

SALTON SEA TEST BASE



FACT SHEET

SOUTHWEST DIVISION NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Investigation and Clearance of Ordnance and Explosives at SSTB

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth in a series of brief monthly updates on the environmental cleanup at Salton Sea Test Base (SSTB). This fact sheet presents an overview of the fieldwork scheduled to begin in August involving an investigation and clearance of any exploded and/or unexploded ordnance that may remain on SSTB property. Ordnance is defined as military supplies including weapons, ammunition, and other related tools and equipment. The back page includes information about the public meeting to be held on **14 August 1996** to inform the public about the purpose of the project, the procedures that will be followed, and cooperation requested of the community during the course of the activity.

ORDNANCE AT SSTB

Past military activities conducted at SSTB included target practice, and limited and infrequent training exercises aimed at simulating field situations. The following ordnance associated with these types of activities have been identified at the base and are expected to be found during the investigation:

- Smoke mortar cartridges, smoke canister grenades, and smoke rifle grenades. These provided various color smokes that would create cover or indicate artillery travel path and landing locations.
- Illuminating mortar cartridges, signal ground mortars, and grenade pyrotechnics. These provided lights for night-time visibility of targets or landing strips, visual and audio signals, and simulated battle noises and effects.
- High explosive mortar cartridges, and expended and live small arms ammunition and ammunition clips.

PROJECT SUMMARY

In order for SSTB to be turned over for reuse and considered safe for recreation, an investigation and clearance for ordnance must be conducted. A comprehensive work plan has been developed to locate and remove ordnance, explosives, and related debris by using a systematic approach and a proven, technically sound, and operationally safe methodology. This Final Surface Clearance and Investigation Work Plan was released for 30-day review on 17 June 1996 and is available to the public at the information repositories listed on the back of this fact sheet. The plan consists of three phases: mobilization, operations, and demobilization.

The goal of the mobilization phase is to assure that proper attention is dedicated to preparing and training for the investigation and cleanup operations. This phase will include coordinating with local agencies, hiring and training local labor, and conducting public awareness activities as needed.

Operations will include the use of sophisticated technology to mark off the areas to be investigated into grids and lanes. Each grid will be investigated to a depth of four feet by survey teams trained to identify potential ordnance. This investigation will be conducted both visually and with the use of magnetometers, highly sensitive subsurface metal detectors. Subsurface sampling, including excavation and identification, will be conducted if any suspicious items or areas are detected. If unexploded ordnance is located, it will be destroyed by detonation. All demolition holes will be backfilled. Any expended ordnance will be moved to a scrap-collection location and later removed by a local scrap dealer.

Demobilization will include removing personnel and equipment from the base, compiling data, and producing a final report. Operations will take approximately eight months to complete. The final report is expected to be issued in early 1997. ■

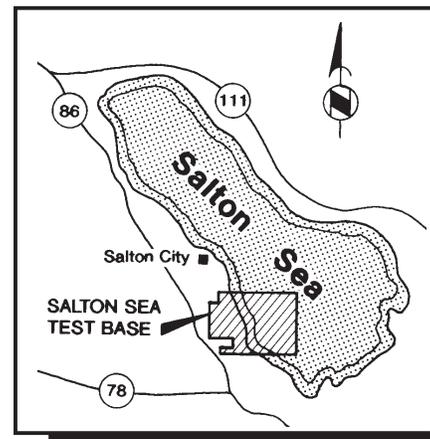
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

All ordnance clearance operations will be coordinated with a designated Environmental Specialist and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and are designed to leave the property in as near a natural condition as possible. This coordination will minimize impacts to wetlands, protected species and habitats, and archaeological resource areas.

Before any ground-disturbing activities are conducted at SSTB, the National Historic Preservation Act requires that a Memorandum of Agreement among the concerned agencies is developed and signed. Presently, this draft agreement is being reviewed and will be signed by representatives from the following agencies:

- Department of the Navy
- California State Historic Preservation Officer
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Bureau of Reclamation

Thirteen local Native American tribes have been notified and will be kept informed of the process. Those expressing an interest will be consulted and invited to review the Memorandum of Agreement. ■



Public Meeting

A public meeting is scheduled for **14 August 1996**, at **7:00 PM**, at the Senior Citizens' Club in Salton City. This meeting will discuss in greater detail the ordnance investigation and clearance and provide an opportunity for the public to ask the Navy questions about the project. Regulatory representatives will also be available to answer questions.

Information Repositories for the SSTB cleanup project have been established at two locations in the area so that the local community has the opportunity to review project documents and reports:

Salton City Library

2098 Frontage Road (Hwy 86)
Salton City, CA (619) 394-4446

Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri
8:00 AM - NOON
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Spencer Library Media Center

Imperial Valley College, Aten Road/Hwy 111
Imperial, CA (619) 355-6377

Hours: Mon-Thur: 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Fri: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sat: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
(except holidays)

In addition, documents, reports, and Restoration Advisory Board meeting minutes and agendas are available at the reading room of the Salton City Spa and RV Park in Salton City. Please contact Ms. Shirley Lee Palmer at (619) 394-4333 for hours.

For More Information

Mike Radecki

Remedial Project Manager
Southwest Division Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
1220 Pacific Hwy., Code 1832.MR
San Diego, CA 92132-5190
(619) 532-2450

Jennifer Rich

Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances
Control (DTSC)
245 West Broadway, Suite 350
Long Beach, CA 90802-4444
(310) 590-4914

Shirley Lee Palmer

SSTB RAB Community Co-Chair
P.O. Box 5375 Salton City CA 92275
(619) 394-4333

MAILING LIST

Mike Radecki

Remedial Project Manager
Southwest Division Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
1220 Pacific Hwy., Code 1832.MR
San Diego, CA 92132-5190

- Please DELETE my name from the SSTB mailing list
- Please ADD my name to the SSTB mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Affiliation: _____

If you would like to either remove your name from or add your name to the SSTB mailing list, please fill out the coupon above and mail to the address shown.

Thank you!

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Southwest Division

Naval Facilities Engineering Command

1220 Pacific Highway, Code 18

San Diego, CA 92132-5190

INSIDE:

- *Information on the investigation and clearance of ordnance and explosives at SSTB*
- *Announcement: 14 August 1996 Public Meeting*