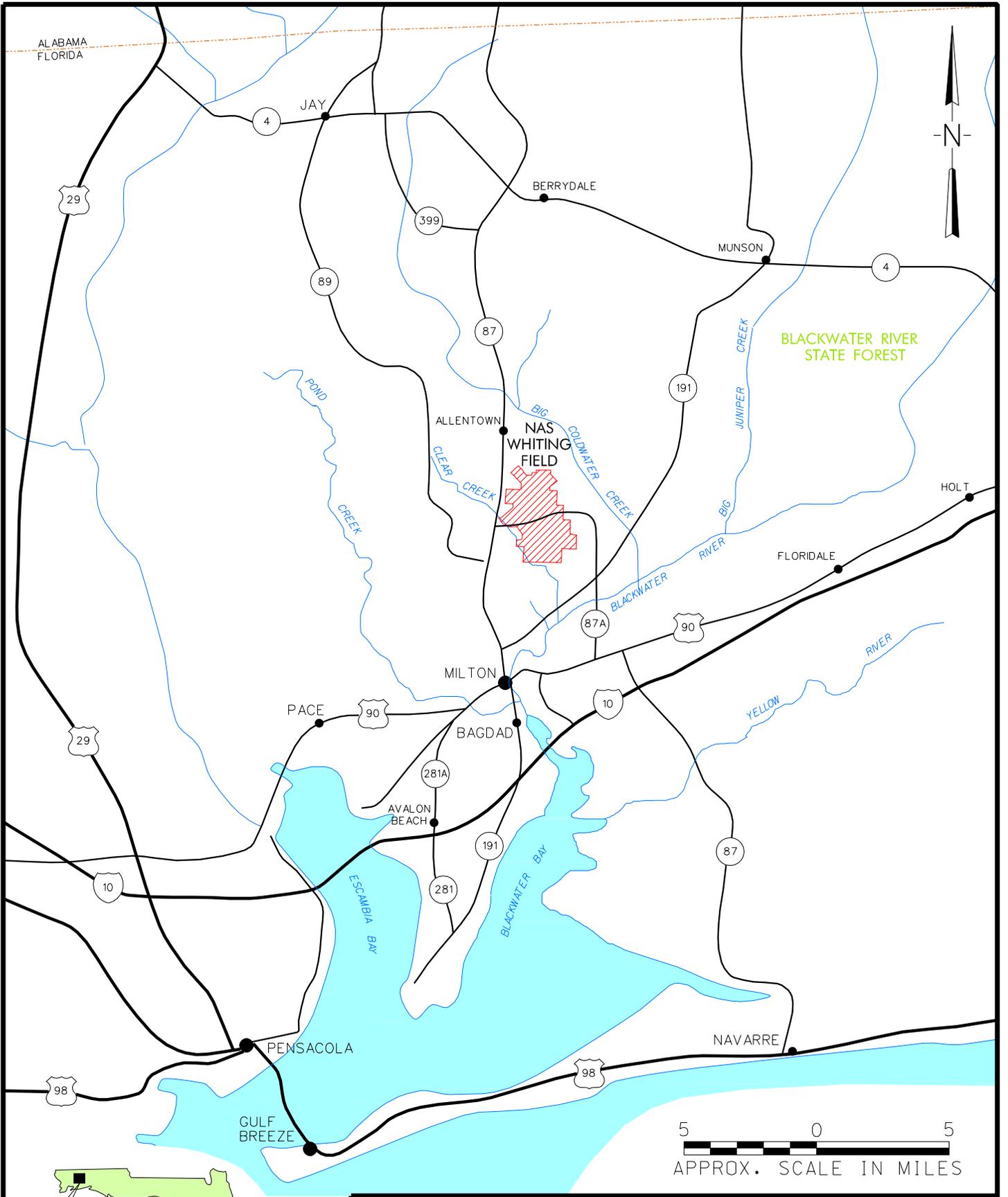
The main complex of NAS Whiting Field covers 3,842 acres of land and is located on an upland area, with elevations ranging from 150 to 190 feet above sea level. Streams border NAS Whiting Field to the west and south. NAS Whiting Field is located on well-drained southward sloping plateau in the Western Highlands subdivision of the Coastal Plain Physiographic province. NAS Whiting Field is drained by a large storm drainage system constructed in the mid 1940s. The ground surface was graded and drainage ditches were installed so that water drains from NAS Whiting Field to the neighboring streams.

NAS Whiting Field is composed of paved runways and road surfaces immediately surrounded by pine trees and open grassy fields and includes residential, agricultural, and woodland areas. A large tract of undeveloped land, the Blackwater River State Forest, is located northeast of NAS Whiting Field. NAS Whiting Field is bordered on the west side by Clear Creek, and on the east side by Big Coldwater Creek, which lies approximately 1 mile east of NAS Whiting Field. Both Clear Creek and Big Coldwater Creek drain into the Blackwater River, which has been designated as an Outstanding Florida Water because of its exceptional recreational and ecological significance. Outstanding Florida Waters are afforded the highest protection by the State of Florida.

The NAS Whiting Field main complex consists of two separate airfields (North Field and South Field) separated by an industrial area. North Field is used for fixed-wing aircraft training while South Field is used for helicopter training. Military quarters and industrial and administrative support facilities are situated between the two airfields. NAS Whiting Field also utilizes 14 outlying landing fields (OLFs) located in Florida and Alabama.

NAS Whiting Field is home to Training Air Wing FIVE and its five training squadrons, including Fixed-Wing Squadrons TWO, THREE, and SIX and Helicopter Squadrons EIGHT and EIGHTEEN. In addition

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SITE

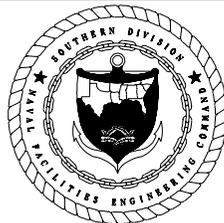


FIGURE 2-1  
FACILITY LOCATION MAP

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
NAS WHITING FIELD  
MILTON, FLORIDA

to the principal tenant command, Training Air Wing FIVE, other major tenants providing support include the Naval Education and Training Security Assistance Field Activity, Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division, Branch Dental Clinic, Branch Medical Clinic, Customer Service Detachment, Naval Training Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment, Navy Exchange, Defense Commissary Agency, Chief of Naval Air Training, and Naval Air Maintenance Training Group Detachment, Milton.

Most other support activities at NAS Whiting Field are provided by private contractors furnishing services such as administration, maintenance support, public works functions, and instruction of in-flight simulation. The Base employs approximately 2,700 military, civilian, and contractor personnel.

## **2.2           INSTALLATION HISTORY AND MISSION**

### **2.2.1           History**

In its more than 50 years of service, NAS Whiting Field has served as a naval aviation training facility for the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and international student aviators. Over the years, NAS Whiting Field has provided fixed-wing and helicopter training and has become well known as the "busiest naval air station in the world." Each year, approximately 650 students complete their primary flight training and earn their wings at NAS Whiting Field.

NAS Whiting Field was commissioned as a naval auxiliary air station on July 16, 1943. Throughout World War II, NAS Whiting Field provided the primary training to naval aviators for the fleet. After World War II, NAS Whiting Field was elevated to naval air station status and continued to provide basic naval aviation training, becoming the backbone of the Navy's flight training program. During 1949 and 1950, the Navy's precision flying team, the Blue Angels, was stationed at NAS Whiting Field. The Navy's first jet training unit was also commissioned at NAS Whiting Field.

During the mid-1950s, NAS Whiting Field began using the T-28 "Trojan" as its primary fixed-wing trainer. The fighter attack aspect of flight training was phased into the program in 1957. In 1960, Fixed-Wing Squadrons TWO and Fixed-Wing Squadrons THREE were commissioned at NAS Whiting Field and, in 1971, Fixed-Wing Squadrons SIX was transferred to NAS Whiting Field. In January 1972, a major reorganization of the Naval Air Training Command occurred, and NAS Whiting Field became the home of Training Air Wing FIVE, NAS Whiting Field's principal tenant command. Two years later, in 1974, Helicopter Squadron EIGHT and Helicopter Squadron EIGHTEEN were transferred to the base.

Academic and simulated-flight-trainer instruction are also provided at NAS Whiting Field. In 1977, NAS Whiting Field began its transition to the T-34C "Turbo Mentor" as its primary fixed-wing trainer aircraft. This led to the total phasing out of the T-28 aircraft in Spring of 1993.

### **2.2.2            Mission**

The mission of NAS Whiting Field is to provide services and material to support the training of U.S. Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and international student aviators in the primary and intermediate phases of fixed-wing aircraft operation and the advanced phase of helicopter operation pilot training, and to support the training of Navy and Marine Corps Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operators.

## **2.3                ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

This section provides background information on environmental conditions at the installation, a discussion of the regulations governing environmental cleanup, the steps of the environmental cleanup process, and a history of investigations and studies conducted at NAS Whiting Field.

### **2.3.1            Environmental Conditions**

NAS Whiting Field's history and mission have required the use, handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and petroleum products. These materials include paints, solvents, degreasers, waste oil, and fuels. Typical activities at NAS Whiting Field have included maintenance of aircraft, vehicles, and engines; fuel oil storage and distribution; landfill disposal; and service station operations. In the past, few (if any) regulations guided these activities, and little was known about the long-term effects of hazardous materials on human health and the environment. Through accidental spills, leaks, and conventional waste disposal practices before the 1980s, hazardous materials came into contact with the environment and resulted in conditions that do not meet today's more strict and more comprehensive environmental standards.

Today, all hazardous materials and wastes generated at NAS Whiting Field are managed in accordance with State and Federal regulations and are disposed of or recycled offsite at licensed waste disposal facilities. Past releases to the environment are being addressed by the Navy's comprehensive cleanup program. This focus on the effects caused by cleaning up past waste disposal practices and controlling current practices enable the Navy to reduce any effects caused by or potential threat to the public health, public welfare, or the environment.

### **2.3.2            Regulations**

Federal environmental laws provide the framework for cleanup activities taking place at NAS Whiting Field and other Navy installations. NAS Whiting Field's cleanup activities are specifically driven by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA). The Navy is conducting the environmental restoration program at NAS Whiting Field in accordance with these Federal environmental law, working together with the USEPA and FDEP.

Section 120 of CERCLA addresses procedures to be followed by Federal facilities during the investigation and cleanup of environmental problems. To implement CERCLA, the USEPA issued the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) setting forth the guidelines and procedures to respond to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

CERCLA requires Federal facilities to develop a plan for cooperating with other Federal agencies during environmental cleanup. At NAS Whiting Field, the Navy (lead agency), and the USEPA and FDEP (support agencies) have established a high level of mutual trust and cooperation through a formal partnering process. This process has been implemented to achieve a common goal: expedited environmental cleanup. By working together in partnership rather than as representatives of agencies with differing agendas, the partnering team is able to make the best cleanup decisions for the installation.

CERCLA requires the NCP to include a published list of sites selected by the USEPA for priority environmental investigation and response. This compilation of sites is called the National Priorities List (NPL).

The NCP established the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) as a primary mechanism for placing sites on the NPL. The HRS is a numerical ranking system used by the USEPA to identify the level of potential hazards to human health or the environment posed by documented or potential releases of hazardous substances at a site. Numerical values are assigned based on the environmental conditions at a site, and an overall score is calculated. Sites scoring greater than 28.5 are added to the NPL.

The HRS score for NAS Whiting Field was generated in 1993. The score was sufficient to place NAS Whiting Field on the NPL. The Base was officially included in the NPL on June 30, 1994. As a result, NAS Whiting Field must continue the environmental cleanup process following CERCLA guidelines. As the cleanup process continues and NAS Whiting Field comes to a point where no further response is appropriate under CERCLA, it will be removed from the NPL.

### **2.3.3 Environmental Cleanup Process Steps**

In 1975, the U. S. Department of Defense (DoD) developed a nationwide program to identify and address environmental problems resulting from past operations and waste disposal practices at DoD facilities. Since the early 1980s, the Navy has been addressing environmental issues from past operations under this program, known as the IRP. Originally, the Navy's version of the program was the Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants (NACIP) program. Early environmental reports reflect this process and its terminology. The Navy has since adopted the program structure and terminology of the IRP.

The environmental evaluation conducted as part of the cleanup program is performed in a series of steps, as defined by the cleanup process in the NCP. Information from each step provides the basis for follow-up actions. Each site being investigated will move through the entire process unless it is found to require no further action, then the site is removed from the cleanup program. When all sites are found to require no further action, NAS Whiting Field would also be removed from the NPL. In some cases, site investigations and cleanup process steps can be combined for efficiency or to maximize resources. Decisions on site cleanup are made on a case-by-case basis, with input from the community and concurrence by the Navy, the USEPA, and the FDEP. The cleanup steps are described below and are illustrated in Figure 2-2.

#### Step 1

*Preliminary Assessment (PA)*: This step involves collecting and reviewing all information on a suspect site to determine whether further study is needed.

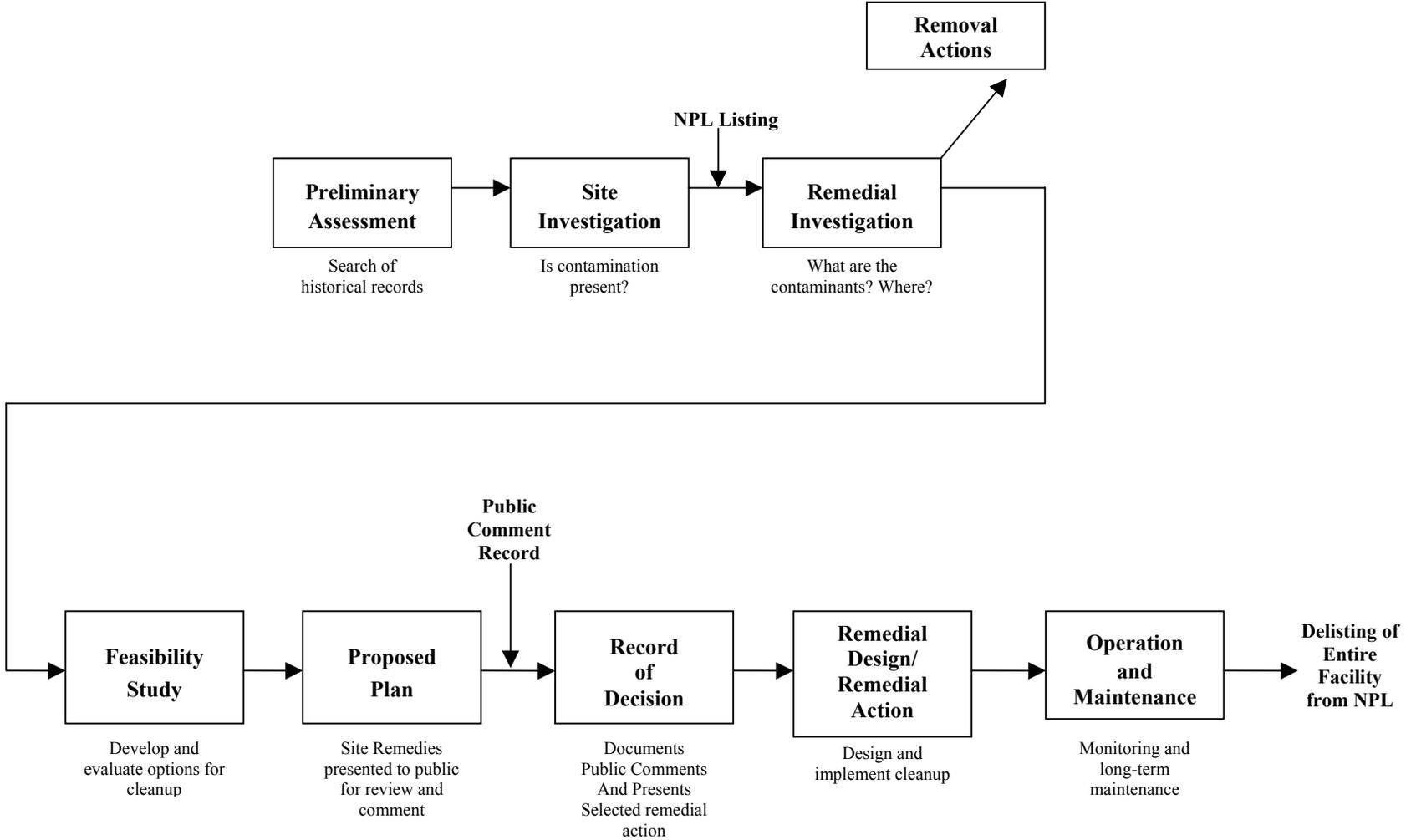
#### Step 2

*Site Investigation (SI)*: If further study is needed, more site information is collected through sampling and laboratory analysis to confirm or deny the presence of contamination, thereby determining whether the area can be considered a "site." (Together, the PA and SI steps were called the Initial Assessment Study [IAS] under the Navy's old NACIP program).

#### Step 3

*Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS)*: This step determines the type and extent of contamination at a site and identifies possible cleanup alternatives and their associated costs. As part of the RI/FS, risk assessments are conducted to identify potential effects on human health and the environment (plants and animals) in order to help evaluate cleanup alternatives.

**Figure 2-2  
Environmental Cleanup Process Steps**



#### Step 4

*Proposed Plan:* After evaluation of cleanup attenuation, the preferred cleanup alternative is presented to the public in the Proposed Plan. A public comment period is held to receive input from the community on the Proposed Plan for the site.

#### Step 5

*Record of Decision (ROD):* Following receipt of public comments the Navy with input from USEPA and FDEP selects and documents the remedial action decision in a ROD.

#### Step 6

*Remedial Design/Remedial Action:* The selected cleanup alternative is planned and implemented in the Remedial Design/Remedial Action stages. The chosen remedy is designed and Remedial Action is begun. Monitoring then ensures the effectiveness of the cleanup.

#### Step 7

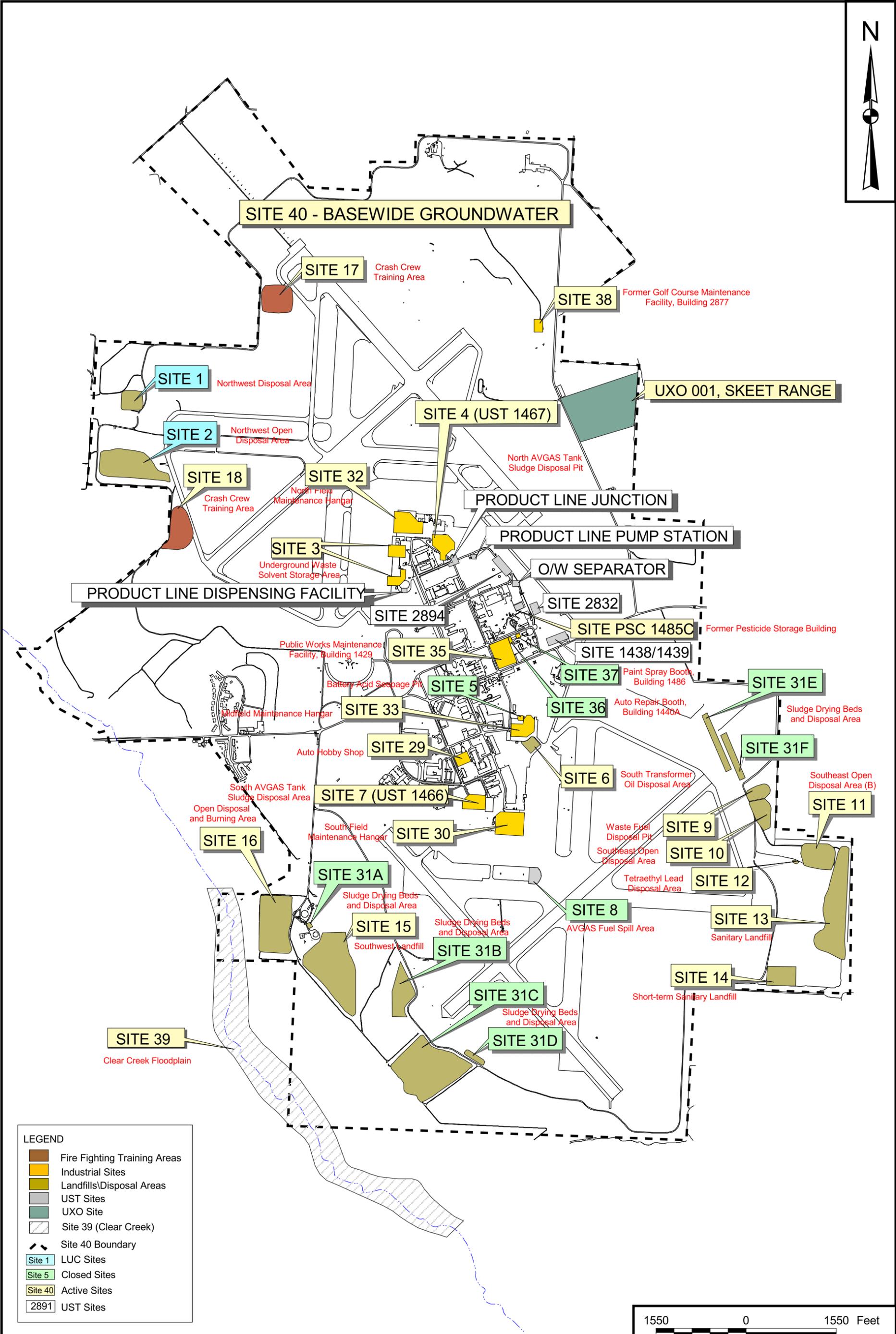
*Operation and Maintenance:* When the Remedial Action has been implemented monitoring is used to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup. Data from the monitoring program is reviewed on a regular basis to determine if the facility can be deleted from the NPL.

An IAS and verification study were performed at NAS Whiting Field under the NACIP program. The IAS corresponds to the preliminary assessment stage and the verification study corresponds to the site investigation stage.

#### **2.3.4 Investigation History**

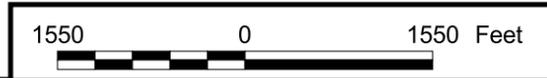
As of January 2003, 30 sites have been identified and are being addressed under NAS Whiting Field's IRP. Figure 2-3 shows the location of the IRP sites as well as underground storage tank (UST) sites at NAS Whiting Field. Table 2-1 provides a brief description of each IRP site and its current status. Since these sites have been identified, they have been further evaluated according to the cleanup steps described in the Section 2.3.3. The UST sites shown on Figure 2-3 are being investigated and cleaned up in accordance with Chapter 62-270 of the Florida Administrative Code. These UST sites are not included in Table 2-1. Sites 19 through 28 are in the outlying landing field Barin IRP, and are not included in the IRP at NAS Whiting Field. Therefore, they are not included on Figure 2-3 or in Table 2-1.

Generally, the sites at NAS Whiting Field requiring environmental evaluation include landfills, maintenance and training areas, past spill sites, hazardous materials or waste storage areas, and other impacted areas. These sites are being addressed under the IRP cleanup process.



**LEGEND**

- Fire Fighting Training Areas
- Industrial Sites
- Landfills/Disposal Areas
- UST Sites
- UXO Site
- Site 39 (Clear Creek)
- Site 40 Boundary
- Site 1 LUC Sites
- Site 5 Closed Sites
- Site 40 Active Sites
- 2891 UST Sites



DRAWN BY J. LAMEY	DATE 9/19/02
CHECKED BY	DATE
COST/SCHEDULE-AREA	
SCALE AS NOTED	



SITE STATUS MAP  
NAS WHITING FIELD - BASEWIDE  
MILTON, FLORIDA

CONTRACT NUMBER 0052	
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**Table 2-1**  
**IRP Site Status**

Site No.	Site Name	Material Disposed of or Released	Status
1	Northwest Disposal Area	Refuse, waste paints, thinners, solvents, waste oils, and hydraulic fluids	Remedy Selected - LUCs
2	Northwest Open Disposal Area	Construction/demolition debris, tires, furniture	Remedy Selected - LUCs
3	Underground Waste Solvent Storage Area	Waste solvents and paint stripping residue	Pending - LUCs
4	N. AVGAS Tank Sludge Disposal Area	Tank bottom sludge containing tetra ethyl lead	Pending - LUCs Soil Venting Pilot Study
5	Battery Acid Seepage Pit	Waste electrolyte solution containing heavy metals and waste battery acid	Site closed - No Action
6	South Transformer Oil Disposal Area	PCB-contaminated dielectric fluid	Pending - LUCs
7	S. AVGAS Tank Sludge Disposal Area	Tank bottom sludge containing tetra ethyl lead	Under investigation
8	AVGAS Fuel Spill Area	AVGAS containing tetra ethyl lead	Site closed - No Action
9	Waste Fuel Disposal Area	Waste AVGAS containing tetra ethyl lead	Decision pending - Soil Removal Action
10	Southeast Open Disposal Area A	Construction/demolition debris, waste solvents, paints, oils, hydraulic fluid, PCBs, pesticides, and herbicides	Decision pending - Soil removal action
11	Southeast Open Disposal Area B	Construction/demolition debris, waste solvents, paints, oils, hydraulic fluid, and PCBs	Decision pending
12	Tetra ethyl Lead Disposal Area	Tank bottom sludge and fuel filters contaminated with tetra ethyl lead	Decision pending
13	Sanitary Landfill	Refuse, waste solvents, paints, hydraulic fluid, and asbestos	Decision pending
14	Short-Term Sanitary Landfill	Refuse, waste solvents, oils, paint, and hydraulic fluids	Decision pending
15	Southwest Landfill	Refuse, waste paints, oils, solvents, thinners, asbestos, and hydraulic fluids	Decision pending - Soil removal action
16	Open Disposal and Burning Area	Refuse, waste paints, oils, solvents, thinners, PCBs, and hydraulic fluids	Decision pending - Soil removal action
17	Crash Crew Training Area	JP-5 fuel	Decision pending - Soil removal action
18	Crash Crew Training Area	JP-5 fuel	Decision pending - Soil removal action
29	Auto Hobby Shop	Auto repair, maintenance, & painting materials	Under investigation
30	South Field Maintenance Hangar	Aircraft maintenance materials	Pending - LUCs
31	Sludge Drying Beds and Disposal Areas	Wastewater treatment sludge	Site Closed-No Further Action
32	North Field Maintenance Hangar	Aircraft maintenance materials	Pending - LUCs
33	Midfield Maintenance Hangar	Aircraft maintenance materials	Pending - LUCs
35	Public Works Maintenance Facility	Fuel, oil, and solvents	Under investigation
36	Auto Repair Booth	Oil, grease, fuel, and solvents	Site closed - No Action
37	Paint Spray Booth	Paint and solvents	Site closed - No Action
38	Former Golf Course Maintenance Bldg.	Solvents, oil, pesticides, and metals	Under investigation
39	Clear Creek Floodplain	Suspected solvents, oil, and fuel	Under investigation
40	Basewide Groundwater	Solvents and fuel	Under investigation
UXO 001	Skeet Range	Unexploded ordnance	Under investigation

- Notes:
1. Sites 19-28 are in the OLF Barin IRP.
  2. There is no Site 34.
  3. AVGAS is a common aviation fuel
  4. LUCs = Land Use Controls
  5. PCB = Polychlorinated Biphenyl
  6. UXO = Unexploded ordnance

Investigation of the IRP sites at NAS Whiting Field has been conducted in the following phases.

- Phase I investigated the nature and extent of contamination at a number of sites and was performed from December 1990 to May 1991.
- Phase IIA involved further investigation of contaminated soil at a number of sites and it also added sites. This phase was performed from April 1992 to February 1994.
- Phase IIB took place from May 1995 to April 1997 and involved further investigation of groundwater at NAS Whiting Field.
- Phase IIC of the investigation included additional investigation of soil at six industrial area sites. This phase performed from May 1998 to December 1999.
- Phase IID includes additional assessment of remaining sites, basewide groundwater, and the Clear Creek floodplain. This phase began in January 2000 and is ongoing.

Reports generated during these investigations are available at the information repository listed in Appendix B.

### **LAND USE CONTROLS (LUCs)**

LUCs have been identified as the selected remedy at Sites 1 and 2 (Table 2-1) and are being proposed as the remedy at several other sites. LUCs are a type of remedial action where restrictions are used to protect human health by limiting exposure to contaminated media such as soils, surface water or groundwater. LUCs offer a safe, simple, and inexpensive alternative for managing low-risk sites. LUCs can include access controls such as warning signs or fences, prohibitive directives to prevent activities such as digging or drilling, or institutional controls such as comprehensive plan notations to prohibit future residential development.

The LUCs at Sites 1 and 2 restrict future use of the sites to nonresidential activities involving less than full-time contact with surface and subsurface soil.

A Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Navy, USEPA, and FDEP on November 4, 1999, established the foundation for management of LUCs at NAS Whiting Field. This Memorandum of Agreement requires site-specific implementation plans, routine monitoring, and close coordination with regulatory agencies.

Prior to implementation of LUCs at any site, Proposed Plans are submitted to the regulatory agencies to present these controls as the final remedy. After the agencies' comments are incorporated, a public comment period is held to solicit community feedback on the proposed remedial action described in the Proposed Plan. When regulatory and community concerns have been addressed, LUCs are implemented in accordance with the MOA and the individual site plan requirements.

### 3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

This section describes the communities surrounding NAS Whiting Field and looks at key local issues and interests. Due to the geographical barrier posed by Escambia Bay, only Santa Rosa County is included in this discussion.

Santa Rosa County is commonly considered to be divided into two sections by the Yellow River: the northern section (Jay, Milton, Bagdad, and Pace) and the southern section (Navarre and Gulf Breeze).

The northern section of Santa Rosa County is largely rural in character and is a mostly residential and agricultural community. The southern section of Santa Rosa County is a coastal community. Milton, located in the northern section of the County, is the closest community to the Base. Milton is the second largest incorporated municipality in the County and is the home of Santa Rosa County government offices. For each community in Santa Rosa County, 2000 U.S. Census Bureau data (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2000) reported the following populations (there was no listing for Navarre):

Community	2000 Population
Bagdad	1,490
Gulf Breeze	5,665
Jay	579
Milton	7,045
Navarre	-
Pace	7,393

The area has a strong sense of tradition and history, and many of the people who live in the area are long-term residents or retired Navy personnel. The population has an average age of 36.8 years and consists of less than ten percent minority representation. The population is broken down as 90.7 percent White or Caucasian, 4.2 percent Black or African American, 1.3 percent Asian, 1.0 percent American Indian or Alaska Native, 2.0 percent Hispanic or Latino, and 0.8 percent other. Overall, the area has experienced, and is still experiencing, a large population growth. Since 1990, the population of Santa Rosa County has increased by 30 percent, growing from about 90,300 to 118,000. The county's growth can be attributed to the rising popularity of living in a coastal area, the increase in nontraditional manufacturing industries, and tourism.

NAS Whiting Field employs about 2,700 military, civilian, and contractor personnel, most of which live in Santa Rosa County. Additionally, NAS Whiting Field plays an important role in the area's economy by providing a large number of the patrons for its retail businesses and residential rental properties. Because it is located near Milton, NAS Whiting Field has the greatest economic impact on the Milton community. Overall, Santa Rosa County residents are employed mainly by service and manufacturing industries, government entities, and retail trade. Six primary industries contribute directly to the economy of the County, including agriculture, the U.S. Navy, manufacturing, forestry, oil, and tourism/recreation.

Throughout its history, NAS Whiting Field has been an integral part of Santa Rosa County and has made a significant economic impact in the surrounding communities. However, the contributions NAS Whiting Field personnel and their families make to Santa Rosa County are equally important. In general, a positive and unique relationship seems to have historically existed between NAS Whiting Field and the surrounding communities.

On a whole, citizens in Santa Rosa County are very active, involved, and pro-community. Much of the social activity in the area revolves around the meetings and functions associated with numerous civic and interest groups. NAS Whiting Field's personnel also take an active role in nearly every aspect of community life. The Base frequently invites citizens to military functions, and Base personnel volunteer in the schools or help on specific community issues (such as helping wildlife through the Help Our Wildlife program). The Base also sponsors/participates in a wide variety of programs benefiting area schools and youth groups, public interest groups, and the community as a whole. The Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp Program is also an important link between the community and the military in the area. As a result of interest and effort on the parts of both the citizens and the Navy, NAS Whiting Field is truly part of the social fabric of the community.

### **3.2 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HISTORY**

There is a warm, open, and trusting relationship between NAS Whiting Field and the surrounding communities, and NAS Whiting Field has long enjoyed a friendly, good-neighbor status with all the surrounding communities. This relationship is fostered by the strong ties many community members have to the Base. NAS Whiting Field recognizes the importance of community involvement during the environmental cleanup process and, since the beginning of the IRP, has solicited public involvement. NAS Whiting Field has published public notices and press releases in local newspapers to inform the community of public meetings and cleanup activities, distributed fact sheets at program milestones, and maintained a booth at local fairs and festivals. The Base has also held public information meetings, published newsletters, articles in the Base newspaper, conducted community interviews, and solicited

community involvement with the formation of the Technical Review Committee, later changed to the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). These actions are performed in an effort to foster communication between the Navy and the community.

The Technical Review Committee began working with the Navy in 1989 to review documents and provide comments on technical issues and proposed activities. In 1995, the Technical Review Committee was converted into the RAB, expanding community representation on its board. The RAB meets annually, or at program milestones, to help guide the environmental restoration program and further facilitate communication among the community, Navy, and regulatory agencies. Citizens are encouraged to attend the RAB meetings and other public meetings or hearings on specific cleanup actions, review available information, and submit comments or questions to the Navy.

### **3.2.1 Community Interviews**

Community interviews were conducted during the week of September 25, 1995, to gather information concerning the interests and issues of citizens in the vicinity of NAS Whiting Field and the effectiveness of the ongoing community relations program. These interviews provided key information in developing the communications strategy for the environmental program discussed in Section 4. A copy of the interview questionnaire is included in Appendix C.

Forty-five citizens were interviewed by representatives from NAS Whiting Field's Public Affairs and Public Works offices and the Navy's environmental consultant, ABB Environmental Services, Inc. NAS Whiting Field took a proactive approach in soliciting participants for the community interviews. Interviewees were contacted by telephone to explain the process and to ask for their participation. A notice was also placed in three local newspapers, and a mailout requesting participation was sent out in the communities. Interested citizens were asked to contact the Public Affairs Officer for more information.

The list of interviewees was developed by soliciting participation from local government officials, community leaders, NAS Whiting Field employees and residents, representatives of environmental groups, and citizens at large. This list was developed in an attempt to get a true representation of the communities surrounding NAS Whiting Field. Based on 1990 demographic information, indicating that approximately seven percent of the population was made up of minority groups, a concerted effort was made to ensure minority concerns were represented in the interviews. These efforts resulted in interviews with 18 local government officials and employees (including elected officials as well as key employees in City and County offices, such as public works, public health, and environmental departments), ten NAS Whiting Field RAB members, eight community members (two of whom were

involved with environmental groups in the area), six residents and/or employees of NAS Whiting Field, and three representatives from the media. Five interviews were held with citizens who represented minority groups.

Most of the citizens interviewed were aware of the environmental program at NAS Whiting Field. Interviewees received information about the program through a variety of sources, including

- Membership on the RAB
- Presentations to civic groups
- Responsibilities as local government officials
- Employment on the Base
- Documents in the Administrative Record and Information Repository
- News media

Because of the relationship between the Navy and the community, NAS Whiting Field is trusted to "do the right thing" with respect to the environmental investigations and cleanup. However, to maintain open communications, the community requested a continuous flow of information about both the progress of the environmental investigations and the cleanup process. The interviews also indicated a very moderate approach toward environmental cleanup at the base. Many interviewees suggested the installation should not "make mountains out of molehills," but should instead find cost-effective cleanup solutions.

The primary mechanism requested for sharing information with the community was the news media, including newspapers, radio, and television. Personal contact was requested through formal presentations to civic groups and through informal "drop-in" visits by representatives of the installation with government officials. Other ideas included participating in civic events such as Depot Days and Scratch Ankle Day, providing educational programs for adults and school children, and mailing prepared information to a pre-determined mailing list.

### **3.3 COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

From the interviews conducted in 1995, a number of concerns were raised by community members. The overwhelming concern in the community, with respect to NAS Whiting Field, was the continuing threat of Base closure. Because of the installation's economic and social roles, the possibility of Base closure was especially alarming. The community rallied behind the Base, during the threat of closure, forming a stronger bond and new appreciation between the two parties.

With regard to NAS Whiting Field getting information out to the community, there were two concerns repeatedly voiced in the interviews. These have since been addressed in the current communications strategy:

- There is a perception, especially among the local government officials interviewed, that the flow of information about the environmental program has decreased over the recent years.
- There are interested citizens outside the Town of Milton, but within Santa Rosa County, who should be included in NAS Whiting Field's communication strategy.

The key concern outside the Base is the rapid growth within the community. This growth has created a strain on the infrastructure of the entire county. It has also created a faction of the community interested in managing and increasing growth and an opposing faction wishing to limit growth. Specific issues cited in relation to this growth include

- Traffic problems, specifically the need to widen Highway 87
- Dispute over the Navarre Beach development master plan
- The Garcon Point Bridge
- Prevention of crime
- Displacement of wildlife

Since the 1995 interviews, the Garcon Point Bridge was constructed and Highway 87 widened.

The interviews indicated there is a core of community members who are very environmentally aware and share some environmental concerns about preservation of water (including the rivers, lakes, and streams) and the drinking water supply. However, as in many communities, there are also residents who are less aware and less interested in environmental concerns.

Other community concerns include the need for more activities for children and the issue of legalizing the sale of certain alcoholic beverages in the county.

### **3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Environmental justice refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means no groups of people should bear a

greater share of the negative environmental effects from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, State, local, or tribal programs and policies.

NAS Whiting Field is keenly aware of environmental justice issues and seeks to ensure that actions and activities related to its IRP do not disproportionately affect any segment of the population. Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," directs Federal agencies to develop an environmental justice strategy identifying and addressing disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects of program policies and activities on minority and low-income populations.

The USEPA has developed an environmental justice program for all Federal facilities (USEPA, 1998). The steps involved in the USEPA oversight of cleanup activities include

- Federal facility site identification.
- Environmental justice qualifiers using (a) demographic information, (b) the definition of a minority population as one having at least 51 percent non-white and/or greater than 50 percent of the population below the national poverty level, and (c) disposal practices of the site.
- Statute review.
- Internal coordination between government agencies and the community.
- Community focus addressing Executive Order 12898, community-based communications, and coordination of activities with RAB, media, and elected officials.
- Follow-up actions including conducting outreach meetings, issuing comment cards for the community, and providing summaries from community meetings. If environmental justice concerns arise, the Navy will take appropriate action, based on the situation, to remedy them.

In the 2000 U.S. Census, the total population for the State of Florida was about 16,000,000. The overall minority percentage for Florida was 22 percent, with 13.4 percent of the total population below poverty level. Poverty level is defined as a family of four people with an income of about \$17,600 or less per year. The population of Santa Rosa County, Florida, in the 2000 Census was about 118,000. The minority population of Santa Rosa County consists of about 11,000 people, 9.3 percent of the population. Santa Rosa County was not part of the supplemental survey for poverty levels for the 2000 Census, so there is no information on the percentage of the population below the poverty level.

As part of the effort to reach its goal of ensuring environmental justice, NAS Whiting Field hopes to increase environmental awareness in the surrounding communities. NAS Whiting Field is reaching out to the community through forums such as the RAB, and through communication via newsletters/fact sheets, and the media.

## 4.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

Effective communication and timely information exchange with the public are essential for maintaining understanding and support of the Navy mission and for implementing successful environmental activities at NAS Whiting Field. The objectives of community relations are threefold:

- Give the public the opportunity to provide input on technical decisions through RAB meetings, newsletters, or other public meetings.
- Inform the public of planned or ongoing actions by distributing information regarding the NAS Whiting Field environmental issues.
- Identify and resolve potential conflicts associated with environmental cleanup activities by the continued commitment of community members and NAS Whiting Field officials to share information and concerns. Conflict resolution may occur by (a) providing a forum for community members to voice questions and concerns directly to members of the decision-making body, or (b) providing experts to address questions about remedial actions and alternatives.

### 4.1 COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN OBJECTIVES

The NAS Whiting Field CRP is the framework for a comprehensive public involvement program. Community outreach activities are based on community suggestions and community relations requirements outlined in the USEPA's *Community Relations in Superfund: A Handbook* (USEPA, 1992). The activities outlined here will be conducted and other activities may be included at the discretion of NAS Whiting Field.

The primary objectives of this CRP are to

- Keep residents and local officials in the area surrounding NAS Whiting Field aware of planned and ongoing environmental cleanup activities.
- Solicit input and involvement from the community, elected and civic leaders, and concerned regulatory agencies, such as USEPA and FDEP.
- Provide a way for citizens and agencies to maintain a dialogue with the Navy.
- Assist in identifying and resolving issues of community interest and concern.

## 4.2 COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

In order to meet the community relations program's goal of providing an effective plan for keeping the public informed about environmental activities at NAS Whiting Field, an information network with the community was developed. From the community interviews, three distinct communication needs were identified, as follows.

- A need for more formal and intentional processes for disseminating information. In the past, information on the installation's environmental program was generally gained through personal communications rather than through the news media; therefore, personal contact through meetings, newsletters, presentations, participation in civic events, and informal communications is emphasized in this community relations program.
- A need for on-going progress reports. There is a need to keep information flowing on the progress of the environmental program, even if the information is simply, "we're still working on it." Status reports are provided through all of the activities discussed below, particularly through news releases, RAB meetings, and newsletters.
- A need to increase the "coverage area" where information is released. There are citizens interested in the IRP in all corners of the County. Information is therefore targeted to a larger audience, through widening the distribution of news releases to all county papers and/or expanding the distribution of the Base Newspaper, "*Whiting Tower*."

### 4.2.1 Communications Activities and Mechanisms

The primary elements to ensure success in a CRP are to develop an information network with the community and to provide a constructive way for the public to participate in the program. This CRP presents an active approach to develop, maintain, and enhance community relations by identifying and addressing public concerns about the environmental issues at NAS Whiting Field, specifically environmental investigations and cleanup (or remedial) actions.

Establishing a two-way communication system and making relevant, accurate information available in a timely and responsible manner are essential to building and maintaining public trust. Community relations activities are intended to educate and inform the community about environmental activities occurring at NAS Whiting Field. This section presents the methods and mechanisms for implementing the CRP. Section 5 defines the specific ongoing community relations activities and those performed at project milestones.

#### **4.2.2 Restoration Advisory Board**

The cornerstone of the community relations strategy is the RAB. The RAB evolved from the original Technical Review Committee in 1995 to facilitate communication between those responsible for the environmental cleanup of NAS Whiting Field and the affected communities. It is composed of representatives from the Navy, the FDEP, and the USEPA, as well as approximately ten members from surrounding communities. RAB members are listed in Appendix A. The majority of outreach activities will be implemented either by or through the RAB.

The specific duties of an RAB member include (1) attending regular meetings, (2) reviewing technical documents, (3) acting as a liaison between the local communities and the Navy in an effort to better understand NAS Whiting Field's IRP, and (4) disseminating information about the program into the community (USEPA, 1994). Equally important, RAB members also represent a community voice throughout the IRP process. RAB meetings are held at regularly scheduled intervals at convenient locations and are open to the public. The communities surrounding NAS Whiting Field will continue to receive advance notice of all RAB meetings, and public participation in these meetings is encouraged. All interested persons are welcome to attend any of the meetings.

In December 2000, existing RAB members were surveyed on how to improve the transfer of environmental restoration information to the community and the overall NAS Whiting Field Community Relations Program. RAB members were asked to complete a questionnaire detailing suggested ways to improve the communication process and return it to NAS Whiting Field personnel for evaluation. Based on the results of this questionnaire and subsequent discussions at the February and May 2001 RAB meetings, the RAB decided to change its meeting schedule to one annual meeting with a site tour at NAS Whiting Field and to distribute a quarterly newsletter. Previously the RAB had met quarterly. In March 2003, due to a shortage of environmental restoration information it was decided to publish the newsletter semi-annually. Additional public meetings will be scheduled and held, if needed, to effectively communicate with the community, or if required by Federal or State regulations.

#### **4.2.3 Information Repository and Administrative Record**

The Information Repository and Administrative Record contain environmental restoration documents established and maintained to allow public access to the documents. The Information Repository contains a comprehensive collection of information regarding the site, cleanup activities, program findings, and public involvement information. The Administrative Record, included in the Information Repository, contains the official site management information for the Base. These documents are used to

make site management decisions and those leading to the selection of cleanup actions. All documents related to cleanup activities at NAS Whiting Field are in the Administrative Record. Maintenance of the Administrative Record and Information Repository is required by law.

The location of the Information Repository/Administrative Record is listed in Appendix B.

#### **4.2.4 Mailing List**

A mailing list is maintained by NAS Whiting Field. This mailing list includes the members of the RAB, local officials, local media, and other interested parties. Names of persons may be added to the list throughout the environmental investigation and cleanup program. Individuals on the mailing list will receive general information such as fact sheets, newsletters, and other notices. To be added to the mailing list, interested individuals should contact the Navy personnel listed in Appendix A.

#### **4.2.5 Fact Sheets/Newsletters**

Fact sheets/newsletters will be prepared by NAS Whiting Field to inform the public of the status and significant findings of specific cleanup activities and to ensure that citizens understand the issues associated with site cleanup. Fact sheets/newsletters will provide detailed information about site history and planned technical activities, provide updates on schedules, and include special-interest items. They will be prepared as new information becomes available, whenever public comment periods on a particular cleanup action are required, and after completion of the final engineering design for cleanup. Newsletters are published semi-annually to keep the public informed about the ongoing environmental activities occurring at NAS Whiting Field. Fact sheets/newsletters are mailed to those people on the mailing list and will be available in the Information Repository and Administrative Record.

#### **4.2.6 Public Announcements and Public Notices**

Public announcements and notices will be released to publicize particular events. These will be sent out in the form of letters, press releases, notices of intent, and meeting notices by NAS Whiting Field. These public announcements and notices will be submitted to local media. Public notices required by law to announce the availability of the Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan or other events are published in the Pensacola News Journal and the Santa Rosa Press Gazelle.

#### **4.2.7 Public Meetings**

Public meetings are intended to inform all interested citizens of ongoing response activities and to solicit public input. The Navy will hold formal public meetings, if requested, to discuss its proposed plans for

cleanup actions and request comments from the community. Public meetings will be held early in the comment period so interested parties can read the plans and ask questions. Technical specialists will be available at these meetings to present technical information and answer questions about the site environmental cleanup activities.

#### **4.2.8 Public Comment Periods**

During the selection of cleanup alternatives, public comment periods will be scheduled to allow for public input on the Navy's proposed plans. Comment periods will be 30 days long, with opportunities for extension, and will be announced by issuing a public notice in the local media as discussed in Section 4.2.6. Specific directions and deadlines for submitting comments will be provided in the published public notice. The comment period may be extended by a minimum of 30 additional days if requested. A minimum 30-day comment period is required by law before signing a ROD.

#### **4.2.9 Responsiveness Summaries**

NAS Whiting Field will prepare a responsiveness summary listing all comments received during the comment periods, as well as responses to the comments. The responsiveness summary will be issued as an appendix to the ROD.

#### **4.2.10 Site Tours**

Site tours are offered for the purpose of informing visitors about the IRP and the environmental status of NAS Whiting Field. A tour of environmental sites will be conducted as part of the annual RAB meeting. Interested citizens, media, public officials, public interest groups, and the RAB can request additional site tours at any time.

## 5.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

### 5.1 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES AND SCHEDULE

This section provides an overview of the community relations activities to be conducted at each major milestone in the environmental cleanup process. These activities have been identified to meet the goals of this CRP. Any major change in the level of public interest or in cleanup activities may result in a need to revise the CRP and the community relations milestones.

To achieve the objectives of informing the public and providing a means of two-way communication, many community relations activities are performed on an ongoing basis. These activities serve to properly inform the public of IRP cleanup activities not included in specific cleanup stages and are presented in Table 5-1.

**TABLE 5-1**  
**ONGOING COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
RAB Meetings (open to public)	Annually
Distribution of Newsletters	Semi-annually
Distribution of fact sheets	As required for progress updates
Updates to CRP	Ongoing
Site tours	Annually and as requested
Contact with the community through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RAB</li> <li>• Small-group meetings</li> <li>• Other public meetings</li> </ul>	Ongoing as required for progress updates
Updates to the Information Repository and Administrative Record (accessible to public)	Continuous

In addition to ongoing community relations activities, some activities are associated with project milestones. To meet the informational needs of the public, the Navy may explain the milestone, announce the milestone's completion, or discuss milestone status or results. Project milestones correspond to the CERCLA Cleanup Program Stages and NAS Whiting Field's IRP. Project milestones and community relations activities for the milestones are presented in Table 5-2.

**TABLE 5-2  
PROJECT MILESTONE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES**

<b>CERCLA Cleanup Program Stage</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Remedial Investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the Information Repository, Administrative Record, and mailing list.</li> <li>• Conduct RAB meetings.</li> <li>• Distribute fact sheet/newsletter for milestone events.</li> <li>• Issue news releases to local newspapers for general information.</li> </ul>
Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish public notice in local newspapers announcing:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Availability of RI/FS and proposed plan</li> <li>– 30-day public comment period</li> <li>– Opportunity for a public meeting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Prepare and distribute fact sheet/newsletter describing proposed plan.</li> <li>• If requested, hold public meeting during comment period.</li> <li>• Prepare public meeting transcript and place in the ROD.</li> </ul>
Record of Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Responsiveness Summary of pertinent public comments as part of ROD.</li> <li>• Publish notice in newsletter when ROD is signed and final plan is available.</li> </ul>
Remedial Design and Remedial Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare fact sheet/newsletter to explain final engineering design.</li> <li>• Announce the design's availability.</li> <li>• Continue community outreach to the public.</li> </ul>

## **5.2 COMMUNITY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

Two programs are available to assist communities in obtaining the technical resources needed to effectively review and evaluate environmental restoration activities. These two programs are summarized in the following sections.

### **5.2.1 Technical Assistance for Public Participation**

The DoD established the Technical Assistance for Public Participation program to assist community members of RABs and Technical Review Comments in participating more fully in the cleanup process affecting DoD installations and former defense sites. The Technical Assistance for Public Participation program allows community members to obtain objective, independent scientific and engineering support concerning the restoration process through the issuance of government purchase orders to small businesses.

### **5.2.2 Technical Outreach Services for Communities**

The Technical Outreach Services for Communities program guides communities through the environmental cleanup and site re-use process. This program uses the resources of researchers and professionals in the environmental science and engineering fields from more than 30 major research universities to provide communities with the independent technical information needed to actively participate in solving environmental problems.

## REFERENCES

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USEPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 1992. Community Relations in Superfund: A Handbook (Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Directive Number 9230.0-C), EPA/540/R-92/009, January.

USEPA, 1994. Restoration Advisory Board Workshop Guidebook, Summer.

USEPA, 1998. Environmental Justice Protocol for the Federal Facilities Branch, November.

**APPENDIX A**  
**NAVY AND COMMUNITY CONTACT LISTS**

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City of Milton  
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The Honorable Jerry G. Melvin  
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President  
Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce  
5247 Stewart Street  
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(850) 455-4599  
(850) 455-8972 (fax)

WKRG TV-5  
6565 N. W Street  
Pensacola, FL 32504  
(850) 484-0655

WPMI-TV  
6485 Pensacola Boulevard  
Pensacola, FL 32505  
(850) 484-9882  
(850) 484-2662 (fax)

WALA TV-10  
29 Stumpfield Road  
P.O. Box 6610  
Pensacola, FL 32503  
(334) 434-1010  
(334) 434-1073 (fax)

WSRE-TV  
1000 College Boulevard  
Pensacola, FL 32504  
Pensacola, FL 32504  
(850) 484-1200  
(850) 484-1255 (fax)

### Radio:

WECM AM  
703 Berryhill Street  
Milton, FL 32570-4698  
(850) 623-8618

WCOA-AM  
6565 N. W Street  
Pensacola, FL 32514  
(850) 478-3116

WEBY 1130 AM  
133 Ward Basin Road  
Milton, FL 32583-4525  
(850) 983-2242

WUWF 88.1-FM  
The University of Florida  
11000 University Parkway  
Pensacola, FL 32514-5750  
(800) 239-9893  
(850) 473-7447

WOWW 107 FM  
P.O. Box 3788  
4220 North Davis Highway  
Pensacola, FL 32503  
(850) 939-0203

WRNE 980-AM  
312 E. Nine Mile Road  
Pensacola, FL 32514  
(850) 484-6000

## MEDIA CONTACTS (Continued)

### Newspapers:

Pensacola News Journal  
101 E. Romana Street  
Pensacola, FL 32501-5670  
(850) 435-8683

The Santa Rosa Free Press and Press  
Gazette  
P. O. Box 607  
Milton, FL 32581-2287  
(850) 623-3616/2120

Milton Bureau  
827 Caroline Street  
Milton, FL 32570  
(850) 623-0162

Gulf Breeze Sentinel  
1200 Gulf Breeze Parkway  
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561  
(850) 934-1200

The Associated Press  
c/o Pensacola News Journal  
P.O. Box 12710  
Pensacola, FL 32574  
(850) 438-4951

Pensacola Voice  
213 East Yonge Street  
Pensacola, FL 32503  
(850) 434-6963

The New American Press  
619 N. DeVilliers Street  
Pensacola, FL 32501  
(850) 432-8410

**APPENDIX B**

**INFORMATION REPOSITORY, ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD, AND  
PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS**

## **INFORMATION REPOSITORY**

Documents relating to the environmental cleanup and restoration program at NAS Whiting Field are available for review. The Information Repository also contains the Administrative Record and is located at

West Florida Regional Library  
Milton Branch  
805 Alabama Street  
Milton, FL 32570  
(850) 623-8398  
Mon. – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tues. Wed. & Thurs. – 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Sun.

## **PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS**

Recommended locations for IRP public meetings include the following:

Naval Air Station Whiting Field  
Public Works Building 1418 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room)  
7151 USS Wasp Street  
Milton, FL 32570

Pensacola Junior College (Milton Campus)  
Natural Resources Building 4900, Room 4902  
5988 Highway 90  
Milton, FL 32583  
(850) 484-4436

**APPENDIX C**  
**INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE**

**COMMUNITY INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE**

**NAS WHITING FIELD  
Milton Florida**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

- Your participation in the interview process will help us develop a Community Relations Plan which is tailored to address the needs and expectations of the Santa Rosa County Community.
- Once the results of the interviews are compiled and summarized, this tip sheet of information will be detached and discarded.
- At no time will your comments or opinions be discussed with persons who are not involved in writing the Community Relations Plan, nor will they be attributed to you verbally or in writing.

## COMMUNITY INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

### NAS WHITING FIELD Milton Florida

#### Attitudes/Concerns

- 1) When did you first learn of the environmental investigations and activities underway at NAS Whiting Field?  
  
How?
  
- 2) What do you think about it?
  
- 3) Does the need for environmental investigations at NAS Whiting Field raise any concerns for you? (If more than one, rank them).
  
- 4) Are there groups in the area that you believe will share these concerns?
  
- 5) How sensitive is the Santa Rosa Community to environmental concerns?
  
- 6) How would you characterize the interaction between NAS Whiting Field and the Santa Rosa/Milton Community?
  
- 7) Are you confident that NAS Whiting Field conducts its operations in an environmentally safe manner?

Information Needs

8) At this point in time, if you had a question or concern about NAS Whiting Field environmental investigations, who would you contact?

9) What type of project information would you like NAS Whiting Field to make available to the community?

\_\_\_\_\_ General Updates  
\_\_\_\_\_ Detailed Technical Reports  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other

10) What methods for disseminating this information would be best?

\_\_\_\_\_ Presentations to local civic/interest groups  
(name) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ TV \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Radio \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mailing (desired to be included?)    Yes    \_\_\_\_\_    No    \_\_\_\_\_

11) How often should the information be made available?

\_\_\_\_\_ Month  
\_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly  
\_\_\_\_\_ Semi-annually  
\_\_\_\_\_ As required to disseminate note worthy information/events

12) Does any person or group come to mind whom you would suggest we interview?

**APPENDIX D**  
**NEWSLETTER**



# Whiting Field Progress Report

## Installation Restoration Program

Volume 1, Number 7

December 2002

**Public Works Department**

NAS Whiting Field, 7151 USS Wasp Street, Milton, Florida 32570-6159 • Telephone (850) 623-7181 (Ext. 49)

### Inside . . .

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Navy UST and IR Programs Strategically Divide Clean-up of Abandoned Aviation Gasoline Pipeline..... 2

Site 40 Remedial Investigation and Community Relations Plan Update..... 2

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Facility Update..... 5

## Annual Restoration Advisory Board Meeting and Tour

The annual Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting and Tour was held on November 19, 2002, at NAS Whiting Field. A total of 18 persons attended the meeting including the following seven RAB and community members:

Garnett Breeding  
Greg Isphording  
W. E. and Nellie Parker  
Sam Vickers  
Carl J. Mohrher  
Jim Cason

A tour of Installation Restoration Program Sites 4 and 31 and Underground Storage Tank Site 2894 was conducted by Navy and Contractor support personnel from approximately 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. After the site tour a brief technical program and business meeting was held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of Public Works Building 1418.

Following adjournment of the meeting everyone was invited to the Wings Inn Courtyard for barbecued chicken and hamburgers. A good time was enjoyed by all!



Solar Remediation System Unit at Site 4



RAB Meeting Technical Program



Site Tour at Site 4

This progress report is produced by NAS Whiting Field to keep you informed about the Installation Restoration Program at NAS Whiting Field.

## Installation Restoration Program

The U.S. Navy has initiated an Installation Restoration Program (IRP) nationwide to identify, investigate, and, if necessary, clean up contamination at Navy installations, including NAS Whiting Field. Contamination may have resulted from hazardous materials handling practices or accidental spills. In the majority of cases, the releases occurred before laws were passed regulating hazardous materials handling and disposal or before it was known that these practices posed potential problems.

To date, the Navy has identified 29 sites at NAS Whiting Field where various potentially hazardous materials may have been handled or disposed. IRP sites identified at NAS Whiting Field and their current status are listed in the table on page 3 and their location is shown on the map on page 4.

### Site Activities Update

#### ***Navy UST and IR Programs Strategically Divide Clean-up of Abandoned Aviation Gasoline Pipeline***



Abandoned Aviation Gasoline Pipeline

The April 2001 Contamination Closure Assessment of a two-mile long abandoned aviation gasoline pipeline, identified four separate petroleum contaminated areas, Sections "A", "B", "E", and "F". The NAS Whiting Field Underground Storage Tank (UST) & IR Programs combined efforts to effectively address the contamination at the pipeline.

Normally the entire pipeline clean-up process would be handled under the UST Program. However due to UST funding issues, years could elapse before receiving the necessary clean-up dollars, thus subjecting soil and groundwater to further spread of contamination.

During planning sessions, it was decided it would be more timely, cost effective and practical to move the two areas affecting groundwater contamination to the IR Program. The first area (Section "A") is within the boundaries of IR Site 4 and the second area (Section "B"), consisting of the same type of contamination, is near Site 4. The existing Site 4 remediation system can be expanded, effectively remediating Section "B".

The two additional contaminated pipeline areas will remain under the UST Program. However, they are both adjacent to or near an already assessed UST site. This will allow both of the additional sections to be promptly remediated.

### ***Site 40 Remedial Investigation and Community Relations Plan Update***

#### ***Site 40, Basewide Groundwater***

The draft RI Report is currently being finalized and is under going technical review. The RI Report documents field investigation activities performed for Site 40, Basewide Groundwater and includes human health and ecological risk assessments. Regulatory review of the draft RI Report is scheduled to be performed in the spring of 2003.

#### ***Community Relations Plan***

The revised Community Relations Plan (CRP) is in its final stages of preparation and is scheduled to be issued in January 2003. The updated CRP reflects current public relations activities performed as part of the IR Program. A copy of the revised CRP will be placed in the Information Repository when it is issued.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*"Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time."*

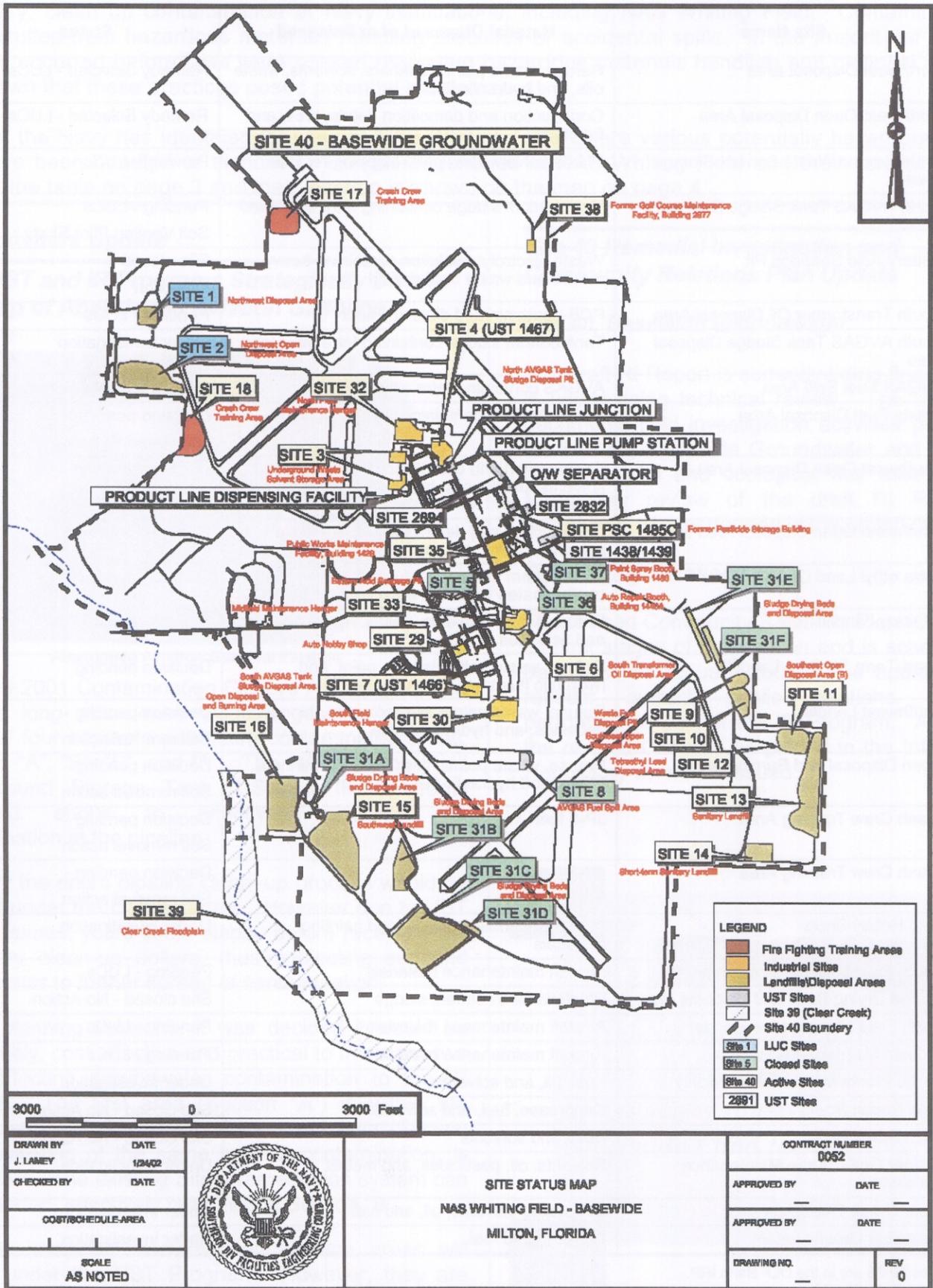
*-Ann Landers*



**NAS WHITING FIELD  
IRP SITE STATUS**

Site No.	Site Name	Material Disposed of or Released	Status
1	Northwest Disposal Area	Refuse, waste paints, thinners, solvents, waste oils, and hydraulic fluids	Remedy Selected - LUCs
2	Northwest Open Disposal Area	Construction and demolition debris, tires, and furniture	Remedy Selected - LUCs
3	Underground Waste Solvent Storage Area	Waste solvents and paint stripping residue	Pending - LUCs
4	North AVGAS Tank Sludge Disposal Area	Tank bottom sludge containing tetra ethyl lead	Pending - LUCs Soil Venting Pilot Study
5	Battery Acid Seepage Pit	Waste electrolyte solution containing heavy metals and waste battery acid	Site closed - No action
6	South Transformer Oil Disposal Area	PCB-contaminated dielectric fluid	Pending - LUCs
7	South AVGAS Tank Sludge Disposal Area	Tank bottom sludge containing tetra ethyl lead	Under investigation
8	AVGAS Fuel Spill Area	AVGAS containing tetra ethyl lead	Site closed - No Action
9	Waste Fuel Disposal Area	Waste AVGAS containing tetra ethyl lead	Decision pending - Soil Removal Action
10	Southwest Open Disposal Area A	Construction and demolition debris, waste solvents, paints, oils, hydraulic fluid, PCBs, pesticides, and herbicides	Decision pending - Soil removal action
11	Southwest Open Disposal Area B	Construction and demolition debris, waste solvents, paints, oils, hydraulic fluid, and PCBs	Decision pending
12	Tetra ethyl Lead Disposal Area	Tank bottom sludge and fuel filters contaminated with tetra ethyl lead	Decision pending
13	Sanitary Landfill	Refuse, waste solvents, paints, hydraulic fluid, and asbestos	Decision pending
14	Short-Term Sanitary Landfill	Refuse, waste solvents, oils, paint, and hydraulic fluids	Decision pending
15	Southwest Landfill	Refuse, waste paints, oils, solvents, thinners, asbestos, and hydraulic fluids	Decision pending - Soil removal action
16	Open Disposal and Burning Area	Refuse, waste paints, oils, solvents, thinners, PCBs, and hydraulic fluids	Decision pending - Soil removal action
17	Crash Crew Training Area	JP-5 fuel	Decision pending - Soil removal action
18	Crash Crew Training Area	JP-5 fuel	Decision pending - Soil removal action
29	Auto Hobby Shop	Auto repair, maintenance, and painting materials	Under investigation
30	South Field Maintenance Hangar	Aircraft maintenance materials	Pending - LUCs
31	Sludge Drying Beds and Disposal Area	Wastewater treatment sludge	Site closed - No Action
32	North Field Maintenance Hangar	Aircraft maintenance materials	Pending - LUCs
33	Midfield Maintenance Hangar	Aircraft maintenance materials	Pending - LUCs
35	Public Works Maintenance Facility	Fuel, oil, and solvents	Under investigation
36	Auto Repair Booth	Oil, grease, fuel, and solvents	Site closed - No Action
37	Paint Spray Booth	Paint and solvents	Site closed - No Action
38	Former Golf Course Maintenance Building	Solvents, oil, pesticides, and metals	Under investigation
39	Clear Creek Floodplain	Suspected solvents, oil, and fuel	Under investigation
40	Basewide Groundwater	Solvents and fuel	Under investigation

1. Sites 19-28 are in the OLF Barin IRP.
2. There is no Site 34.
3. AVGAS is a common aviation fuel.
4. LUCs = Land Use Controls
5. PCB = Polychlorinated Biphenyl



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## Land Use Controls (LUCs)

LUCs are a type of remedial action where restrictions are used to protect human health by limiting exposure to contaminated media such as soils, surface water or groundwater. LUCs offer a safe, simple, and inexpensive alternative for managing low-risk sites. LUCs can include access control such as warning signs or fences, prohibitive directives to prevent activities such as digging or drilling, or institutional controls such as comprehensive plan notations.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by the Navy, USEPA, and FDEP on November 4, 1999, established the foundation for management of LUCs at NAS Whiting Field.

The MOA requires site-specific implementation plans, routine monitoring, and close coordination with regulatory agencies.



Site inspections are conducted annually to ensure compliance with the LUCs.

Prior to implementation of LUCs at any site, Proposed Plans are submitted to the regulatory agencies to present these controls as the final remedy. After the agencies' comments are incorporated, a public comment period is held to solicit community feedback on the proposed remedial action described in the Proposed Plan. When regulatory and community concerns have been addressed, LUCs are implemented in accordance with the MOA and the individual site plan requirements. LUCs are currently being evaluated as the potential remedy for numerous sites at NAS Whiting Field.

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## Facility Update

Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) has developed a working relationship with the City of Milton and the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) to secure funding for projects mutually beneficial to the Navy and the surrounding community. The FDA is a public-private partnership created in 1998 to promote military base efficiencies and to further military missions in Florida. The Station secured a FDA grant of \$250,000 to develop a plan for wastewater reuse from the City of Milton. The wastewater will be utilized at or near several environmental restoration sites. These sites were prioritized for restoration to facilitate their use in the wastewater reuse project. The reuse project is of significant importance to the local community, as it will stop wastewater discharge into the Blackwater River.

The ultimate goal of the environmental restoration program at NASWF is to reduce the risk of contamination to human health and the environment. One of the major projects to accomplish this goal was the cleaning and closure of over 10,000 feet of an abandoned avgas pipeline connecting the fuel farms of the two airfields located at the Northern and Southern boundaries of the station. Two of the three contaminated areas along this pipeline have been remediated.

Source removals at Sites 4, 6, 11, 15, 16, 30, 32, 33, and 38 have also eliminated sources for groundwater contamination as well as eliminating exposure pathways to humans and the habitat at the Station.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field is proud of the significant accomplishments in the environmental restoration program. Reducing risk to human health and the environment, working with the local community to help raise environmental protection awareness and give the community a sense of pride in restoring the environment at Whiting Field have been a tremendous success.



### Need More Information?

Documents and information regarding the NAS Whiting Field IRP are available from:

Mr. Jim Holland  
NAS Whiting Field  
Phone: (850) 623-7181 (Ext. 49)

Mr. Craig Benedikt  
USEPA  
Phone: (404) 562-8555

Mr. Jim Cason  
Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Phone: (850) 245-8999

Ms. Linda Martin  
Southern Division  
Phone: (843) 820-5574

OR

Information Repository  
West Florida Regional Library  
Milton Branch  
805 Alabama Street  
Milton, Florida 32570  
Phone: (850) 623-5565

### Department of the Navy Public Works Department NAS Whiting Field

7151 USS Wasp Street  
Milton, Florida 32570-6159

## Next Scheduled Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

**September, 2003**

NAS Whiting Field  
Public Works Building 1418  
7151 USS Wasp Street  
Milton, FL 32570-6159

# Mailing Coupon

If you did not receive this progress report by mail and would like to be put on the mailing list or if you wish to have your name removed from the list, please complete this form, clip, and mail to:

**Department of the Navy  
Public Works Department  
NAS Whiting Field**

7151 USS Wasp Street  
Milton, Florida 32570-6159  
Telephone (850) 623-7181 (Ext. 49)

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