



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

Fact Sheet No. 5

November 1995

MCAS El Toro's Building 673-T3 is Certified for Closure

The closing of MCAS El Toro's Building 673-T3 was carried out under provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The building, located just off East Marine Way in the eastern corner of the base, is shown in Figure 1.

In general, RCRA requires that structures and facilities in which hazardous wastes were stored obtain a permit from the State of California for this use. When a permitted facility is closed down, it must first be cleansed of potential contamination. Building 673-T3 falls under RCRA's provisions, since it was used as a State of California-permitted hazardous waste storage building from June 1992 to August 1994.

Building 673-T3 stored hazardous wastes such as oil, gasoline, cleaning compounds, paints, fuel filters, old batteries, nitric acid, and lead-based paints. These hazardous wastes, generated by day-to-day base operations, were accumulated in small containers and then transferred to Building 673-T3. At this centralized storage building, wastes were consolidated into larger containers to increase the suitability for recycling and to reduce transportation and disposal costs.

OHM Remediation Services Corporation of Irvine carried out the decontamination and closure of the building during June and July of 1995 under a contract awarded by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command's Southwest Division. Following basewide safety and health procedures, OHM workers:

- used dry vacuuming, scrubbing, and pressure washing to clean the building's floors and walls

- collected and analyzed wash water and soil samples to ensure that contaminants were reduced to levels acceptable to the State of California following

the cleaning

- disposed of solid wastes and water generated by the cleaning process at an off-base waste disposal facility.

The cleanup was carried out under the guidance of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Department of Toxic Substances Control), as well as the MCAS El Toro Environment and Safety Department. Ongoing base activities that generate additional waste materials are regulated by RCRA. These wastes are stored less than 90 days at a temporary accumulation area near Building 900

(shown in Figure 1) prior to transfer off-base. Temporary accumulation areas do not require storage permits from the state.

This is the fifth in a series of communications issued during the investigation and cleanup process at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro, California. Future fact sheets will provide updates on further progress and will inform you of opportunities for public involvement.

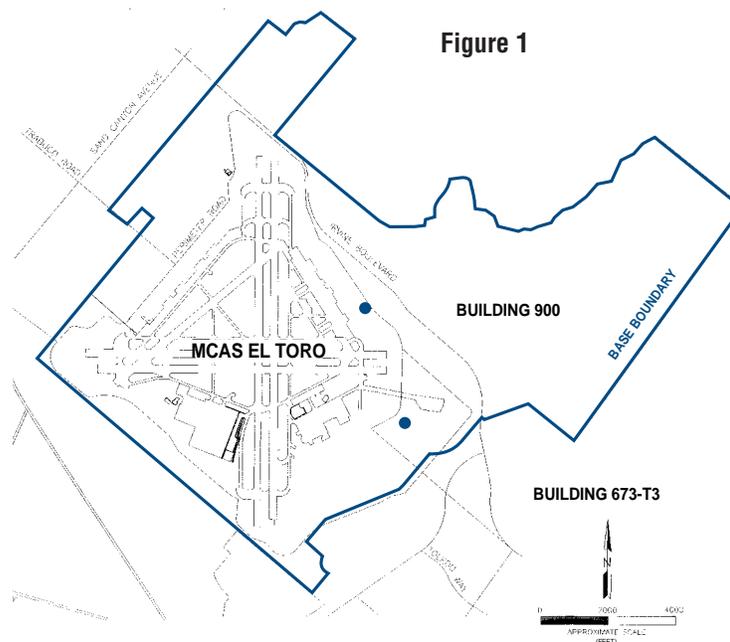


Figure 1

MCAS El Toro, located along the eastern boundary of the city of Irvine and the northern boundary of the city of Lake Forest, encompasses 4,741 acres of runways, aircraft maintenance and training installations, housing and shopping areas, and other support facilities. The base was first established in 1943 as a Marine Corps pilots fleet operation training base. Seven years later, it was selected for development as a master jet air station and as a permanent center for Marine aviation on the West Coast to support the operations and combat readiness of Pacific Fleet Marine forces. The base will close in 1999 as a result of the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure law.

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 the information repository listed below (please call the library for operating hours):

Heritage Park Regional Library

14361 Yale Avenue
Irvine, CA 92714
(714) 551-7151

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

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If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive information about environmental restoration activities at MCAS El Toro, please fill out the coupon below and mail it to Mr. Joseph Joyce, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, AC/S, Environmental (1AU), MCAS El Toro, P.O. Box 95001, Santa Ana, CA 92709-5001.

- Add me to the MCAS El Toro Installation Restoration Program mailing list.
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Commanding General
Attn: Mr. Joseph Joyce
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