



NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND CORONADO

FACT SHEET NO. 10

May 1998

This fact sheet will tell you about...

- The investigation of hazardous waste contamination and environmental restoration at Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island
- The status of the Navy Installation Restoration cleanup program at NAS North Island
- The role of the U.S. Navy and California Department of Toxic Substances Control
- The U.S. Navy's next step in cleanup activities
- How you can obtain more information and become more involved in Base cleanup activities

INTRODUCTION

This is one in a series of fact sheets to inform you of the investigation of hazardous waste contamination and environmental restoration at NAS North Island. NAS North Island is a 2,520-acre base located primarily within the city of Coronado at the San Diego Bay peninsula (see Figure 1). NAS North Island is surrounded by water on its northern, western, and southern borders. Land uses to the east of NAS North Island include Navy-related industries, residential, commercial, and other industrial uses.

NAS North Island Restoration Advisory Board

The U.S. Navy sponsors monthly public meetings to discuss the Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island cleanup activities with the residents and other interested community members of Coronado and the surrounding area. The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is an advisory

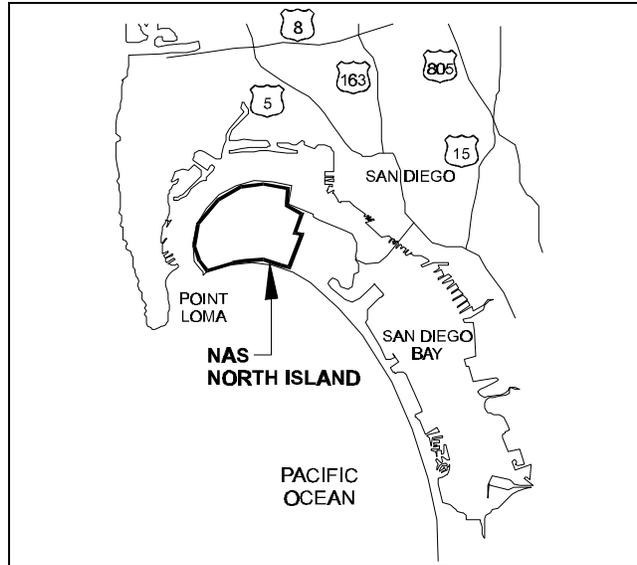


Figure 1 Vicinity Map

body that acts as a focal point for the exchange of information about environmental restoration activities between a military installation and the local community. The RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect diverse interests within the local community, enabling early and continued dialogue between the affected community and the Navy's cleanup team.

A RAB has been meeting regularly at NAS North Island since its inception in 1994. NAS North Island RAB members are active in reviewing reports of investigations and cleanup activities underway at the installation. The NAS North Island RAB is actively looking for new members. Membership priority is given to community members who are affected by site cleanup programs.

The NAS North Island RAB meets monthly at the Coronado Library to review and comment on documents and plans relating to ongoing environmental cleanup projects at NAS North Island. Technical support

staff are available to provide information support to the RAB, so a technical background is not required for membership. Members are expected to serve as a liaison to the community and be available to meet with various community members and groups.

In 1997, NAS North Island and Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado were operationally consolidated into a single administrative command. Plans are underway in 1998 to incorporate NAB

Coronado into the NAS North Island RAB, thus creating one RAB for both bases. This fact sheet is one of several community outreach activities underway to reach an audience that is interested in environmental cleanup activities at both NAS North Island and NAB Coronado.

All RAB meetings are open to the public. To find out more about becoming an advisory board member, or simply to hear about what's going on at NAS North Island and the plan to incorporate NAB Coronado into the advisory board process, please attend the June RAB meeting.

Date: June 18, 1998

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Winn Room,
Coronado Public Library,
640 Orange Avenue,
Coronado, CA

A Restoration Advisory Board membership application is included with this fact sheet.

SITE HISTORY

Since 1917, NAS North Island has supported aviation activities of the Naval Operating Forces. During the operation and maintenance of aircraft at NAS North Island, hazardous wastes have been generated. These wastes include paint, used oil, scrap metal, solvents, and contaminated rinsewater. Such wastes were commonly disposed of on-site or through the storm drain system to the San Diego 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 area until the mid-1970s. Trash and other solid waste was disposed of at the Spanish Bight Landfill (until the mid-1940s) and at the golf course disposal area (until 1965). Solid and hazardous wastes are now managed

through the Navy Public Works Center and disposed of at appropriate off-site disposal facilities.

These past hazardous waste disposal practices have resulted in areas of hazardous waste contamination at NAS North Island. The Navy is currently conducting investigations to determine the extent of contamination and evaluate various cleanup methods.

CLEANUP PROGRAM

The U.S. Navy is investigating hazardous waste contamination at NAS North Island as part of its Installation Restoration Program (IR Program). The IR Program, initially established by the Department of Defense in 1980, is the Navy's environmental cleanup program that has been designed to meet the requirements of federal law. Through the IR Program, the Navy is evaluating and cleaning up disposal sites where past Navy practices have resulted in

contamination of soil and/or groundwater. Figure 2 shows the steps in the Navy's IR Program.

Throughout the various steps of the IR Program, response actions such as the removal of wastes or other materials may need to be done at any time. Called "removal actions," such actions are necessary if it is determined that there is a potential threat to human health or the environment that needs to be promptly addressed.

At NAS North Island, the IR Program investigation is being conducted under the 1997 Hazardous Waste Facility Permit issued to the Navy Public Works Center by the state of California. The permit requires that corrective action be carried out under the Corrective Action Order issued by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to the Navy Public Works Center on May 30, 1997, or through a Federal Facilities Site Remediation Agreement entered into by DTSC and the Navy if it supersedes the Corrective Action Order.

The purpose of the Federal Facilities Site Remediation Agreement is to address releases of hazardous wastes at the facility. The primary objective of the IR Program and the Agreement is to protect human health and the environment by effective investigation and cleanup of hazardous waste sites.

In addition, NAS North Island and DTSC—with technical and regulatory support from another state agency, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board—are committed to establishing an ongoing, two-way communication process that provides information to the public and responds to questions and concerns in an effective and timely way. More information will be coming in the near future as the investigation and cleanup work progresses at NAS North Island.

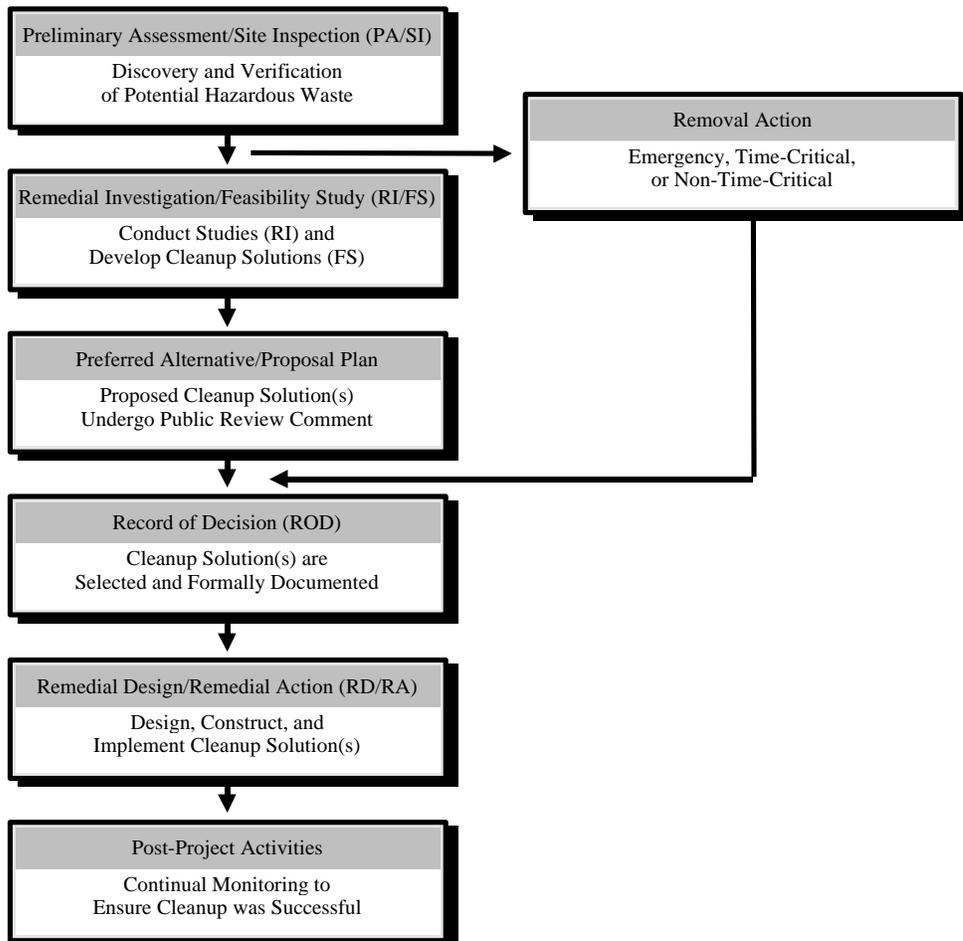


Figure 2 IR Program Process

IR PROGRAM SITES

The following are brief descriptions of the IR Program sites at NAS North Island. Specific site locations are shown on Figure 3. Refer to Figure 2 for explanation of the IR Program steps (presented in **bold type** below).

Site 1, Shoreline Sediments

Site 1 consists of shoreline sediments (solid materials such as sand and silt that have settled out) in the areas of storm drain outfalls that are known to have carried industrial hazardous wastes to the Pacific Ocean and San Diego Bay between 1917 and 1972. Wastes discharged through these outfalls included caustics, detergents, paint strippers and residues, metal cleaners, solvents, oils, and plating wastes.

Outfalls 1–8 and 16

A **Remedial Investigation** was performed in 1996 to study surface and subsurface sediment near these outfalls. The results were compared against several sets of data, including two National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration sediment guidelines. Several chemicals were elevated in the sediment samples. A baseline human-health risk assessment and a **Feasibility Study** are being considered for Outfalls 1-8 and 16.

Outfalls 9–15

A **removal action** was performed at Outfalls 9-15, which took advantage of military construction for the homeporting of a NIMITZ-class aircraft carrier. The construction project consisted of dredging the carrier turning basin and constructing a 13.4-acre fill area behind a rock dike. The dredged-fill sediments from the turning basin, deemed unsuitable for ocean disposal, were placed within the fill area and over the Outfalls 9-15 sediment. This area became a “confined disposal facility.” The dredging and disposal were overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, whose concern is preventing contaminants from reaching San Diego Bay. Completion of the confined disposal facility

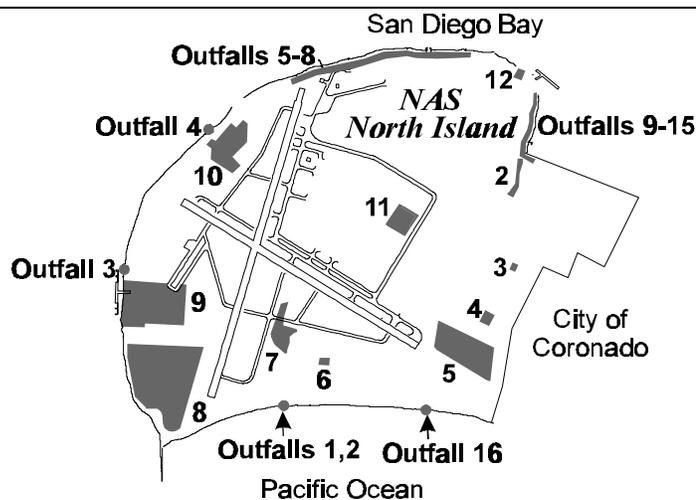


Figure 3 Site Locations at NAS North Island

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Shoreline Sediments (Outfalls 1-16) | 7. Building 39, Runoff Catchment Area |
| 2. Old Spanish Bight Landfill | 8. Weapons Center Bombing Range* |
| 3. Golf Course Chemical Rinse Area | 9. Chemical Waste Disposal Area |
| 4. Public Works Salvage Yard | 10. DRMO Property Disposal Area |
| 5. Golf Course Garbage Disposal Area | 11. IWTP Storage Area |
| 6. Heritage Park Public Works Salvage Yard | 12. Buried Gasoline Supply Pipe Leak |

*determined not to be a hazardous waste site, eliminated as an IR Program site

(paving), a groundwater monitoring program, and a **Remedial Investigation** are planned for these outfalls in 1998.

Site 2, Old Spanish Bight Landfill

This site originally consisted of a disposal area on the slope of the bluff overlooking the northern end of the Spanish Bight. It was operated from approximately 1917 to 1945, when it was replaced by the Golf Course Garbage Disposal Area (Site 5), at the southern end of the Spanish Bight. It is assumed that solid waste materials from the NAS North Island administrative and industrial operations, interspersed with small quantities of liquid hazardous wastes, were disposed of at this site. The hazardous materials may have included oils, solvents, acids, caustics, paints, metal sludges, various cleaning chemicals, and low-level radioactive-contaminated metals. A general trash incinerator operated at the south end of the site from approximately 1938 to the mid-1940s. Ash was once visible in a vertical cut southeast of the former incinerator site.

Various field investigations have been performed at Site 2. A **Site Inspection** was concluded in 1997.

A **Removal Action** was completed to install a cap over exposed landfill ash and construct an engineered slope to prevent erosion, surface runoff, and airborne emissions from the exposed incinerator ash in the exposed landfill outcrop. This has reduced the risk to human health and the environment at this area of Site 2. In addition, a **Removal Action** at two small areas of low-level radioactive materials will be conducted within the next several months.

Site 3, Golf Course Chemical Rinse Area

This site is a 1-acre area located at the golf course grounds maintenance building. The building was used between 1961 and 1980 for disposal of rinsewater containing golf course chemicals such as diluted herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. A **Site Inspection** at Site 3 was concluded in 1997. Field investigations, including soil sampling, showed that low levels of chlorinated pesticides existed in the golf course grounds maintenance yard that contained the former chemical rinse area. Because the levels were below federal and state levels requiring cleanup, this site has been recommended for no further action.

Site 4, Public Works Salvage Yard

This site is adjacent to the golf course and north of the driving range. It covers approximately 3 acres of unpaved surface. From 1967-1976, equipment and materials associated with the Public Works Department were stored in the area, including electrical transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In 1978 the transformers were removed and disposed of off-site. One of the transformers was reported to be leaking. In 1994, soils containing elevated levels of PCBs were removed and "solvent washed" to reduce PCBs to within regulatory levels. Soils with low levels of PCBs (levels not requiring removal) were covered with a layer of solvent-washed soil and capped in place with a 2-foot-thick layer of clean soil. Groundwater monitoring will be conducted.

Site 5, Golf Course Garbage Disposal Area

From the mid-1940s to 1965, this site operated as the only solid waste disposal site at NAS North Island. In the 1940s, chemical wastes that were not discharged to the drain system or the chemical waste disposal area at Site 9 may have been disposed of at this landfill. Wastes reportedly were burned periodically for volume reduction. A maximum of 30 acres were involved in waste disposal operations. The site was regraded minimally in the early 1980s during construction of the present golf course. Hazardous materials reported to have been disposed of at this site include oils, solvents, acids, caustics, paints, heavy metal sludges, asbestos, and sand-blasting residue.

A **Remedial Investigation** recently has been completed at Site 5. This site was divided into two areas for study. Unit 1 is the inactive landfill and Unit 2 is an area of soil and groundwater contaminated with volatile organic compounds ([VOCs]; chemicals that volatilize, or evaporate readily, in the air). Soil and groundwater at Unit 1 contained metals and low levels of PCBs. Unit 1 was recommended for groundwater monitoring and surface maintenance. California DTSC is currently reviewing groundwater monitoring results to determine future cleanup action. A demonstration of an innovative cleanup technology is being

conducted at Site 5, Unit 2. This demonstration will evaluate whether natural breakdown of chemicals is occurring at the site.

Site 6, Seaview Heritage Public Works Salvage Yard

Starting in the 1940s, this site was used by the Public Works Center to store excess materials from construction projects, including electrical transformers containing PCBs. In 1965, storage at Site 6 was terminated. Fill material was imported, and sod was planted in association with development of recreation activities and the present-day Seaview Heritage Park. A **Remedial Investigation** was conducted in 1995. Soil and groundwater sampling were performed to determine PCB concentrations at this site. A **Removal Action** excavated PCB-contaminated soil and removed it to an off-site disposal facility. A closeout report is being prepared for review by DTSC. No further action is recommended for Site 6.

Site 7, Building 39 Runoff Catchment Area

This site consists of approximately 15 to 20 acres surrounding Building 39 in the southwest portion of the base. Past waste disposal practices included spillage as well as surface disposal of waste oils and fluids, sandblast grit, solvents, detergents, and other cleaning agents. Fire-fighting training was conducted here using flammable liquids, typically spent jet fuel. Training was confined to a concrete pad and in 1980 additional paving was provided around the area to control runoff. A **Site Inspection** was concluded in 1997. Contaminants of concern included petroleum and chlorinated hydrocarbons in the soil, sediment and groundwater, and heavy metals in the soil. The levels of contaminants detected, however, were below federal and state levels requiring cleanup. Sandblast grit has been removed, and Site 7 has been recommended for no further action.

Site 8, Weapons Center Bombing Range

This site is within the restricted Weapons Center located at the

southwest corner of NAS. From 1917 to 1927, prior to Navy acquisition of this property, the Army used the area as an artillery and aerial bombing range. The quantity of unexploded ordnance is unknown; however, no reportable incidents from buried ordnance have ever been documented. Ordnance sweeps have been conducted at Site 8 prior to construction activities. The potential threat to human health and the environment was determined to be minimal, due to the nature of the material and its location in a high-security area with restricted access. This site has been eliminated from the IR Program by the California DTSC because it determined that wastes were not disposed of here.

Site 9, Chemical Waste Disposal Area

This site is a 38-acre parcel that operated as a waste disposal area from the 1940s to the late 1970s before the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (Site 11) began operation. It consisted of three major waste disposal operations: a shallow pit used for disposal of liquid wastes from portable tanks; four parallel trenches, each containing different types of wastes (solvents, caustics, acids, and semisynthetics consisting of ceramic and metallic compounds); a low-level radioactive material storage yard; and a large unimproved area used for burying drums containing unidentified wastes.

A **Remedial Investigation** is being conducted to specifically identify contaminated areas at Site 9. A **Removal Action** is also being conducted at Site 9 to reduce the levels of VOCs in the soil. Several demonstrations of innovative cleanup technologies are also operating at Site 9, including the most recent, the NoVOCs™ in-well technology for removing VOCs in groundwater. In addition, a **Removal Action** for a small area containing low-level radioactive materials will be conducted within the next several months.

Site 10, Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) Property Disposal Area

Since the 1940s, surplus materials related to aircraft operation and maintenance activities (e.g., electrical equipment and communication gear) were hand sorted and separated at Site 10. Aircraft were dismantled to salvage reusable parts, and the remaining parts were reduced to scrap for sale off-site. Prior to the 1970s, an unpaved area within Site 10 was used for destruction of classified electronic components, storage of scrap metal, and draining of residual fluids from electrical transformers. From 1943 through the mid-1960s, a smelter was in operation at Site 10 to melt aluminum scrap. Slag generated by the smelter was disposed of at the shoreline near the salvage yard.

Results of a recent **Remedial Investigation** at Site 10 showed PCBs and heavy metals contamination in soils and local groundwater. Further studies detected low-level radioactivity of aircraft debris occurring within the PCB-contaminated soils. In 1995, a **Time-Critical Removal Action** was conducted to excavate PCB-contaminated soils. The PCB-contaminated soils and radioactive soils were segregated and both containerized and taken off-site for disposal. Also in 1995, smelter slag deposited along the shoreline near Site 10 was found to exhibit low-level radioactivity. An **Emergency Removal Action** resulted in the excavation of 20,000 cubic feet of slag, which was containerized in bins and disposed of at a low-level radioactive waste repository. Additional investigation of the shoreline slag area is in progress.

Site 11, Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (IWTP)

At the IWTP, constructed in 1972, industrial waste surface impoundments lined with concrete or polyvinyl chloride were an integral part of the processing of waste streams containing hazardous materials. The surface impoundments contained paints, solvents, chromic acids, and other wastes. The use of surface impoundments was phased out between 1987 and 1988 in compliance with the California Toxic Pits Cleanup Act. Four additional surface impoundments at the

Oily Waste Treatment Plant (OWTP), adjacent to the IWTP, are also no longer in use. A comprehensive plan addressing site cleanup is being prepared. The plan includes various confirmatory field investigations. A site characterization report and engineering **Feasibility Study** were completed in 1995 and 1997, respectively. Results generally suggest that soils and groundwater beneath the IWTP and OWTP impoundments are contaminated with VOCs and inorganic metals. A **Removal Action** to remove VOCs from the soil has been completed at Site 11. A soil and asphalt cap is planned to prevent human contact with metals.

Site 12, Buried Gasoline Supply Pipe Leak Area

In the 1950s, a buried pipeline supplied a fueling station, consisting of four aboveground tanks and four underground tanks. A major leak in the pipeline was discovered when high tide brought gasoline to the surface, releasing hydrocarbon fumes. Recovery wells were installed to pump out the gasoline. In 1995, DTSC relinquished regulatory control of Site 12 because it did not have regulatory authority over petroleum products. In 1996, the Regional Water Quality Control Board announced that no further action was necessary. A **Site Inspection** was concluded in 1997. Site 12 is now used as a parking lot.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public has the opportunity and is invited to participate in the IR Program process at NAS North Island. The RAB (see front page) is one vehicle for public involvement. The RAB is advised of the cleanup work at NAS North Island and has provided input on actions at Sites 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, and 11. The 1995 Community Relations Plan for NAS North Island set forth a program for establishing two-way communication between the Navy and the community surrounding NAS North Island regarding environmental cleanup activities. The Plan will be updated this year, and additional opportunities will exist for the public's participation in community

interviews that will be conducted to help develop the updated Plan.

Please plan to attend the June 18 Restoration Advisory Board meeting for NAS North Island (see cover page) for further information.

A document addressing removal of low-level radioactive materials at Sites 2 and 9 is available now for public review and comment at the information repository (below). The comment period for this document closes on June 18.

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

An information repository—a publicly accessible location where IR Program-related documents and information are available—was established in 1994 for NAS North Island at the Coronado Public Library, located at 620 Orange Avenue in the city of Coronado. The library hours are as follows:

Monday-Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday:
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday:
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For More Information...

For more information on the Installation Restoration Program underway at NAS, or to find out more about the Restoration Advisory Board, please contact:

Ken Mitchell
Public Affairs Office
NAS North Island
Building 605
San Diego, CA 92135
(619) 545-8167
e-mail: kmitchell@nasni.navy.mil

or

Marsha Mingay
Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5416

See the Navy's Web Site at <http://neln.navy.mil/ir.htm> for more information on the NAS North Island cleanup program.

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 NAS North Island mailing list, please complete this form, clip, and mail to:

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

Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Affiliation (optional) _____

E-mail _____

Naval Air Station
NORTH ISLAND
Public Affairs Office
Building 605
San Diego, CA 92135

INSIDE: INFORMATION ON

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
June 18, 1998, 6:30 P.M
Winn Room, Coronado Public Library
Coronado, CA