NAVAL AIR STATION, PENSAC
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

Removal Actions at Sites 30, 32 and 39
Fact Sheet

2

■ What is happening?

At **NAS** Pensacola, every effort is being made to clean up sites which were identified under the Department of Defense's **Installation Restoration Program (IRP)**. Three sites on the base have been chosen for early removal initiatives. The removal actions, as all aspects of the IRP, are conducted in compliance with state and federal regulations. Compliance is assured by participation of the regulatory agencies in IRP decisions. The IRP is being conducted at bases nationwide to identify and address potential contamination from past practices. -These past practices are no longer used because they do not meet today's environmental standards.

■ What is a Removal Action?

At any site where there has been a release or spill that could potentially impact human health and/or the environment, a removal action may be performed to remove the source of possible contamination. Performance of removal actions **is** designed to "prevent, minimize or mitigate damage to the public health or welfare or to the environment," as stated in the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).** CERCLA is the defining legislation for cleanup of sites that involved the use or disposal of hazardous materials, such as chemicals or petroleum products, at some time in the past.

Removal actions may be appropriate for several types of sites mentioned by CERCLA. These include sites where hazardous materials, such as chemicals or petroleum products, spilled or leaked into the ground in the past and could have an impact on human or environmental health. CERCLA also mentions sites where no actual release or leak into the environment has occurred, but the possibility of a release or leak exists because of the presence of chemicals or petroleum products.

Removal actions may involve heavy equipment to remove dirt from the site. In the case of a storage tank, the tank must be carefully cleaned and exposed before being removed from the ground. This typically requires time, planning, equipment and expertise, and is not a quick and easy procedure.

■ Who selects this procedure?

These actions are agreed upon by the decision-making group overseeing the IRP. That group is composed of representatives of the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** and the Navy. The team was put together to make decisions about environmental activities recommended for the base. In this way, actions proposed **by** the Navy and agreed upon by the other agencies are sure to follow the requirements set out to protect human health and the environment.

■ Which areas will be affected?

The following sites were selected for early removal actions:

- Site **30** — Wetland 5A (portion of Site **30)**
- Site **32** — Former Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Site **39** — ***Oak*** Grove Campground

These three sites are discussed separately in this fact sheet.

■ SITE 30 - Wetland No. 5A

Wetland 5A, the headwater of a small creek flowing southeast from Site 30, crosses under Murray Road and intersects a drainage ditch west of Chevalier Field which discharges into the Yacht Basin.

A steel waste-receiving structure in Wetland 5A is the focus of this removal action. The structure may have received plating wastes generated from Buildings 649 and 755 from the 1940s through the 1970s, when plating operations in both buildings stopped. Several byproducts of the metal plating process were present in samples of the sediment from around the structure. These same byproducts were found at even higher concentrations in the sediment inside the structure. A surface water sample taken next to the structure contained similar byproducts, but at relatively low concentrations.

■ why was this site selected?

The concern is that this structure will continue to leak contaminants into water and sediment, impacting plant and animal life nearby.

■ What will be done?

The structure will be emptied, and the contents properly removed and disposed. It is possible that soil around the structure will need to be excavated and disposed. The structure will be removed from the wetland and steam cleaned before being disposed.

■ SITE 32 - Former Treatment Plant

The former wastewater treatment plant at Site 32 began treating sanitary sewer wastes in 1941. The plant is located on Magazine Point Peninsula, north of Chevalier Field. Three main structures, a sedimentation tank, sludge drying beds, and a chlorine contact chamber, are affected by this removal action.

These structures were connected in the wastewater treatment process, which allowed solids to settle out of the water in the sedimentation tank before the water was passed to the chlorine contact chamber. The solids, called "sludge," were then pumped to the drying beds where water, as it drained from the sludge, was pumped to the contact chamber where chlorine was added as a disinfectant.

■ why was this site selected?

While the system was only designed for sanitary sewage, industrial wastes from the plating operation in Building 649 may have been disposed of through this plant. For this reason, the original removal actions, which included only the sludge drying beds, have been expanded to include the sedimentation tank and the chlorine contact chamber. The drying beds were targeted because analytical results identified concentrations of metals and chemicals in the sludge. Samples taken from the contact chamber and the sedimentation tank indicated industrial byproducts similar to those found in the drying beds, and therefore similar potential contamination.

■ What will be done?

All three structures will be emptied of solids and liquids. All small or removable solid materials will be placed in roll on/roll off containers and properly disposed of. All materials too large to remove, including the tank walls, will be steam cleaned to ensure that no contamination remains. Any wastewater created in this process will be captured and placed in proper containers for disposal.

SITE 39 - *Oak* Grove Campground Area

Approximately 200 feet south of the *Oak* Grove campground, a circular area approximately 300 feet in diameter is littered with broken brick, concrete, tile, glass, coal and nails. Soil within this circle is darkly stained and surrounded by sparse vegetation. Debris is from a demolished base building and the soil is stained by used motor oil. Old railroad ties were reportedly once stored in this area.

why was this site selected?

In 1990, campers first reported stained soil; test results indicated low to moderate concentrations of petroleum products, such as used oil or wood preservative, in the stained area. A risk assessment has determined that these concentrations pose no risk to recreational users, but they may not meet the most restrictive residential standards.

The chemicals in Site 39 soil could pose a risk to local groundwater if left in place. Groundwater test results have indicated that the soil is not affecting the water quality; however, it may if no action is taken. While natural processes would eventually reduce the amount of contaminants in the soil, it has been recommended that at least the top foot of soil be removed to protect the groundwater.

What will be done?

All stained soil will be removed and disposed. After the area has been completely excavated and tested for any remaining contamination, the site will be filled with clean soil and replanted. The site will be left as close as possible to its natural state.

What else will be done?

Extensive preparation is underway to implement procedures for worker health and safety, sampling and analysis, equipment decontamination, and proper disposal of the structure and other wastes generated during the removals (including soil and water). Air will be monitored at each site during excavation and removal to ensure safe breathing conditions for onsite personnel and to control any additional emissions.

After these tasks have been completed, and tests have confirmed contamination removal, the final step will be to backfill or cap the decontaminated structures, preventing further access. It is possible that the structures themselves will be removed and properly disposed of.

Information collected during these removal actions, including laboratory test results, will be used in making future decisions for each of these sites.

Where *can* I find more information?

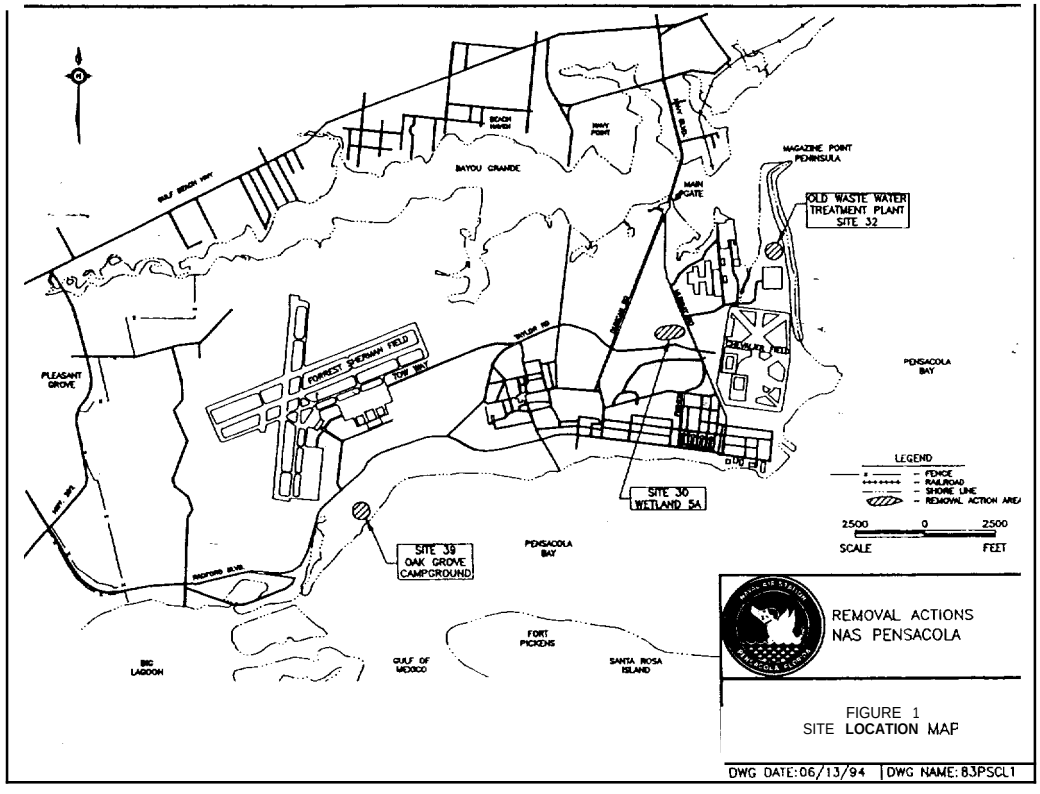
Work plans discussing site background information and the removal actions are available in three local information repositories:

- West Florida Regional Library, 200 W. Gregory Street, Pensacola, (904) **435-1760**
- John C. Pace Library, Univ. of W. Florida, Pensacola, (904) 474-3180
- **NAS Pensacola Library, Building 633, NAS Pensacola, (904) 452-4362**

How *can* I get involved?

If you have questions about these removal actions, the IRP, information repositories, or other environmental issues, call Michele Harrison at the NAS Pensacola Public Affairs *Office,* (904) **452-23**11.

■ Site Location Map



NAS Pensocola
***Public Affairs** Office*
***Building** 191*
Pensacola, FL 32508

Postage