NAVAL AIR STATION ALAMEDA

FACT SHEET #1: REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/ FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

MARCH 1990

INTRODUCTION

In the early 1980s, the U.S. Navy began investigating potential contamination of the environment from past use of hazardous materials at the Naval Air Station (NAS) in Alameda, California. These investigations identified 20 sites with actual or potential contamination on the NAS Alameda property.

This fact sheet explains the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program, under which cleanup activities are conducted; discusses the contamination problems at the sites; summarizes proposed sampling work to be conducted starting this spring at NAS Alameda and future activities planned; discusses potential health risks from the contaminants; and announces an upcoming public meeting on April 3, 1990.

INSTALLATION RESTORATION (IR) PROGRAM

The IR program is the U.S. Department of Defense's effort to identify and clean up environmental contamination at all U.S. military installations across the country. The IR program complies with all State and Federal laws regarding cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Since 1980, the Navy has been actively involved in the IR program and has taken an aggressive approach to the problem of hazardous waste sites at Navy installations.

The IR process involves seven steps, as illustrated in Exhibit 1. At NAS Alameda, the first two steps -- the **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection** and **Scoping/Planning** -- have been completed. The next major milestone will be the completion of the **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).**

The California Department of Health Services (DHS) is the lead regulatory agency for the IR cleanup at NAS Alameda. The Department ensures that all cleanup activities continue to comply with State and Federal laws.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Meeting

You are invited to attend a public meeting regarding hazardous waste investigations at NAS Alameda.

Tuesday, April 3, 1990
7:30 p.m.
Alameda High School Little Theatre
2200 Central Avenue
Alameda, California

At the meeting, the Navy and California Department of Health Services will discuss upcoming site activity.

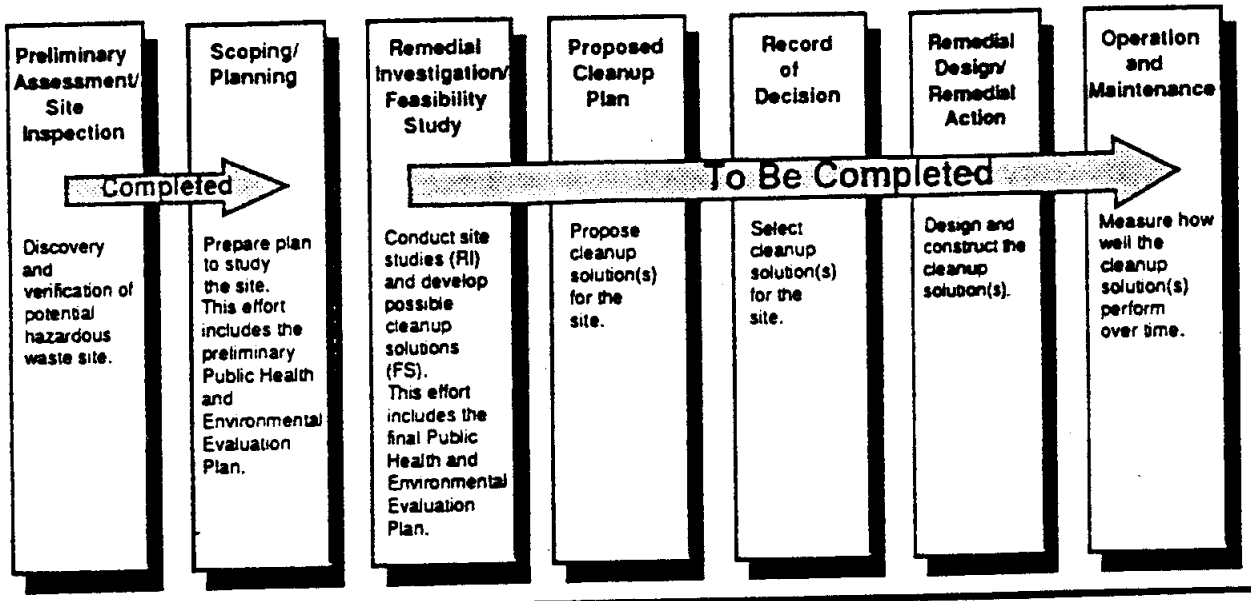
SITE OVERVIEW

NAS Alameda is located at the west end of the island of Alameda, in Alameda and San Francisco Counties, California. Alameda occupies 2,634 acres and is approximately two miles long and one mile wide. Most of the eastern portion of the Air Station has been developed with offices and industrial facilities, while runways and support facilities occupy the western part.

Hazardous waste contamination at NAS Alameda is the result of numerous routine operations conducted at the facility between the 1940s and late 1970s, a period when relatively little was known about the impacts of hazardous materials and when stringent Federal and State hazardous waste disposal regulations were not in effect. Typical NAS Alameda operations during this time included metal plating; paint removal; aircraft maintenance, fueling and engine testing; vehicle fueling; pest control; missile reworking; operation of a power plant and a fire station; and waste disposal at two landfill sites on base.

Exhibit 1

NAS ALAMEDA SITE STUDY AND CLEANUP PROCESS



In 1980, under its IR program, the Navy began to identify, assess, and control contamination resulting from past practices at NAS Alameda. During the first phase of this program, the Navy investigated 12 sites believed to be potential areas of contamination, and recommended seven of these sites for further study.

In May 1985, the Navy completed the second phase of the program for these seven sites. During this investigation, sampling and analysis of soils and groundwater at each of the seven sites was conducted. This study found that four of the seven sites had contaminant concentrations high enough to warrant additional investigation. These four sites include the 1943-1956 Disposal Area, the West Beach Landfill, Area 97, and Building 360, identified in Exhibit 2 as Sites 1 - 4 respectively. Sixteen other sites within the facility were identified during this investigation. Studies to determine the extent of contamination and develop cleanup solutions for the twenty identified sites will start in Spring 1990.

The known or suspected contaminants that have been identified to date include heavy metals; aviation fuel; organic compounds, including benzene, toluene, and xylene; plating chemicals; solvents; paint; pesticides; oil and grease; and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

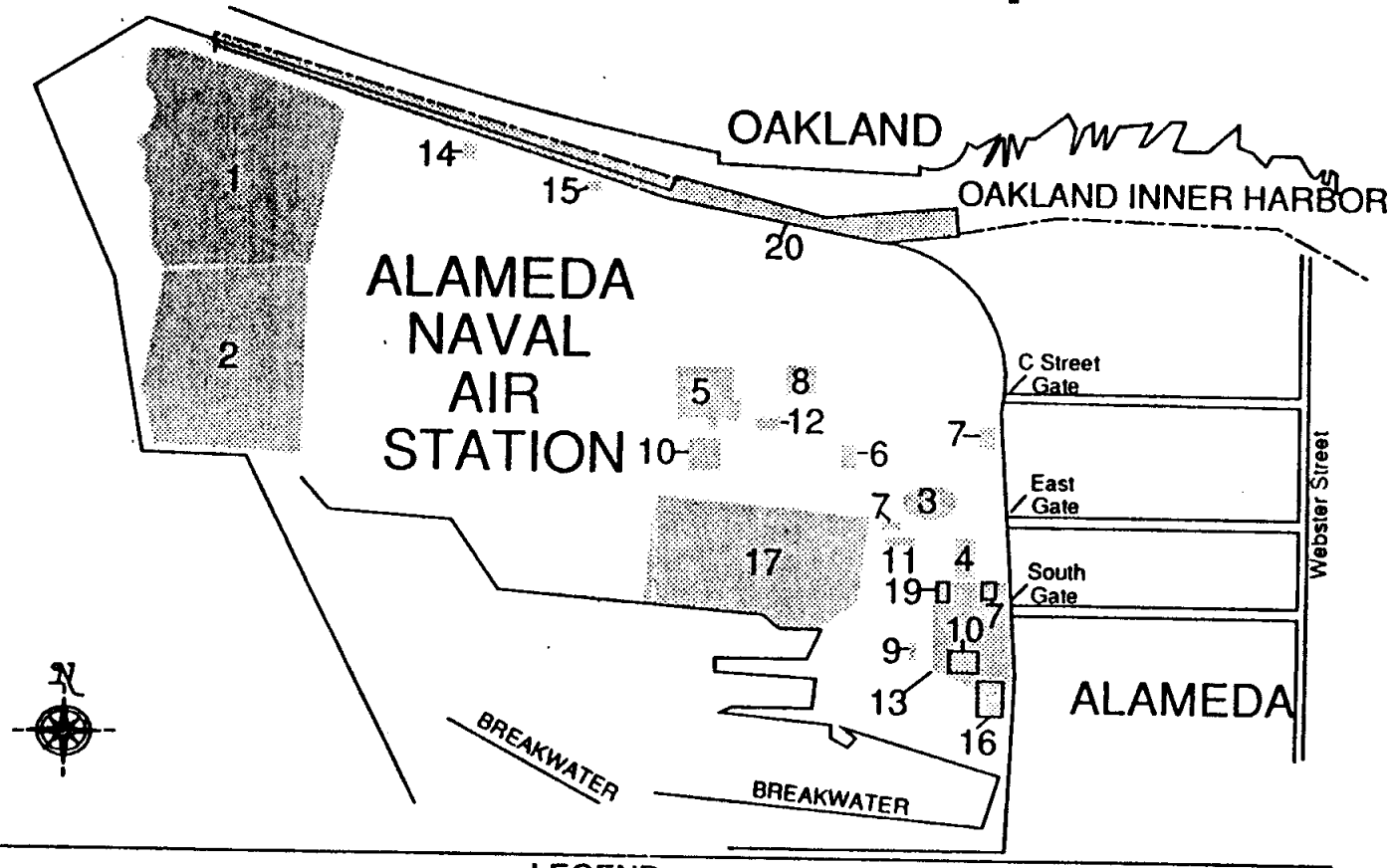
POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS FROM CONTAMINATION

A preliminary Public Health and Environmental Evaluation (PHEE) Plan was prepared for NAS Alameda in June 1989. A preliminary PHEE is performed to identify the ways in which a person can come in contact with contaminants at a site and to determine what data must be collected during the Remedial Investigation (RI) to estimate the potential health risks of exposure to these contaminants.

A final PHEE will be conducted after all the data are collected during the RI. The results of this study will then be used in evaluating cleanup alternatives to identify which are protective of public health and the environment. Exhibit 1 demonstrates how the preliminary PHEE Plan and the final PHEE Plan fit into the overall cleanup strategy at NAS Alameda.

At this time, there are no data that can be used to quantify potential human health risks that may be posed by contaminants at NAS Alameda. Those data will be collected during the RI. If evidence of health threats are discovered at any point during the RI, the Navy will take all necessary steps to protect the public health.

Exhibit 2
NAS Alameda Site Map



LEGEND

SITES CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION

1. 1943-1956 Disposal Area
2. West Beach Landfill
3. Area 97
4. Building 360
5. Building 5
6. Building 41
7. Buildings 162, 459, 547
8. Building 114
9. Building 410
10. Buildings 400 and 530
11. Building 14
12. Building 10
13. Oil Refinery
14. Fire Training Area
15. Buildings 301 and 389
16. Cans C-2 Area
17. Seaplane Lagoon
18. Station Sewer System (not on map)
19. Yard D-13
20. Estuary

UPCOMING SITE SAMPLING

The California Department of Health Services (DHS) is expected to approve NAS Alameda's Work Plans for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) by the end of March 1990. These studies will determine if soil or groundwater is contaminated in areas identified as potential waste release sites. In addition, the investigation will:

- Determine the nature and extent of hazardous substances in the air, soil, surface water, and groundwater at the site;

- Identify directions in which the contaminants may travel;

- Determine the probability and extent of any potential threat to public health and the environment from the contamination;

- Identify and evaluate appropriate cleanup actions to prevent future contaminant releases and to clean up any releases that have occurred already; and

- Collect and evaluate the information necessary to prepare a cleanup plan in accordance with appropriate State and Federal regulations.

As part of this RI/FS, soil and groundwater samples will be taken at the site beginning in Spring 1990. The sampling program will proceed in several stages. Initially, sampling at NAS Alameda will include approximately 100 groundwater monitoring wells and 200 soil borings. Monitoring wells will be sampled at intervals to check groundwater for contamination. Each soil boring will be used to obtain about five soil samples for laboratory analysis.

The number of samples taken at each of the twenty sites under study will vary considerably, depending on the nature of contamination and the size of the particular site. For example, Site 10A is a missile rework operations building that was used for electrical maintenance, welding, and painting. Its area is relatively small, and activities at the building were confined to a specific area. At that Site, approximately three monitoring wells will be installed, and four soil borings will be taken (see Exhibit 3).

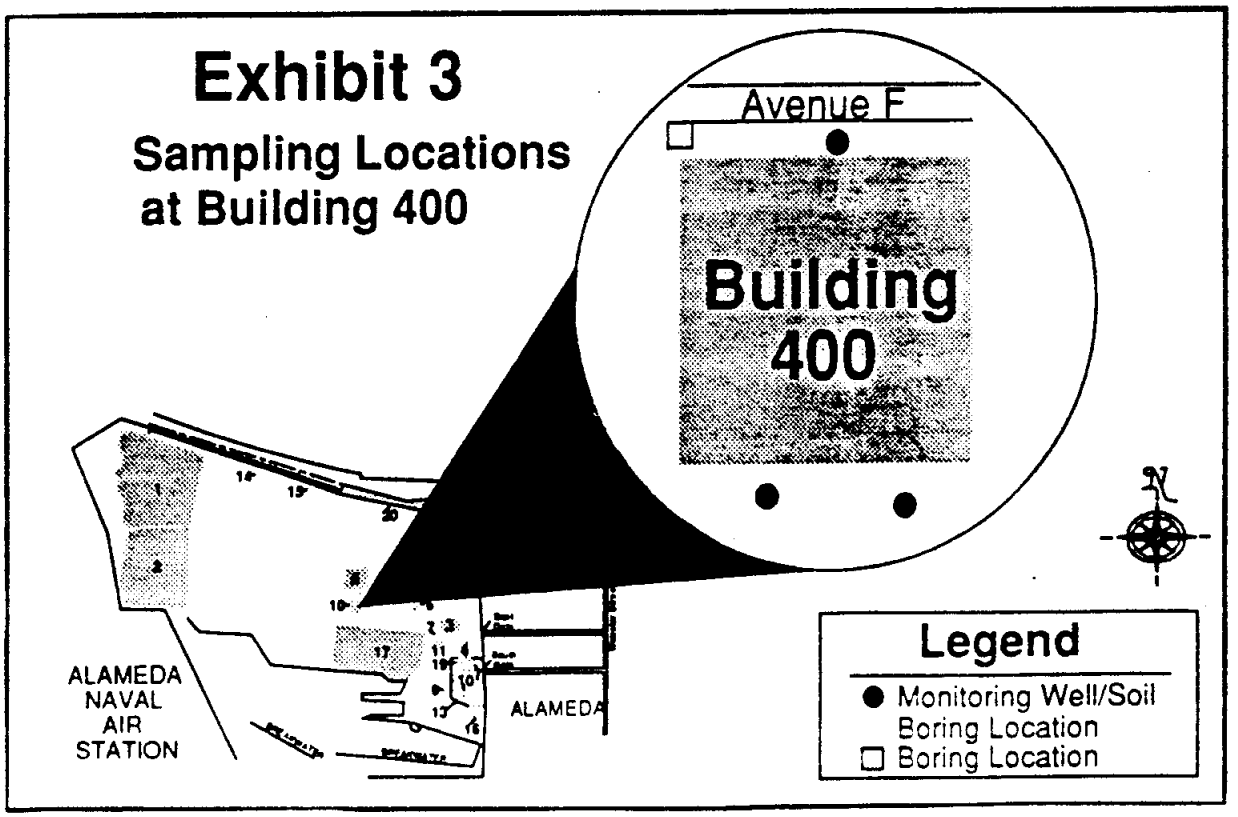
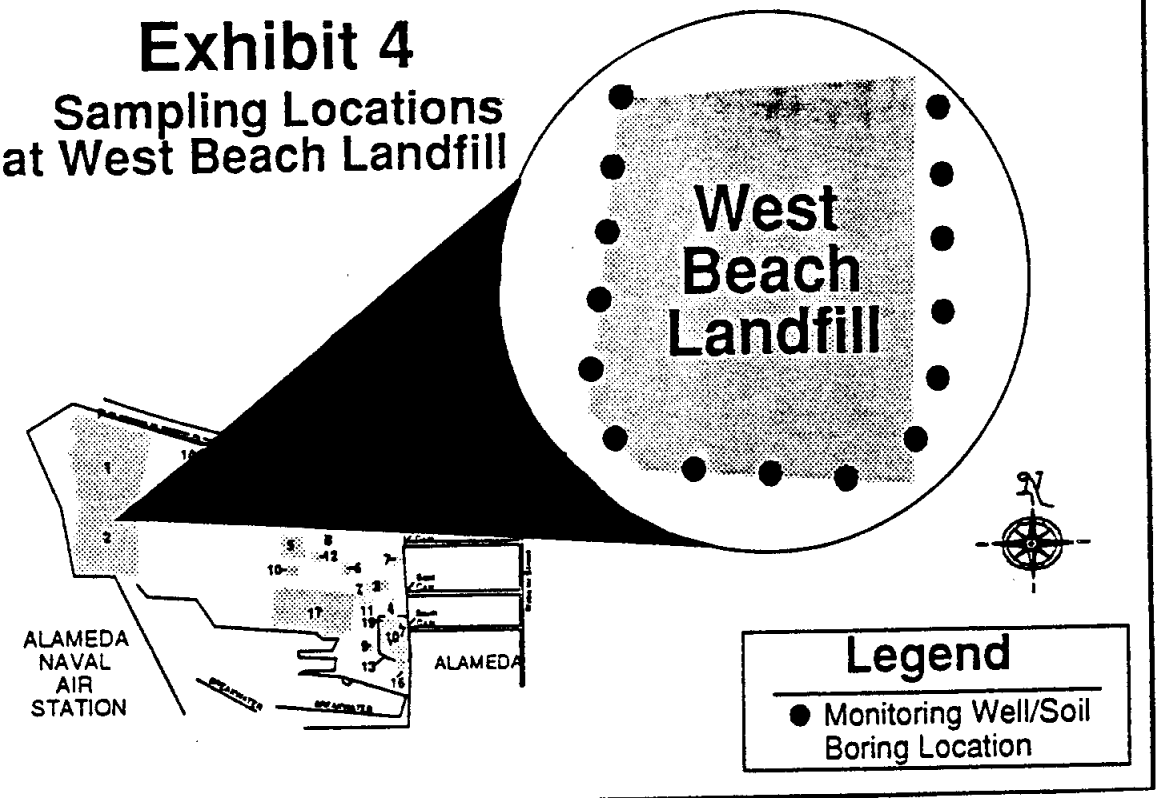


Exhibit 4

Sampling Locations at West Beach Landfill



At Site 2, the West Beach Landfill, more sampling is necessary because of the size of the area and the nature of the contamination. The Landfill covers approximately 110 acres, and was used to dispose of refuse and hazardous wastes for a period of twenty years, from 1958 to 1978. Investigators will begin to characterize contamination at the Landfill by installing approximately fifteen monitoring wells and taking an equal number of soil borings (see Exhibit 4).

These initial samples will determine what additional sampling information is needed, and will point to appropriate cleanup strategies that should be considered for particular sites. As the sampling and analysis proceeds, NAS Alameda, in cooperation with the Department of Health Services, will analyze the various cleanup alternatives and produce a draft site cleanup plan for public comment.

MAILING LIST

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, and would like to be placed on the NAS Alameda site mailing list, please fill out this coupon and return to **Virginia Felker-Thorpe, NAS Alameda** (address on back cover).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE (optional): _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This fact sheet is part of the on-going community relations program to keep individuals informed of cleanup activities at NAS Alameda. In October and November 1988, interviews were conducted in Alameda with residents and local officials to gather input for the site's community relations plan. In addition, a public meeting to discuss the site was held on September 26, 1988, and an information release was sent to NAS Alameda departments and tenant activities in January 1990 to update them on site activities.

If you have any questions about the upcoming investigations at NAS Alameda, please contact:

Virginia Felker-Thorpe
Public Affairs Officer
NAS Alameda
Building 1, Room 161
Alameda, CA 94501-5000
(415) 263-3079

or

Randy Cate
Environmental Officer (Code 52)
NAS Alameda
Building 114, Room 207
Alameda, CA 94501-5000
(415) 263-3716

Copies of the community relations plan and all site-related documents are available at the information repository in Alameda:

Alameda Public Library
Main Branch
2264 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, California 94501
(415) 522-5413

HOURS	
Monday & Wednesday	9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday	9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

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