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NAS WHITING FIELD
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RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA AND ATTACHMENT 16 JANUARY 1997 NAS
WHITING FIELD FL
1/16/1997
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

Actual

AGENDA

00813

NAS Whiting Field Restoration Advisory Board Meeting NAS Whiting Field Wings Club Cockpit Room January 16, 1997 at 12 Noon

- **Welcome** Pat Durbin
Navy Co-Chair

- **Buffet Lunch**

- **Presentation**
 - Field Work and Jim Holland/ Cliff Casey
Site Status Update NAS Whiting Field/ SODIV

- **General Discussion** RAB Members
 - Meeting Schedule
 - Upcoming Agenda Topics/Speakers
 - Other RAB Business

- **Site Tour**
 - Building 2894: Jim Holland
Barometric Pumping System

RAB Members

**Naval Air Station Whiting Field
Restoration Advisory Board Meeting, 16 January 1997
MEETING SUMMARY**

RAB Members attending:

Anita Breeding	Logan Fink, Community Co-chair
Garnett Breeding	Robert Fowlkes
Ken Brooks	Archie Hovanesian
Sam Buckman	Sam Vickers
Pat Durbin, Navy Co-chair	

Navy Representatives:

Senior Chief Dave Youngquist, NAS Whiting Field, Public Affairs Office
Jim Holland, NAS Whiting Field, Public Works Department
Cliff Casey, Southern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Pat Durbin opened the noon meeting at the Wings Club by welcoming the RAB members and others in attendance. She then reviewed the meeting agenda and asked for comments on the November 14, 1996 minutes. No comments were made and the minutes were approved as presented.

Site Status Report / Field Work Update:

Jim Holland discussed the field work completed/ scheduled to determine the source of TCE (trichloroethylene) contamination in the west well. On December 10, 1996 soil borings and subsurface soil sampling began at three sites surrounding the west well- Building 1429, 1440A, and 1486. A total of fourteen borings to a depth of 30' were completed. Results of the soil sampling is expected in February. Installation of eleven monitoring wells on the sites is scheduled to begin 1/20/97 with completion by mid-February.

Terraprobe reconnaissance borings were made along the abandoned JP-5 product line near Site 2894 to determine if fuel had leaked from the pipeline.

Permission to drill wells off-site along the west side of Clear Creek has been met with some resistance from landowners C. R. Smith and T.R. Miller Lumber Company. Navy legal is reviewing the conditions placed on entry to the property owned by Miller Lumber Company.

Cliff Casey, an engineer working on the groundwater flow modeling project, briefed the RAB on the scope of the two-year project, purpose, and cost savings realized by teaming with USGS personnel. Groundwater flow will be mapped within a fifteen mile radius of NAS Whiting Field. The outcome of the survey will be used to: determine the optimum placement of monitoring wells, predict the migration pathway of contaminants, and identify feasible remediation techniques. By teaming with the USGS approximately \$600K was saved in fees to outside contractors.

Following the presentations, the RAB members were taken on a tour of Site 2894. Jim Holland explained the mechanism for apparent success of the bioremediation project utilized on the petroleum contaminated site and showed the members the "flapper" valve assembly controlling airflow through the system as a result of barometric pressure changes. The meeting adjourned at 1300.

RAB Business

The next RAB meeting was set for 5:30 PM, March 19th, at the Pensacola Junior College, Milton Campus, Natural Resources Studies, Building 4900, Room 4902. *Note*, this meeting was cancelled awaiting completion of laboratory analytical results. The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15th, 5:30PM at PJC Milton Campus, Natural Resource Studies Room 4902.

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

FIELD ACTIVITIES UPDATE

1. In an effort to determine the source of TCE contamination in west well the following field tasks were completed or are scheduled:

Soil boring and subsurface soil sampling at Site 35 (Building 1429), Site 36 (Building 1440A), and Site 37 (Building 1486) began on 12/20/96. A total of fourteen borings to a depth of 30' were completed. Results on soil samples analysis is expected in mid February.

Monitoring well installation on the sites is scheduled to begin on 1/20/97 and is expected to be completed by mid February. A total of eleven monitor wells will be installed. Depth of the wells will vary from 120' for a shallow well, 150' for an intermediate well, and 180' for a deep well.

2. Terraprobe reconnaissance borings were made along the abandoned JP-5 product line near Site 2894 to determine if fuel has leaked from the pipeline.

3. Off-site permission from landowners to allow drilling of wells along the west side of Clear Creek has been received, with the exception of permission from C.R. Smith. We should, however, be able to access the site without crossing the Smith property. A legal question has arisen concerning conditions placed on entry by T.R. Miller Lumber Company. Navy legal is currently reviewing and will give us a position shortly.

ID cards
on Saturday

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Yellow fever
shots

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Ice Pilots
tickets

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THE WHITING TOWER

Vol. 52 No. 45

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla., "The World's Most Efficient Naval Air Complex"

Dec. 5, 1996

TQL initiative puts system on line

By JO2(AW) Russell C. Tafari

The first stages of a new system of operating procedures, designed to counter the effects of the ongoing military personnel drawdown at NAS Whiting Field, were put into effect during November. The new system is slated to be entirely operational by Dec. 15.

Spurred by a TQL initiative and the findings of a quality management board, these new procedures will ultimately increase the base's operating efficiency and make better use of the personnel stationed at NAS Whiting Field — especially as the number of personnel stationed here is declining. The first step in implementing this initiative was to get the base's new Emergency Communications Center - ECC - on line.

ECC is a new, technologically advanced emergency telephone system that streamlines some basic operations of the former system, consolidates the duties performed by four people into a one-person job, and brings technology from the coming century. The 'brain' of the center is located at the Whiting Field Fire Department.

Still in its early stages of use, the ECC is like a typical civilian 911 emergency telephone system. Now, instead of having separate telephone numbers for the fire department, medical clinic or security department, there is one number to call in the event of a fire, medical or criminal emergency — 623-7333.

But, the system is not just confined to local operations. In support of the Training Air Wing Five mission, NAS Whiting Field operates 13 outlying landing fields in a five-county, two-state area. The ECC centralizes communications at the ECC central dispatch board at the fire department and can tie in with communications among the local community emergency response teams in that five-county, two-state area.

The heart beat of this system is a computerized radio console that can bring as many as eight transmitters at different locations together at one dispatch center. This not only centralizes dispatching and communication during critical emergency occurrences, but also creates an initial command post from which emergency response teams can be coordinated or put into action.

Currently, there are four transmitters here on base: one at the crash division, one at the medical clinic, one at the fire department, and one at security. If one of these transmitters gets knocked out, by a bolt of lightning for instance, the dispatcher can use the back-up radio connected to the 90-foot transmission tower at the fire department and have the same capabilities as the primary system.

If the 90-foot tower were to be destroyed, the new system could be back on-line within 15 minutes by mounting antennas on the fire department.

Continued on page 3



Photo by ENS Reynaldo T. Alfaro

NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer CAPT Richard L. Dick starts the new barometric-pumping system.

Oxygen-munchers activated

Whiting Field initiated an innovative soil clean-up operation Thursday, Nov. 21, when Commanding Officer CAPT Richard L. Dick activated the new system. The barometric pumping system will remove contaminants in three different soil zones at the air station.

During a past era, railroad tank cars and trucks laden with jet fuel were offloaded at the Building 2894 pump house. Petroleum spills from overfilling and other fuel-handling activities gradually contaminated the soil at and around the pump house, affecting three different soil zones. Each zone presented a distinct clean up challenge and a solution was needed that was site-specific, yet cost-effective, easy to install and maintain, and would not interfere with ongoing activities in the area. An innovative technology called barometric pumping and naturally-occurring cleanup promises to meet all requirements.

The selected cleanup method for the upper zone of silty sand material is bioventing, or pumping oxygen into the soil to help naturally-occurring bacteria treat the contamination. Natural attenuation, or allowing contaminants to naturally break down through processes like evaporation and dispersion, was chosen for the intermediate clay zone. An innovative technology called barometric pumping, which directs air through the soil by using daily barometric pressure changes to bring contaminants to the surface was selected for the lower sand or gravel zone after a pilot-scale field study verified that transfer would occur with daily pressure changes.

The treatment is designed to prevent groundwater contamination at the site and eliminate the need for future cleanup.



Photo by JO2(AW) Russell C. Tafari

Whiting Pines Mini-mart grand opening

NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer CAPT Richard L. Dick, center, marks the 'official' opening of the new Navy Exchange Mini-mart at the Whiting Pines Community Center Wednesday, Nov. 27. Others, from left, are Operating Manager Beth Hardin, Officer-In-Charge LT Bobby J. Warfield, Retail Store Manager Brenda Lee, and employees Edward Norwiaga, Rhonda Polard, and Shannon McCutcheon. The mini-mart is open Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customers are encouraged to tell the staff if the store does not carry regularly-needed items, and they'll be sure to have them on hand for you.



More than 1,800 Air Force students and invited guests watch the fire-power demonstration at Eglin.

flexes its air power strength

Students, faculty view war games

By Dexter Chambers
News Journal staff writer

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE — F-15s and F-16s streaked across the sky here Thursday while a huge 185,000-pound B-1B Bomber unloaded an arsenal of weapons on "enemy" targets.

It wasn't exactly a war, but it was a show of strength.

Maj. Jack Forsythe, among the 1,850 Air Force students and invited guests at the rare show, said he was amazed at the devastation bombs caused.

"The demonstration was very impressive. I've only watched this stuff from the air and this

only reinforces the fact that the U.S. military is the most advanced in the world," said Forsythe, who has flown the F-16 and F-17 stealth fighter.

Eglin's 46th Test Wing put on the show for Eglin personnel and students and faculty from Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base near Montgomery, Ala. The Alabama guests arrived in a 26-bus caravan.

Wing commander Col. Harry Strittmatter said such peacetime air power demonstrations are rare. The last one held at Eglin was in 1987. He didn't say how much the demonstration cost, but called it "minimal."

"This was designed to give the students an up-close-and-person-

See AIR FORCE, 4C

p.m. Sunday at Trinity P...
ian Church. In lieu of flo...
family requests donations be made
to the Sacred Heart Children's
Hospital.

Dr. Whitcomb was born in South Dakota, but grew up in India, where his parents were medical missionaries. After returning to the United States, Harvard Medical School snatched him up before he could complete his undergraduate courses. He trained at the prestigious Children's Medical Center in Boston, where he later became chief resident.

Dr. Whitcomb started private practice in Pensacola in 1957, recruited for a mission here of helping cover a region lacking in pediatricians. "The man was born to be a pediatrician," his wife said.

Patients and fellow doctors quickly came to know him as a true healer, a compassionate man who concerned himself with the needs of everyone but himself, said Dr. Ree Bell, who went into practice with Dr. Whitcomb in 1957. Bell co-founded Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart with Whitcomb and now medical director for Children

See DR. WHITCOMB, 4

In goes the clean, out goes comes the dirty

Navy pumps air into 5 holes to bring up fuel

By Charles Ashby
News Journal staff writer

Whiting Field is trying to take an innovative approach to cleaning one of its environmental waste sites.

Using a method called "bioventing," the Milton Navy base un-

veiled a system Thursday that uses a natural — and cheap — means of cleaning a 30-yard area once used for unloading railroad tankers and trucks carrying jet fuel.

"What we think we have here is an opportunity for a long-term remediation process," said Capt. Richard Dick, base commander. "Number one, it's inexpensive because it's self-generating. There's no big machinery. It's kind of like found money."

And that's important in these days of dwindling money for envi-

ronmental cleanup programs, Dick said.

The method, also known as barometric pumping, calls for drilling five holes up to 77 feet deep and pumping oxygen into the ground, forcing spilled fuel to the surface. Naturally occurring bacteria in the oxygen breaks down the fuel as it travels to the surface, allowing it to disperse harmlessly.

The technology is in use only at a handful of other sites nationwide, said Pat Durbin, spokeswoman for the base's Public Works Depart-

ment. This is the first time the Navy has tried it, she said.

"There will be 24 holes in the ground," Durbin said. "Five wells will be used for pumping air; the others for venting. It's the first time anyone has used (extra holes) as ventilation."

The site is broken up into three soil zones. The first, a 15-foot layer mostly made up of sand, will take about 7 years to clean using this method. The bottom level, from 25 feet to 77 feet, will take up to 20 years.

"The middle level will take care of itself because it's mostly clay," she said.

The treatment is designed to prevent fuel contamination from reaching groundwater. The site located just south of North Field one of the base's two airstrips. It the last of five or six fuel spills base to be cleaned.

Currently, the base has 28 old environmental waste sites that in varying stages of cleanup. Most contain waste solvents, pesticides or oil-based contaminants.