



Naval Air Station NORTH ISLAND

Fact Sheet No. 1

February 1992

This fact sheet will tell you about...

- The investigation of hazardous waste contamination and environmental restoration at Naval Air Station, North Island.
- The site investigation process, the sources of contamination and upcoming field activities.
- The role of the U.S. Navy and California Department of Toxic Substances Control.
- The U.S. Navy's next step in clean-up activities.
- How you can obtain more information and become more involved in Base cleanup activities.

PUBLIC MEETING

The U.S. Navy is sponsoring a public meeting to discuss Naval Air Station, North Island's cleanup activities with the residents and other interested community members of Coronado and the surrounding area. The U.S. Navy and the Department of Toxic Substances Control representatives will respond to questions about the site, the environmental investigation, and the Installation Restoration Program.

Date: Thursday, February 27, 1992

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Coronado City Hall
Council Chambers
1825 Strand Way
Coronado, CA 92118

Introduction

This is the first in a series of fact sheets to inform you of the investigation of hazardous waste contamination and environmental restoration at Naval Air Station, North Island (NASNI). NASNI is a 2,520 acre base located west of the City of Coronado at the San Diego Bay peninsula. (Figure 1 shows the location of NASNI.) NASNI is surrounded by water on its northern, western, and southern borders. Land uses to the east of NASNI include Navy-related industries as well as residential, commercial, and other industrial uses. ■

Site History

Since 1917, NASNI has supported aviation activities of the Naval Operating Forces. During the operation and maintenance of aircraft at NASNI, hazardous wastes have been generated.

These wastes include paint, used oil, scrap metal, solvents, and contaminated rinse water. These wastes were commonly disposed of on site or through the sewer system to the Bay. In 1972 the Navy constructed a treatment plant to treat industrial wastewater before discharge to the sanitary sewer system.

Chemical wastes such as solvents, acids and paint residues were previously disposed of at an on-site chemical waste disposal site.

Trash and other solid waste was disposed of at the Spanish Bight Landfill until 1942, and at the golf course disposal area until 1965. Solid waste is now

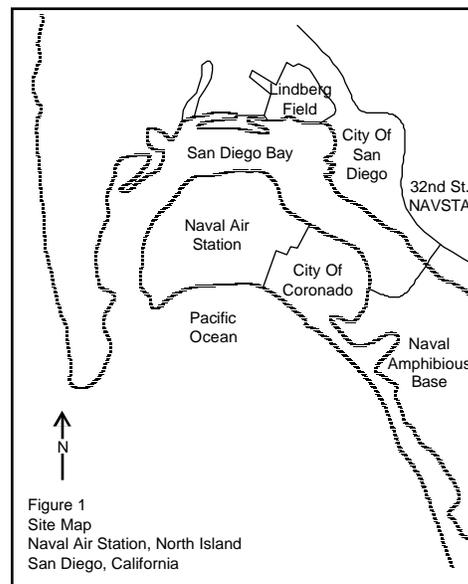


Figure 1
Site Map
Naval Air Station, North Island
San Diego, California

managed through the public works center and disposed of at appropriate off-site disposal facilities.

These past hazardous waste disposal practices have resulted in areas of potential hazardous waste contamination at NASNI. The Navy is now undertaking investigations to determine the extent of contamination and possible cleanup methods. ■

Biological Resources

NASNI contains sensitive plants and animals. There are 15 rare or endangered bird species in the immediate vicinity of the site. One endangered bird, the California least tern, nests directly on NASNI.

San Diego Bay is the largest marine bay and estuary in Southern California. Several sensitive marine habitats are found within a half-mile of the Base. ■

Cleanup Program

The U.S. Navy is investigating hazardous waste contamination at NASNI as part of its Installation Restoration Program (IR Program). The IR Program is the Navy's environmental cleanup program to meet the requirements of Federal law. Through the IR Program, the Navy is evaluating and will clean up disposal sites where past Navy practices may have resulted in contamination of soil and/or groundwater. (Figure 2 shows the steps in the clean-up process).

At NASNI, the IR Program investigation is being done in compliance with a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Program. RCRA is the Federal law governing hazardous waste management. This Act establishes standards for safe treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes. The primary objective of the IR Program is to protect public health and the environment by effective investigation and cleanup of hazardous waste sites.

The State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the organization responsible for overseeing the investigation and cleanup of sites at NASNI. In addition, NASNI and DTSC are committed to establishing an ongoing two-way communication process that provides information to the public and responds to questions and concerns in a responsive and timely fashion. ■

Site Investigation

The site investigation will characterize the types and quantities of hazardous waste contamination at and near NASNI.

A Preliminary Assessment of NASNI conducted in 1983, identified 12 potentially contaminated areas. These contaminated areas include the soil, groundwater, surface water, Bay and ocean sediments in and around NASNI. Figure 3 indicates the approximate locations of the 12 sites.

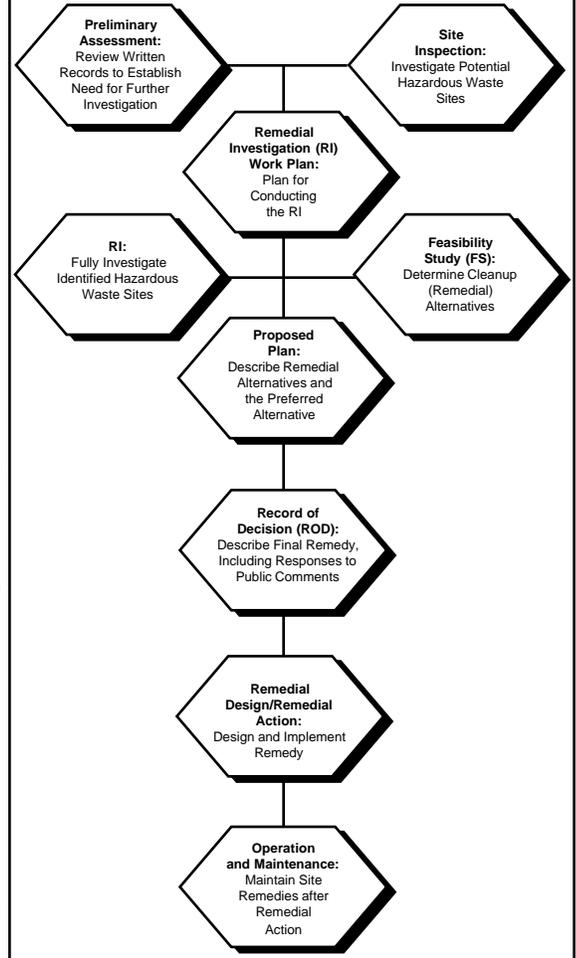
Many of the chemical contaminants identified at the various NASNI sites have been used during aircraft maintenance operations at or near the site. These chemicals include oil byproducts, volatile organic compounds (carbon-based chemicals that evaporate easily) heavy metals, herbicides/pesticides, and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).

Following the Preliminary Assessment, a Remedial Investigation (RI) is conducted at NASNI. Ten of the 12 sites identified will be investigated in more detail (one site was determined not to be a hazardous waste site and the other is being investigated under a different program). This detailed investigation will further determine what types of contaminants are present, what areas are contaminated, and if public health or the environment are threatened by the contamination.

Although there is no immediate threat to the public, the investigation will evaluate the potential for long-term impacts to site personnel, Base residents, users of local recreational facilities (i.e. golf course, parks and Bay), and plant, animal and marine habitats.

The NASNI team is examining the sites and surrounding areas through an extensive sampling program. This program began in August 1991 and is expected to conclude in 1994. The field investigation includes the installation of groundwater sampling wells, and the collection of soil, groundwater, Bay water, and Bay and ocean sediment samples for analysis. The results of these sampling activities will be used to determine the extent of contamination and cleanup alternatives for the contaminated areas.

Figure 2
Steps in the Investigation and Remediation Process



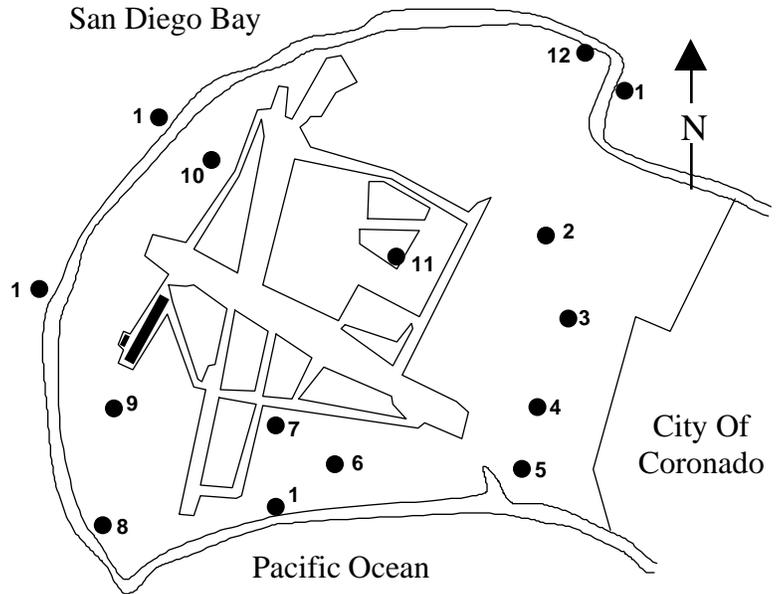
Health & Safety

A Health and Safety Plan was prepared to support NASNI field efforts. This plan includes procedures for personal protection, personnel and equipment safety, medical assistance, and general work practices. All members of the site investigation team have been trained on proper emergency procedures including emergency response and first-aid capabilities associated with the NASNI sites. ■

Figure 3
Potentially Contaminated Areas of NASNI

1. Harbor Sediments
2. Old Spanish Bight Landfill
3. Golf Course Chemical Rinse Area
4. Public Works Salvage Yard
5. Golf Course Garbage Disposal Area
6. Heritage Park Public Works Salvage Yard
7. Building 39 Runoff Catchment Area
8. Weapons Center Bombing Range¹
9. Chemical Waste Disposal Area
10. DRMO Property Disposal Area
11. Industrial Waste Treatment Beds²
12. Buried Gasoline Supply Pipe Leak

¹ Determined not to be a hazardous waste site.
² Eliminated as an IR Program site.



The Community Relations Program

The goals of the Community Relations Program are to inform the community about the investigation activities and environmental cleanup and to provide the community with opportunities to comment on these activities. To accomplish these goals, community meetings and public comment periods will be held at critical decision points in the process. A public comment period will give community members an opportunity to review and comment on the cleanup alternative(s) proposed for NASNI. Residents of the community will be notified of the opportunity to participate by mailings, advertisements in local papers, and announcements on local radio stations. The notification will inform members of the public that their comments will be considered before a decision is made on cleanup alternatives. During the public comment periods, concerns voiced by the community will be considered and responded to in writing in a document called the Responsiveness Summary.

Public notices about upcoming public comment periods and meetings will be published in local newspapers and in the North Islander (Base newspaper).

Community Technical Assistant Contracts (CTAC)

To encourage involvement and to better inform citizens about hazardous waste activities in their communities, the DTSC has established the Community Technical Assistance Contract (CTAC) grant program. Through this program, grants of up to \$25,000 in the form of services may be awarded to qualifying community groups. This group must select a technical expert from a California University to interpret sampling results, reports, and other information related to a site cleanup.

For more information on the CTAC program, please write:

Claire Best
 Department of Toxic Substances Control
 245 W. Broadway, Ste. 350
 Long Beach, CA 90802
 (310) 590-4949

MAILING LIST

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, then you are not on our mailing list. If you wish to be placed on the Naval Air Station, North Island activity site mailing list, please complete this form, detach, and mail to:

Ken Mitchell
Public Affairs Officer
Naval Air Station, North Island
Building 605
San Diego, CA 92135

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____
 Affiliation _____

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

If you would like more information about the investigation or the Installation Restoration Program, copies of laws, reports, and other documents are available for review at two information repositories. The information repositories for the Naval Air Station, North Island are located at:

**Naval Air Station, North Island
Public Affairs Office
Building 605
San Diego, CA 92135**

**Coronado Public Library
640 Orange Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118-1526**

Due to refurbishing of the Coronado Public Library, the Information Repository will be temporarily relocated to the Naval Facilities building from February 11 through March 1, 1992.

**Commander Tower's Office
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Southwest Division
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have additional questions after reviewing the information contained in the repository, please write to Ken Mitchell or Claire Best.

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Naval Air Station NORTH ISLAND

Public Affairs Office
Building 605
San Diego, CA 92135

PUBLIC MEETING

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