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**CLEAN II TRANSMITTAL/DELIVERABLE RECEIPT**

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TO: Commanding Officer  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Southwest Division  
Mr. Paul Kennedy, Code 0233  
Building 128  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA. 92132-5187

DATE: April 25, 1996

CTO #: 0063B

LOCATION: MCAS El Toro

FROM:

*Dave K. Cowser*  
Dave K. Cowser, Project Manager

Operations Manager

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**IN REPLY REFERENCE: CTO-0063/0291**

April 25, 1996

Commanding Officer  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Southwest Division  
Mr. Paul Kennedy, Code 0233  
Building 128  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92132-5187

Subject: Final MCAS El Toro Fact Sheet #6

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Enclosed are copies of the final MCAS El Toro Fact Sheet #6 (#4 under CLEAN II) for CTO-0063 Community Relations, prepared under Contract No. N68711-92-D-4670.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Amy Schwartz at (415) 768-7790.

Very truly yours,



Dave K. Cowser  
Project Manager, El Toro

DKC:AS:lsd



**Bechtel Environmental, Inc.**



# UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM AT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION EL TORO

Fact Sheet No. 6

April 1996

## Looking Back — Moving Forward

### Introduction

At Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro, looking back is a critical step in moving forward. With complete closure and property transferred for public use scheduled for July 1999, the station's land must first be environmentally clean. A team of environmental specialists, including federal and state regulatory agencies, has been working together to complete field studies and review historic chemical use and disposal activities. Now, the environmental cleanup of soil and groundwater is moving steadily forward, preparing additional areas of the station for transfer.

### Environmental Background

Soil and groundwater contamination at MCAS El Toro is a result of several past operations that were accepted practices. For example, in the 1940s, aircraft refurbishing included the use of solvents during degreasing activities. Between 1943 and 1955, municipal-type solid waste was generated by station housing (typical residential activities). Early disposal activities included incineration. Later, solid waste disposal was conducted at cut-and-fill landfill sites. Four landfills received solid waste, paint residues, oily wastes, industrial solvents, and incinerator ash. Fire-fighting training exercises were conducted at two burn pit areas and included the use of various flammable liquids such as jet fuel, aviation gasoline, and other waste liquids. Historical rodent and weed control efforts used pesticides and herbicides.

### Installation Restoration Program

To investigate and clean up contamination at MCAS El Toro and bases throughout the United States, the Marine Corps and Navy initiated the Installation Restoration Program. The program, established to meet federal and state environmental regulations, examines and puts into use both standard and innovative technologies to control and clean up hazardous wastes, metals, and a variety of other contaminants at such bases.

In addition to being part of the Installation Restoration Program, MCAS El Toro is included on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites requiring cleanup. The Marine Corps/Navy and state and federal environmental regulatory agencies work in cooperation as the Base Realignment and Closure Cleanup Team to ensure compliance with environmental laws, rules, and regulations.

There are currently 24 sites under investigation, and, at several of these sites, treatment of contaminated soil has already begun. For management purposes, these sites have been grouped into three Operable Units (OUs):

- OU-1 addresses groundwater contamination that has migrated off-station.
- OU-2 includes sites with soil contamination that have also contributed to groundwater contamination (sites have been grouped into OU-2A, 2-B, and 2-C for funding and prioritization purposes).
- OU-3 addresses 17 sites not included in either OU-1 or OU-2 that have soil contamination with no impact on groundwater.

### Investigation and Cleanup Process

Early in the environmental process, preliminary assessments and inspections were conducted at areas throughout the station that were suspected or known to be contaminated. As the presence of soil or groundwater contamination was confirmed, specific sites around the station entered into a more comprehensive Remedial Investigation process. During the investigation, soil and groundwater samples were collected and analyzed to determine the nature and extent of contamination and the potential to impact public health and the environment. Following the investigation, feasibility studies were performed to examine the investigation results and to evaluate, among other things, the feasibility and costs of various cleanup alternatives. When these studies are complete, they will be made available for public review, allowing the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed remedial (cleanup) alternatives.

At some sites at MCAS El Toro, a fast-track cleanup process may be appropriate to reduce potential threats to public health and the environment and reduce or eliminate the movement of contamination. This process may be used as an interim step to control contamination, prior to implementing longer-term solutions.

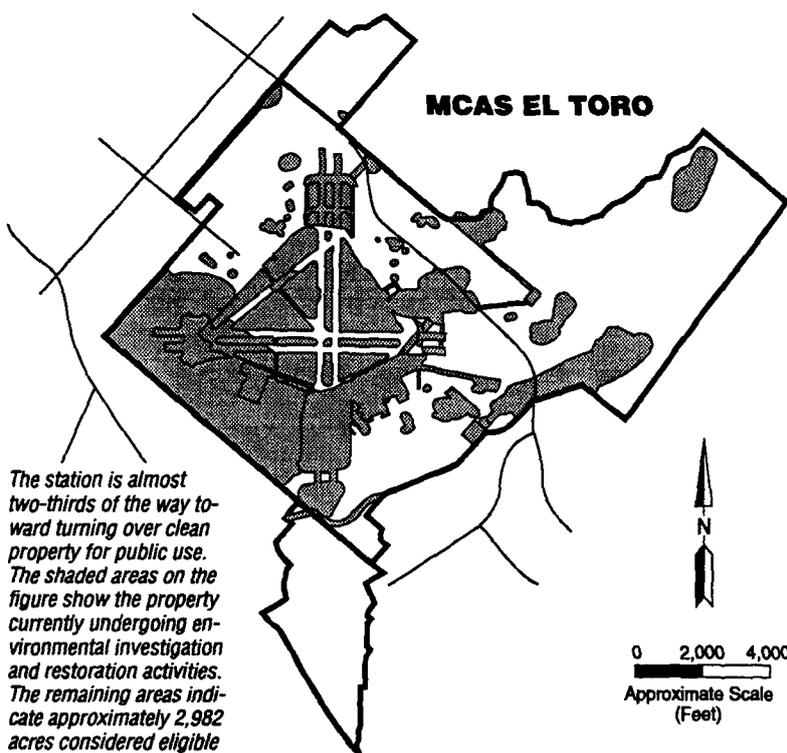
### Cleanup Progress

Investigation and cleanup are at various stages of completion:

- The Feasibility Study for OU-1 (groundwater) is currently being prepared. Among other cleanup alternatives,

extraction wells and treatment systems to remove solvent contamination from groundwater are under consideration.

- The Draft Remedial Investigation Reports for OU-2A, 2B, and 2C were completed in February, March, and April 1996, re-



*The station is almost two-thirds of the way toward turning over clean property for public use. The shaded areas on the figure show the property currently undergoing environmental investigation and restoration activities. The remaining areas indicate approximately 2,982 acres considered eligible for transfer.*

Figure 1. Environmental Condition of Property

**This is the sixth in a series of communications issued during the investigation and cleanup process at MCAS El Toro. This fact sheet has been prepared to inform the local community about the progress of the environmental restoration program now underway. It also describes opportunities for the community to be involved in the program and where those interested may obtain more information.**

spectively. The feasibility studies for OU-2 will be completed in the coming months. Meanwhile, interim steps will be implemented to reduce additional erosion of earthen landfill covers and prevent movement of landfill contents.

■ The Remedial Investigation for the OU-3 sites continues; proposed cleanup actions are scheduled for public review in mid-1997.

### Underground Storage Tanks

In addition to cleaning up the hazardous waste sites included in the Installation Restoration Program, the environmental project team is addressing regulatory compliance and closure issues related to underground storage tanks. To date, 58 former storage tank sites have been cleaned up, with 108 tanks scheduled for removal by 1997. The Marine Corps/Navy will remove all remaining nonoperational tanks and clean up contaminated soil around the tanks in time for the station's closing in 1999.

### Public Involvement

An important part of the Marine Corps/Navy's Installation Restoration Program is building a partnership with the local community. Keeping the public informed about the results of the investigation and seeking public input on cleanup alternatives is key to this partnership. At major technical milestones, the public is invited to provide formal comment on project doc-

uments. MCAS El Toro also distributes periodic fact sheets, provides workshops, conducts site tours, and issues press releases to keep the public informed. A Community Relations Plan has been developed that outlines plans for these and other public participation activities.

### Restoration Advisory Board

A key component of MCAS El Toro's community relations program is the local Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). This community-based board brings together the diverse interests of the community to discuss the station's Installation Restoration Program. Formed in April 1994, the RAB is guided by two cochairs — one selected by the Marine Corps/Navy, the other selected by community members of the board. The 46-member board meets to review and comment on work plans, environmental and health risk assessments, and alternatives for site cleanup. RAB meetings are open to the public and are held at the Irvine City Hall Conference and Training Center on the last Wednesday of designated months. Currently, RAB meetings are scheduled from 6:30-9:00 pm on May 29, July 31, and August 28 (there is no meeting in June). Interested members of the public are encouraged to call the contacts listed below for additional information about membership and confirmation of meeting dates.

## Where to Get More Information

Copies of documents and correspondence relating to environmental cleanup activities at MCAS El Toro are available for public review at this information repository (please call the library for current operating hours): Heritage Park Regional Library, 14361 Yale Avenue, Irvine, California 92714, (714) 551-7151.

If you have questions regarding the environmental program at MCAS El Toro or would like additional information, please contact:

**Mr. Joseph Joyce**  
Base Realignment and Closure  
Environmental Coordinator  
Commanding General  
AC/S, Environmental (1AU)  
MCAS El Toro, P.O. Box 95001  
Santa Ana, CA 92709-5001  
(714) 726-3470

**Mr. Fraser Felter**  
Community Relations Coordinator  
U.S. EPA  
75 Hawthorne Street (H-1-1)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 231-3075

**Captain Brad Bartelt**  
Commanding General  
BRAC Public Affairs Officer  
Marine Corps Air Bases, Western Area (1AS)  
MCAS El Toro, P.O. Box 95001  
Santa Ana, CA 92709-5001  
(714) 726-3853

### MAILING LIST COUPON

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive information about environmental restoration activities at MCAS El Toro, please complete the coupon below and mail to: Commanding General, AC/S, Environmental, (1AU), Attn: Ms. Charly Wiemert, IRP Department, MCAS El Toro, P.O. Box 95001, Santa Ana, CA 92709-5001.

- Add me to the MCAS El Toro Installation Restoration Program mailing list.
- Send me information on Restoration Advisory Board membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Commanding General  
Attn: Mr. Joseph Joyce  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
AC/S, Environmental (1AU)  
MCAS El Toro  
P.O. Box 95001  
Santa Ana, CA 92709-5001

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