



# Moffett Field – Hangar 1

## Update No. 1

*Moffett Field, California*

*September 2003*

### Introduction

Hangar 1 on the Former Naval Air Station Moffett Field (Moffett) is a Civil Engineering Landmark of Northern California, a contributing structure to the Shenandoah Plaza National Historic District, and one of the most recognizable features in the San Francisco Bay Area. As a testament to Navy engineering, Hangar 1 was constructed in 1932 to house the giant airship U.S.S. Macon. For both the Army and the Navy, the hangar also provided space for maintenance of aircraft, training facilities, and offices for Navy patrol squadrons. Its floor covers eight acres — or the equivalent of 10 football fields — and it stands 200 feet high. Hangar 1 is part of the property transferred to NASA Ames Research Center (NASA) in 1994. Recently, it housed the Moffett Field Historical Society Museum and was also used as a display space for air shows, open houses, and various commercial and public functions.

NASA recently discovered that the paint and building materials used in years past to construct and maintain Hangar 1 contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), asbestos, lead, and zinc. PCBs are chemicals formerly used in electrical equipment and some building materials. They are a suspected human carcinogen and tend to accumulate in the environment. Because of these properties, their manufacture was discontinued in the United States in 1976.

The hangar's exterior is aging. Continuous weathering is causing pieces of roofing materials, paint, and siding to chip or peel off of the exterior and land on the ground around the structure. As a result, the contaminants in the paint and building materials have contaminated the environment around the hangar and, ultimately, the contamination has migrated into the facility storm drain system. Evidence of



Photo courtesy NASA Ames Research Center

**Historic Hangar 1 at Moffett Field**

this contamination has been found in the Storm Water Settling Basin, Eastern Diked Marsh, and Storm Water Retention Pond at the northwest corner of Moffett. These contaminants most likely originate from a combination of Hangar 1 and other historic sources at Moffett that belong both to NASA and the Navy.

The Navy and NASA are taking immediate action to prevent additional release of the contaminant-containing materials to the environment. The Navy actions are being conducted in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and are part of the Department of Defense environmental clean up program known as the Installation Restoration Program (IRP). Under the IRP, sites with high potential to impact public health and the environment become a priority and are addressed on a faster time scale than the usual clean up process. These are referred to as Time-Critical Removal Actions, or clean up actions.

## Clean Up Action

The clean up action at Hangar 1 will involve painting the exterior siding with a specialized surface coating and patching the roof where necessary. The new surface coating will prevent the existing paint and other surface materials from further chipping or peeling, and keep them intact until a final remedy is selected and implemented. Encapsulation will be among the options evaluated as a potential final remedy for the site.

An Action Memorandum (Action Memo) will be written for this clean up action. The Action Memo considers applicable or relevant requirements for various remedies, and it provides more detailed information concerning the site, potential risks, effectiveness of the removal action, and costs associated with implementation of this clean up action. It will be available for the public to review beginning November 14, 2003.

The Navy and NASA recognize the historical significance of Hangar 1. The project will be conducted in accordance with regulatory historical preservation requirements. This clean up action will be designed and conducted to preserve the integrity, visual appearance, and aesthetic value of the structure. Careful attention will be paid to matching the color and texture of the existing Hangar 1 surface coatings. The new surface coatings will be applied using various cranes, booms, and lifts, following strict health and safety procedures.

**On November 14, 2003, the Hangar 1 Action Memo will be available to the public.**

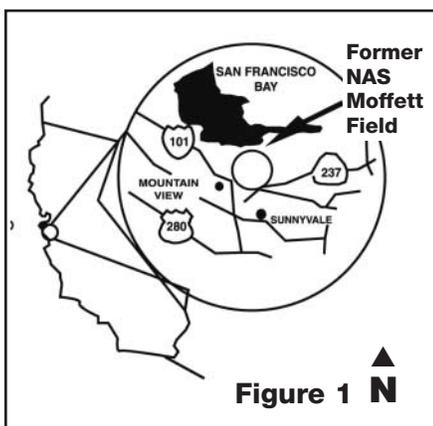
**The public comment period is November 14 to December 15, 2003.**

NASA also recently initiated a clean up action to clean out the storm water collection trench around Hangar 1, which contained sediments impacted with PCB's, asbestos, lead, and zinc, to prevent these sediments from migrating into the storm drain system.

## Community Outreach

The Action Memo will be available for review at the information repository located at the Mountain View Public Library. As required by clean up program guidance and per the Navy's Community Relations Plan for Moffett, the Administrative Record is available for public viewing at the information repository. A 30-day public comment period for the project will be announced upon issuance of the Action Memo for the project. The 30-day public comment period will be held from November 14 to December 15, 2003. Because of the urgent need to protect the public and the environment, the project will be well under way before completion of the proposed public comment period; however, the Navy is very interested in comments on the Hangar 1 administrative record and the clean up action project.

The Navy will respond to comments received during the public comment period and discuss the project activities with the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The Navy will present information related to this project at the September 25, 2003



*Former naval offices flanked by Hangar 1*

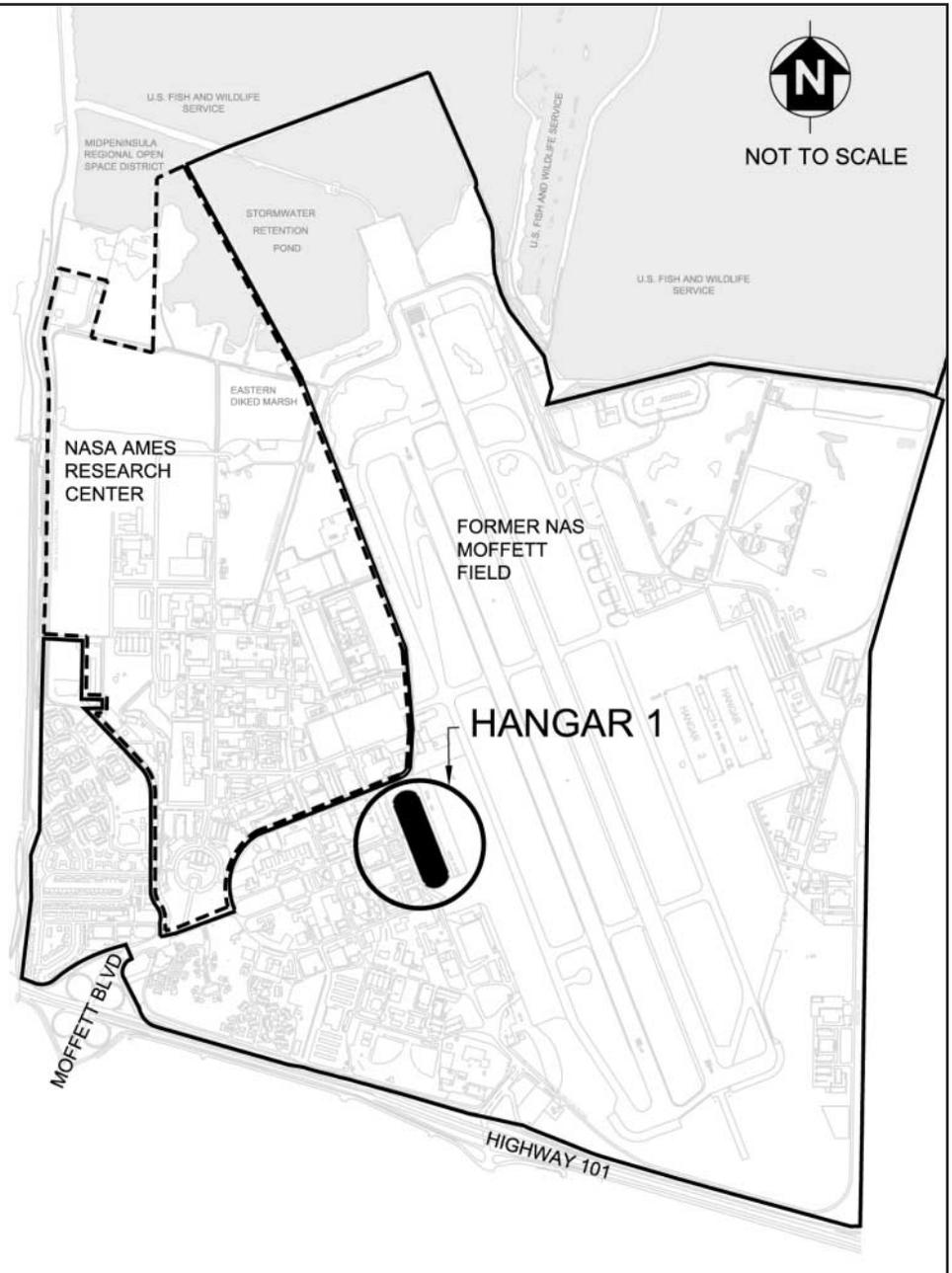
Hangar 1 is the latest addition to the Navy's ongoing remediation efforts at Moffett Field. The Navy is coordinating these projects with NASA, the Army, the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman (MEW) companies, EPA, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and others to prepare the site for current and future uses.

**September 15, 2003 – Mobilize and install construction fencing**

**September 23, 2003 – Begin surface preparation and painting**

**January 2, 2004 – Install fence and demobilize from site**

**January 15, 2004 – Demobilization complete**



RAB meeting which will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Mountain View City Hall 4th Floor Gallery. In addition, as the Navy proceeds with the development of the final remedy for Hangar 1 under the CERCLA process, there will be additional opportunities for public comment and involvement prior to implementation of a final remedy for the site.

Non-regulatory third parties requiring access to the site must have the appropriate training as required in the Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan.

## What's Next

The clean up action for Hangar 1 should be completed by the end of this year. Afterwards, the Navy will prepare a removal action completion report to document the activities conducted, which will be available for review at the public repository. The completion report will then become part of the Administrative Record for Moffett. The Navy will also work with NASA, the regulatory agencies, and the public to determine the final remedy for the site.

# SOUTHWEST DIVISION NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND

## Project Points of Contact

Involving the public and keeping them informed is an important aspect of the Navy's cleanup program at the former NAS Moffett Field. Please feel free to contact the following Navy representatives or visit the information repository listed below:

### Contact Information

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[www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/environmental/moffett.htm](http://www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/environmental/moffett.htm)

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