

ELDN# 10103

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

* * * * *
PROCEEDINGS AT PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: PUBLIC MEETING TO
DISCUSS KATY FIELD/
OLD FIREFIGHTER TRAINER
AREA AT NAVAL STATION
NEWPORT

* * * * *

Monday, January 25, 1999
6:00 p.m.
Middletown Town Hall
West Main Road
Middletown, Rhode Island

PRESENT

- Captain Jon C. Wyman, Director of Public Works
Naval Station Newport
- Donald Berger, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Carole Hossom, Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry
- George L. Andrade, Middletown Town Council President
- Brian C. Lesinski, KPMG Peat Marwick
- Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy
- Captain A. Cheryl Oakleaf, Naval Station Newport

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6/98D

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1 Monday, January 25, 1999

2 (Commencing at 6:00 p.m.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANDRADE: If I could
4 have your attention, please. I know that you're
5 all anxious to get this proceeding going. I want
6 to welcome all of you to the Middletown Town
7 Hall. My name is Andy Andrade. I'm the Council
8 President. As you know, this a follow-up to the
9 first meeting that we had on this very serious
10 issue of Katy Field. As you know, in Middletown
11 we're particularly concerned because of our
12 situation our little league boys and girls
13 participated and utilized that field for several
14 months, so we're very, very concerned and we're
15 looking forward to these results.

16 I want to welcome all of you, particularly
17 the Navy, the EPA and all those who participated
18 in getting this information out to us because we
19 are very, very concerned.

20 I would like to personally thank
21 Congressman Kennedy for his leadership and help.
22 As you recall at the last meeting, he promised
23 that we would have a follow-up meeting, and when
24 you consider all the chaos that's going on in

1 Washington, it's amazing that he's here with us
2 today, but I know it's an important issue for him
3 and for all of us. So welcome, and let's give a
4 big hand to Congressman Kennedy.

5 (ROUND OF APPLAUSE)

6 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: You almost set
7 me up there with what was going on in Washington
8 and how I was back here for this, because,
9 clearly, this is the nation's business, it's what
10 going on in our cities and towns, it's the issues
11 that effect our constituents, and, hence, that's
12 why we're trying to focus the country back on
13 what really should be focused on as opposed to
14 what's going on incessantly down in Washington,
15 that's been the nature of the great debate that
16 we've had this year, as to whether to get on with
17 the nation's business, as I think we should, or
18 whether we're going to continue to be distracted
19 by this never ending trial, hopefully, which will
20 come to a conclusion within the next week or two,
21 for everybody's sake.

22 Let me thank you, Andy, for welcoming us
23 again and opening up Town Hall, and I want to
24 thank all of the Middletown Town officials for

1 making this hall available to us once again.

2 As most of you know, we were here in the
3 first meeting which was held on November 23rd,
4 and at that time many parents of the legal league
5 players, those who attend the daycare center at
6 Katy Field as well were justifiably concerned
7 about the presence of contaminants at this Navy
8 site. We received many answers, but they were
9 incomplete. Because new rounds of testing have
10 been done, the data was needed to be recorded and
11 analyzed, so we agreed to reconvene a meeting in
12 late January, and, hence, we're here now.

13 My role as your Federal representative is
14 important insofar as it facilitates these kinds
15 of public meetings which allows you, the public,
16 to get the information that you want.

17 Most of you probably heard about the
18 similar issue which has been keeping me busy up
19 in North Providence, with the Woonasquatucket,
20 and the testing that's revealed a high level of
21 cancer-causing dioxins along that riverbank in
22 North Providence.

23 Last Saturday I hosted a meeting, which
24 more than 500 people attended, and when I met

1 with EPA director, Jon Vadillas (phonetic), and
2 we're going to keep the pressure on the EPA to
3 continue to do their job up there, to help get
4 the answers.

5 That brings me to what we're doing today,
6 this evening here in Middletown, it's the same
7 issue. We really need to get about finding out
8 what the problems are so we know how to respond
9 to them.

10 When I was first informed myself about the
11 problems at Katy Field, I was upset because there
12 was a lack of communication that appeared between
13 the Navy and EPA. I was concerned that red flags
14 weren't raised earlier so that we could address
15 this issue at the outset, but I'm pleased to tell
16 you today that all the parties are working
17 closely together and I think we can be satisfied
18 that that is taking place.

19 In addition to the Navy and the EPA, we
20 have the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease
21 Registry, and they're all represented here
22 tonight. I'm going to ask each of them to give a
23 presentation from their group, to give a brief
24 overview about the analysis of the latest testing

1 and an outline for their further course of
2 action, then I'll turn the program over to all of
3 you for your further questions. There are
4 environmental public health experts here in this
5 room tonight and they will provide you with the
6 latest information that's available. The Navy
7 and the EPA and the ATSDR have all brought along
8 some of their top experts in the field who are
9 ready to answer your questions. Rhode Island's
10 environmental health officials are also here as
11 well. They're going to be bringing with them
12 tonight some encouraging news, I hope, but I
13 don't want you to leave here tonight without
14 obtaining all the answers that you need, and I
15 assure that I'll be staying on top of the Navy
16 and the Federal agencies to follow through on
17 these matters that we discussed tonight, so that
18 if there is a need for further discussion and
19 prodding on my part, that you'll receive it, and
20 you should be in touch with me as to how you feel
21 about what the outcome of tonight's meeting was
22 for your interest.

23 I would like to start by asking the Navy's
24 new commanding officer of the Newport Base,

1 Captain Cheryl Oakleaf, to come up and address
2 you about what the Navy has been doing, then I
3 will go ahead and introduce the EPA, but at first
4 let me introduce Captain Oakleaf.

5 CAPTAIN OAKLEAF: Thank you,
6 Congressman Kennedy, number one, for facilitating
7 this evening's meeting, for facilitating better
8 communications among several Federal agencies and
9 for your support in bringing this back together
10 this evening.

11 The main purpose of tonight's meeting is to
12 hear the results of the public health assessment
13 for Katy Field from the Agency for Toxic
14 Substance and Disease Registry, further to be
15 known as ATSDR.

16 As many of you remember, the Navy agreed to
17 take additional samples of the soil at Katy Field
18 in order to fill in some of those data gaps and
19 allow the ATSDR to get more accurate pictures of
20 what the site's characterization of past use had
21 been. The additional field samplings were
22 completed in November and the laboratory results
23 were received last month, shortly before the
24 holidays. The sampling results had been placed

1 in the public records, and are, indeed, available
2 in Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth libraries.

3 In a few minutes ATSDR will summarize their
4 public health assessment based on both the new
5 data and the old data from several years ago, but
6 first I'd like to bring you up to date on the
7 Navy's progress as the studies relate to the
8 long-term use of Katy Field.

9 Now, it's important to understand the
10 difference between these two studies. The ATSDR
11 public health assessment and independent study to
12 primarily determine if there was any public
13 health risk from the past use of Katy Field. The
14 Navy study, called a remedial investigation or a
15 feasibility study, will evaluate these risks are
16 posed by various types of uses at Katy Field and
17 that will be types of uses in the future, and
18 we're doing this in coordination with our
19 partnership, both with the EPA and the Rhode
20 Island Department of Environmental Management, or
21 RIDEM.

22 On January 13th the Navy, EPA and RIDEM met
23 to discuss the information for risk assessment
24 for recreational use of the site. ATSDR

1 participated with us by telephone, and we were
2 using information from the interviews conducted
3 recently and other information about past use of
4 the site, some of the interviews were done right
5 here in Middletown Town Hall with parents that
6 had some experience of their children using the
7 site at Katy Field.

8 The meeting participants agreed on
9 appropriate information for a recreational
10 scenario for the risk assessment. The risk
11 assessment, based on 40 samples collected
12 previously, as well as the recent samples taken
13 in November, the 37 samples collected in November
14 were taken in high use areas, such as the ball
15 field and the playground areas. These samples
16 were analyzed for polycyclic aromatic
17 hydrocarbons, metals and dioxins. The
18 recreational risk results supported the ATSDR and
19 EPA's conclusions that Katy Field is safe for
20 recreational use, as it has historically been.
21 Although sampling to date has not revealed any
22 problems or concerns, we still have a lot of work
23 remaining ahead of us. By that work I mean we
24 tested topsoil, but there is subsurface soil that

1 must be tested in our long-term program. The
2 Navy, EPA and RIDEM will be working to complete
3 the remedial investigation for the site, which
4 will include these subsurface investigations and
5 some of the near-the-shore ecological risk. In
6 the meantime, we've decided to keep Katy Field
7 closed until the final decision is made.

8 I plan on, with the rest of the folks in
9 the Navy here locally and with our support from
10 Washington, to continue to keep the community
11 involved in the decisions regarding this study
12 and I plan on doing this through my Restoration
13 Advisory Board, a board which meets locally here
14 in Newport and the meetings are monthly, they're
15 announced in the newspaper and they're announced
16 well in advance and all public is invited to
17 participate or to come and listen to the
18 discussions, so that is an ongoing advisory board
19 that we have and we will continue to provide that
20 public information.

21 Tonight we have representatives here, as
22 Congressman Kennedy mentioned, from EPA and from
23 RIDEM who would also like to say some words about
24 Katy Field. Afterwards, we will turn the meeting

1 over to ATSDR so they can present the public
2 health assessment, which I'm sure you're all here
3 to hear this evening.

4 Right now I'd like to introduce Don Berger
5 from the EPA, Region 1 in Boston, to give his
6 speech.

7 MR. BERGER: Congressman Kennedy has
8 been involved in so many EPA activities recently.
9 Our offices in Boston, I should say, most should
10 probably know, there may be few people in Boston
11 that don't know him, so we're about to give him
12 an EPA ID card. I have a short statement to make
13 here.

14 EPA concurs with the ATSDR's health risk
15 experts whom you'll hear from shortly, this
16 concludes children who played at Katy Field are
17 at no risk of illness because of exposure to the
18 soil. When EPA asked for a fence to be erected
19 at the site, we did so not to raise concern, but
20 just to raise caution. It was the children's
21 interest in mind. At that time, you may recall,
22 there was insufficient data about the chemicals
23 which were present at the site and at what levels
24 the agency felt were comfortable with the

1 apparent heavy use of the field that you told us
2 about. Working together, as the Captain said,
3 the State of Rhode Island, Department of
4 Environmental Management, ATSDR, the Navy's
5 health risk folks and EPA's risk assessment
6 people have significantly more data now from
7 which to make some decisions.

8 Since the November meeting, I think 37 soil
9 and seven samples were taken at Katy Field. The
10 data confirmed previous sampling results and
11 revealed generally low levels of polycyclic
12 aromatic hydrocarbons, metals and dioxins. I can
13 never say that. In 25 years, I think that's the
14 first time I ever said that word right.

15 EPA is also pleased to put behind us the
16 immediate concern for children's health so that
17 we can direct our attention to future
18 environmental assessment activities scheduled for
19 later this year at Katy Field.

20 Over the next several years, additional
21 evaluations will be performed to characterize the
22 chemical constituents of the deeper soil and to
23 determine what form of any cleanup action may be
24 necessary in the future.

1 We want to thank the citizens who offered
2 information about their children's activities at
3 the site, as this was crucial to the agency's
4 scientists in preparing the health risk
5 assessment of the park. EPA believes, therefore,
6 that the field is safe for recreational use, as
7 it has historically occurred on that site. We
8 also agree with the Navy, that until all
9 investigations and risk assessments are completed
10 and any necessary cleanup actions are completed
11 for the entire site, that Katy Field should
12 remain closed. Our reasoning is simple. EPA
13 always reviews all current and future risk
14 information, and unless and until all of that
15 information is precisely known by way of the
16 further future scheduled investigations of the
17 site, which the Navy has underway, or about to
18 start shortly, that we have always taken a
19 protective approach and we will continue to do
20 that. Thank you. I'll turn it over to the State
21 of Rhode Island.

22 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: We will have the
23 state before we have ATSDR.

24 MR. ANGELL: My name is Warren Angell.

1 I'm with the Department of Environmental
2 Management. Last time we had this meeting, Terry
3 Gray was here. He's heavily involved with the
4 Woonasquatucket River, the dioxin problem, so I
5 got nominated to fill in for him tonight.

6 I just want to basically, there's not much
7 more that I wanted to add that Captain Oakleaf
8 hasn't already touched upon.

9 I just want to thank ATSDR for their quick
10 response to this public health concern. While
11 DEM is in charge of protecting human health and
12 the environment, we are not as well versed in
13 evaluating threats to human health as ATSDR is,
14 or most certainly the Department of Health, so
15 when an agency such as ATSDR's primary mission is
16 that of public health is willing to step in and
17 offer their expertise, we certainly welcome their
18 input.

19 We are pleased and relieved that the study
20 shows there's no elevated risk to anyone,
21 especially children playing at Katy Field in the
22 past.

23 Finally, we support the Navy's position for
24 restricting access to the site until all our

1 studies are complete and a long-term site cleanup
2 plan is implemented, if that's necessary.

3 We look forward to working with all parties
4 here this evening, particularly the local
5 communities in achieving final closure of this
6 site.

7 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Now, finally,
8 I'd like to have ATSDR give us the feedback, and
9 I'm not sure who's going to be presenting for
10 ATSDR, but I have Carole Hossom.

11 MS. HOSSOM: Good evening. I'm Carole
12 Hossom from the Agency for Toxic Substances and
13 Disease Registry, ATSDR.

14 Before I begin tonight, I wanted to let you
15 know of two handouts that we brought.

16 One is basically our conclusions. On the
17 back it has questions and answers, typically from
18 what was presented at the last public meeting,
19 and also questions and answers that we anticipate
20 being brought up tonight.

21 The second piece of information is
22 basically the visuals that I'll be using tonight.
23 The room didn't quite lend itself to overhead, so
24 I wanted to be sure that everyone had a copy of

1 something that they could hold up, take home with
2 them, to remind them of what we said here
3 tonight, so you have your own personal copy.

4 The order of these, however, is kind of in
5 a figure eight, it's not straight across, so if
6 you look up here as I'm talking to get an idea of
7 the board that's up here, you can look back on
8 the sheet to understand what it says.

9 ATSDR is an independent public health
10 agency under the Departments of Health and Human
11 Services. Some of our sister agencies are the
12 National Institutes of Health, the Centers for
13 Disease Control & Prevention and the Food & Drug
14 Administration. Our headquarters are in Atlanta,
15 Georgia, and we also have ten regional offices
16 across the country.

17 With me this evening are two of our
18 regional representatives, Louise House is a nurse
19 and our senior regional representative; Beth
20 Timm, an environmental health scientist, and they
21 are out of our Boston office. From headquarters,
22 there's myself, Carole Hossom, environmental
23 health scientist and site lead; Sandee Coulberson
24 is our community involvement specialist; Brian

1 Kaplan, environmental health scientist; Dr. Buck
2 Grissom, senior toxicologist; and Dr. Robert
3 Johnson, family medicine physician, and we will
4 be available to answer any health questions you
5 may have.

6 So what does ATSDR specifically do? As an
7 independent Federal health agency we were created
8 by Congress with a purpose to protect the health
9 of the public, people like you and your family.

10 We're here tonight to report to you our
11 findings about Katy Field and to discuss any
12 unanswered questions you may have about your
13 health and the health of your family.

14 ATSDR has reviewed the data that's been
15 collected from Katy Field and determined that no
16 one, including children and pregnant women, is
17 likely to get sick from their past exposures at
18 Katy Field. No one.

19 So how do we arrive at our conclusion?
20 ATSDR looked at all the possible groups of people
21 that have been at Katy Field over the years.
22 They include infants, toddlers, young children,
23 teenagers, parents and other adults, including
24 pregnant women, daycare center workers, day camp

1 counselors and workers, and even lawn maintenance
2 workers, and each group is grouped in this
3 category based on their physical characteristics,
4 such as body weights and specific behavior, such
5 as how much dirt they may eat, accidentally, or
6 on purpose in the case of small children.

7 We did a risk calculation. We put that
8 information into a mathematical equation, similar
9 to what the Navy, EPA and the State have done in
10 a human health risk assessment. We took that
11 specific information, put it into a mathematical
12 equation, we took who was there, the chemicals
13 that they were exposed to, put them into a
14 mathematical equation to calculate a risk for how
15 likely you are to get sick. You can relate this
16 risk -- this equation is just for illustration,
17 it's not the actual equation. You can relate
18 this risk to what your insurance company does to
19 calculate your auto insurance rate. They take
20 specific information about you, such as your age,
21 information about your behaviors, such as whether
22 you're a smoker or your past driving record and
23 put that into a mathematical equation which tells
24 them how likely you are to have a car accident.

1 We did a similar thing by taking the specific
2 information about the individuals who were there,
3 their body weight, how often they were at the
4 site and put that into a mathematical equation to
5 tell us how likely you are to get sick from your
6 exposure.

7 The results of our calculations indicate
8 that no one is likely to get sick from their
9 activity at Katy Field, not you and not your
10 family. In other words, the site is safe.

11 The risk calculation we used is just one
12 tool that helped us reach our conclusion. We
13 used our information, such as research studies,
14 occupational studies, epidemiological studies,
15 which are studies of disease in human
16 populations, we use databases, such as poison
17 control data bases, and exposure investigations,
18 which are investigations that ATSDR has performed
19 on communities similar to this one, and from all
20 that information we determined that the levels of
21 chemicals from Katy Field do not present a health
22 hazard.

23 So how confident are we in our health
24 determination?

1 Well, confidence, or lack of confidence,
2 can be added at every step of a process. So
3 let's review some of the steps that we took to
4 make our health determination.

5 The first step is review of the data. Can
6 everyone see that? Okay. Over the last nine
7 years there have been five different times when,
8 for various reasons, the Navy has needed to
9 collect soil samples from Katy Field. This is an
10 important point because this is the first step
11 where confidence is added. It wasn't just one
12 time that samples were collected, it was five
13 times, for many areas all over the field, and
14 each time the results reinforced what was done
15 previously. It would be similar to say you have
16 a list of numbers that you want to add up, so you
17 add them up. How confident are you that you got
18 the right answer? Well, it could go either way
19 the first time. If you were to add those numbers
20 again, how confident would you be, probably a
21 little more confident. If you add those numbers
22 a third time, you'd be pretty confident, and by
23 the fifth time you would be very confident, and
24 so are we.

1 The second step we took to arrive at our
2 health call is analysis of the information. This
3 is the step where we calculated risk by using the
4 chemical data from Katy Field and combined it
5 with that with what we know of who use Katy
6 Field, their physical characteristics and their
7 body weight, such as the body weight and their
8 behaviors, such as how often they were at the
9 site, how much dirt or sediment they ate,
10 breathed in or touched on their skin.

11 We wanted to be sure about our health
12 evaluation, and we wanted to be sure that our
13 evaluation covered every situation and applied to
14 everyone, so we assumed that everyone who visited
15 Katy field would be there every day, 365 days per
16 year, and every day that they visited Katy Field
17 we assumed they ate the dirt there, and by the
18 end of the week they would have eaten a handful
19 of dirt, and we assumed that children would have
20 eaten two handfuls of dirt and people cutting the
21 grass would have eaten four handfuls, just to be
22 sure, there again, adding confidence and
23 certainty, and even though we know you really
24 weren't there every day eating dirt, we wanted to

1 be sure about your safety.

2 Now, the third step we took for our health
3 determination is comparison of the exposures.
4 What do I mean by comparison of exposures? We
5 looked at what has happened to other people,
6 adults, children and pregnant women in other
7 communities exposed to the same chemicals that
8 are out in Katy Field. This information is found
9 in health studies and exposure investigations,
10 where people's blood and urine have been sampled.
11 There are lots of new studies and investigations
12 done every day, so you can imagine our
13 information base is quite large, which, again,
14 builds on the idea of the more information, the
15 more confident we are.

16 In our comparison of blood and urine
17 results and the results of health effects in
18 people at sites similar to this one, we found
19 that people did not have health effects from
20 their exposure, and some of the people were
21 exposed over 20 years ago and still didn't have
22 health effects. The large amount of scientific
23 evidence that we use to make our health
24 determination makes us very confident that you

1 and your family are not likely to have health
2 effects from your activities at Katy Field and
3 that playing at Katy Field was safe for you and
4 your family.

5 The reasons for our confidence are based on
6 a number of times soil samples were collected,
7 our over-estimation of your exposure and the
8 comparisons of your exposures with people exposed
9 at other similar sites.

10 So where do we go from here? ATSDR is
11 preparing a report called a health consultation,
12 which will include all the information we
13 discussed here tonight, and we anticipate that it
14 will be completed next month.

15 We welcome any questions you may have. We
16 brought our team of experts to address your
17 concerns and they will be coming up to the front
18 of the room.

19 We also have our own sign-in sheet that
20 asks for your name, address and phone number, and
21 it also has check boxes that you can check if you
22 want a copy of the consultation mailed to your
23 home, if you want a physician to call you, if
24 you're not comfortable speaking with anyone here

1 at this forum and would like a call back, or if
2 you would like ATSDR to come back and hold
3 another public meeting. If you weren't satisfied
4 what has happened here tonight, we will be glad
5 to do that. I have a sign-in sheet up here,
6 there's one in the back, along with the
7 additional information. Thank you.

8 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Thank you.

9 Thank you very much, Carole. I appreciate the
10 very thorough presentation, and I have to tell
11 you, I wish I had you up at North Providence High
12 School last weekend, when you're talking about
13 how many mouthfuls of dirt you eat for every day,
14 every week and every year and what the impact
15 was. I can tell you the experts at that meeting
16 were talking in a very technical way and it was
17 frustrating everyone in the audience, because
18 they wanted to know that basic question, how
19 could I be effected, and give a scenario,
20 specific scenario, if my child plays on that
21 field every day, all summer long, you know,
22 what's the impact, and they were talking about
23 things in formulary language which was just so
24 difficult for anyone to ascertain what they were

1 really saying, so when you said it the way you
2 said it, I think basically you got a lot of
3 people who appreciated the impact of what you
4 were saying.

5 So now I'd like to ask if there's any
6 questions, and, again, say that there's a great
7 group of people here to answer them. Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. BOUGHTON: I have several
9 questions.

10 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Okay. Why don't
11 you come on up so everyone can hear them, if
12 that's all right.

13 THE STENOGRAPHER: I need your name
14 first.

15 MS. BOUGHTON: It's Bettina Boughton.
16 I would like to know how much topsoil was put
17 down back in 1976?

18 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Who can answer
19 that?

20 CAPTAIN WYMAN: What we think is a
21 foot of topsoil is what people have told us, from
22 six inches to a foot, but that's what the test
23 was.

24 MS. BOUGHTON: And that was back in

1 1976?

2 CAPTAIN WYMAN: As far as I know.

3 MS. BOUGHTON: Has there been any
4 topsoil put down since 1976?

5 CAPTAIN WYMAN: There was some put
6 down right behind the child care center. Where
7 is Dave? What year was that? There was some
8 topsoil put down on the playground right behind
9 the child care center.

10 MR. DOROCZ: Yes. The Navy's
11 Recreation Department maintains, continues to
12 maintain the problem, so if there was any ruts,
13 they would put down soil and maintain the
14 surface.

15 CAPTAIN WYMAN: But there was some put
16 down right behind it, and put behind Building
17 134, do you remember the year?

18 MR. DOROCZ: Ninety-two, sir.

19 MS. BOUGHTON: How much topsoil now is
20 at the field, is at Katy Field itself?

21 MS. HOSSOM: What was that question?

22 MS. BOUGHTON: How much topsoil now
23 exists at Katy Field?

24 CAPTAIN WYMAN: About the same, except

1 what you might lose from erosion.

2 MS. BOUGHTON: From erosion, which
3 would be from hurricanes, wind, rain?

4 CAPTAIN WYMAN: Yes. They cover it
5 with vegetation.

6 MS. BOUGHTON: I know you have been to
7 Katy Field, the entire infield is all dirt,
8 there's no grass in the infield.

9 CAPTAIN WYMAN: But I wouldn't say
10 that was subject to erosion, it's maintained by
11 the Recreation Department, they grade it and they
12 periodically have had vendors bring in topsoil to
13 clean it.

14 MS. BOUGHTON: The last time topsoil
15 was brought in was '92.

16 CAPTAIN WYMAN: I don't know the last
17 time it was brought in.

18 MR. DOROCZ: That was the specific
19 area that that the topsoil was added to behind
20 the --

21 MS. BOUGHTON: Back in '76 originally,
22 there was one foot of topsoil put down, correct?
23 So in almost 25 years --

24 MS. HOSSOM: I'd like to respond to

1 that.

2 MS. BOUGHTON: If you could, by all
3 means, please.

4 MS. HOSSOM: Sure. Samples were
5 collected throughout Katy Field, including the
6 infield, the ball field, they were collected all
7 over Katy Field, including the bare spots and the
8 infield, and they were sampled from the surface
9 down as much as a whole foot, and from that, the
10 levels do not present a health hazard, so that I
11 think is the main unsaid thing here.

12 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: I think implicit
13 in her question is the depth.

14 MS. HOSSOM: Is it a problem, and it's
15 not a problem.

16 MS. BOUGHTON: How much topsoil is
17 there now?

18 MS. HOSSOM: The soil that's there is
19 not contaminated, so it doesn't matter.

20 MS. BOUGHTON: How many samples did
21 you take from the infield prior to November?

22 MS. HOSSOM: The Navy.

23 MS. BOUGHTON: The Navy needs to
24 answer that.

1 MS. HOSSOM: All I can say is it's not
2 a health hazard, what's there. Topsoil, you
3 know, it's a foot down, it's not a problem.

4 CAPTAIN OAKLEAF: We do have a chart
5 that shows exactly how many samples were taken.

6 MS. EROSHACK: Paula Eroshack
7 (phonetic) with the Department of Navy. I think
8 the purpose of your question is to find out
9 whether there were samples taken before this
10 latest episode of sampling?

11 MS. BOUGHTON: Yes. I want to know
12 exactly how many samples and from which areas.

13 MS. EROSHACK: Yes. I think what you
14 can find from the study, and we have people here
15 that can probably answer it, but there have been
16 samples taken as early as 1994, and Dave probably
17 knows the specifics?

18 MR. BARCLAY: Yes. David Barclay from
19 Northern Division with the Navy. This is a map
20 that includes all the previous samples as well as
21 the samples that were taken recently in November.
22 I think your specific question is how many
23 samples were taken in the ball field area?

24 MS. BOUGHTON: Yes.

1 MR. BARCLAY: These red, I don't know
2 if you can see it back here, these red triangles,
3 those are the recent surface soil samples and
4 this would be the baseball and this
5 octagon-shaped area right here is the actual
6 infield of the baseball field, and the actual
7 baseball field continues out with the outfield
8 out to this fence right here, so by looking at
9 this you can see a total of one, two, three,
10 four, maybe five samples, four or five samples.

11 MS. BOUGHTON: Between the infield and
12 the outside?

13 MR. BARCLAY: No, this is just the
14 infield.

15 MS. BOUGHTON: This right here is the
16 infield.

17 MR. BARCLAY: Yes.

18 MS. BOUGHTON: This is the outfield?

19 MR. BARCLAY: The outfield goes
20 from --

21 MS. BOUGHTON: All the way to the
22 fence, which is on the water?

23 MR. BARCLAY: This is the fence, with
24 the warning on it, so this whole area right here

1 is the baseball field. This specifically that
2 you're asking is an infield, and there's four
3 samples, one, two, three, four samples.

4 MS. BOUGHTON: On the infield?

5 MR. DOROCZ: Yes.

6 MS. BOUGHTON: And how many were taken
7 prior to that? Is that what these little dark
8 spots are here?

9 MR. DOROCZ: No.

10 MS. BOUGHTON: These are recent ones?

11 MR. DOROCZ: These are recent ones.
12 Previous to that, it looks like one taken in the
13 infield, okay.

14 MS. BOUGHTON: I think so. Just so I
15 have this clear, prior to November of this past
16 year, there was one, two taken at the baseball
17 field, and you people told us.

18 MR. DOROCZ: The infield.

19 MS. BOUGHTON: Of the infield, sorry,
20 but this right here, the kids weren't out here.

21 MR. DOROCZ: That is the outfield.
22 This whole area, this whole area right here, this
23 is home plate, that continues out this way, this
24 is left field, this is center field, right in

1 this area, this is right field and this is the
2 first base line, so really --

3 MS. BOUGHTON: Well, you need to
4 understand we're talking about seven or
5 nine-year-olds. They weren't way out here, they
6 were about where these little red dots are right
7 now, that's about as far as they went in the
8 outfield. So prior to November of last year
9 there was one, two samples taken. In November
10 you people told us we didn't have anything to
11 worry about, that there weren't any health
12 concerns. Now you're telling us the same thing,
13 and you have one, two, three on the infield and
14 four in the outfield. Prior to November of last
15 year, with only two samples being taken, I want
16 to know how you can compare now to then, to prior
17 to last year, '98, November of '98, there was two
18 samples taken?

19 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Carole.

20 MS. HOSSOM: What's the question?

21 MS. BOUGHTON: In November's
22 assessment what was the highest level that you
23 people found, prior to November, what was the
24 highest level of any contaminant that you found?

1 CAPTAIN WYMAN: Well, the worst one
2 was here, way out in the outfield, that was the
3 one, the sinister sample.

4 MS. BOUGHTON: And when was that?

5 CAPTAIN WYMAN: That was in '93, '94.

6 MS. BOUGHTON: '93 or '94. And what
7 is it now?

8 CAPTAIN WYMAN: What is what?

9 MS. BOUGHTON: What is that level at
10 now?

11 CAPTAIN WYMAN: The sampling could not
12 replicate that high sample.

13 MR. DOROCZ: It's approximately 150.

14 MR. BARCLAY: A range between 30, 50,
15 plus or minus.

16 MS. BOUGHTON: Okay. My next question
17 to you is, the contaminant you found here back in
18 '93 or '94, is that contaminant the kind of
19 contaminant that would just, as time goes on,
20 disappear?

21 MS. McKENNA: Diane McKenna. My name
22 is Diane McKenna. I work with the Navy. I
23 conducted most of this investigation. The
24 contaminant that was found at that location was

1 lead, the contaminant that was high. We believe
2 that it was an anomaly. Perhaps when we went, in
3 a recent sampling, we went back to that same
4 location to see if we could find that high lead.
5 We also did samples within 25 feet, we took some
6 more samples to see if this was truly a high lead
7 concentration. What we found was none of those
8 high concentrations were duplicated. We got
9 nothing higher than 50 milligrams, a kilogram of
10 lead, which was well within the Rhode Island
11 standards.

12 MS. BOUGHTON: What was it when you
13 tested before that made it so high?

14 MS. MCKENNA: What we think is there
15 was possibly a piece of lead. The samples were
16 taken from a monitoring well location. When they
17 put the monitoring well in, they drill, drill and
18 put a metal casing in the ground. We think that
19 it could be bits of lead that came off of the
20 casing.

21 MS. BOUGHTON: What was the reading at
22 that time?

23 MS. MCKENNA: It was about 3,000
24 milligrams per kilogram.

1 MS. BOUGHTON: Three thousand
2 milligrams. And what's the safe zone?

3 MS. MCKENNA: The Rhode Island
4 standard is 150. But you have to realize that
5 the rest of the samples taken from the site, and
6 that's all of these black locations --

7 MS. BOUGHTON: I'm not really
8 concerned with that. I'm concerned with the ball
9 field right now.

10 MS. MCKENNA: All the rest of the
11 samples taken at the site, about 35 samples, the
12 lead concentration was below 50 for everything
13 that you sampled, but two samples, one was
14 slightly higher than the state standards, which
15 is also, which was this spot here, which we also
16 resampled around, and, again, didn't find a high
17 lead hit, so we believe that both of those were
18 anomalies because of pieces of metal in the soil,
19 but it's something that couldn't be ingested, or,
20 you know, come into your body.

21 MS. BOUGHTON: Could you tell me why
22 no grass was on the infields?

23 MR. SCHAEFFER: Because the infields,
24 all the soil that you see in the infields is

1 there by design, it's a special mixture of silt,
2 sand and clay, and it's an engineered mixture
3 that's put on an infield to maintain a high
4 playing surface. You wouldn't want topsoil in
5 the infield because it's soft, it's muddy.

6 MS. BOUGHTON: Like that does.

7 MR. SCHAEFFER: It's a special infield
8 mixture. That material is brought in.

9 MS. BOUGHTON: Have you been out at
10 Katy Field after it rained?

11 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

12 MS. BOUGHTON: You have?

13 MR. SCHAEFFER: Katy Field itself, I
14 was out there today, a lot of rain, there's a lot
15 of topsoil.

16 MS. BOUGHTON: Have you tried to play
17 baseball on that field after it's rained?

18 MR. SCHAEFFER: Well, I mean, you
19 don't want to play baseball on any field right
20 after it's rained.

21 MS. BOUGHTON: No. I mean, the very
22 first game that we played on Katy Field, we had
23 to go get shovels and rakes to fill in because
24 kids feet were sinking in the soil.

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: Well, maybe they
2 shouldn't have had the game that day. I can just
3 tell you it's a special mixture that's brought
4 into the site. It's not our material that was
5 there years ago. When they built the ball field,
6 they purchased that material, put it down around
7 the infield.

8 MS. BOUGHTON: I'll tell you what, I
9 think that there is a few of the agencies that
10 are misleading the public by saying there's 35
11 samples taken, 37 samples taken from this ball
12 field. There is, previous and now, there was
13 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,
14 nine samples taken, not 35 or 37, because
15 anything out here, beyond the fence, on this side
16 of the fence, the kids weren't out there playing,
17 some kids may have been walking out there, but to
18 tell the public that there was 35 samples taken
19 in that ball field, there weren't.

20 MR. SCHAEFFER: No.

21 CAPTAIN OAKLEAF: The ball field --

22 MS. HOSSOM: I just wanted to address
23 the wet soil. If you look in the flyer that has
24 the questions and answers, there is a question

1 about that, would the wet soil be an additional
2 hazard with the chemicals that are there, would
3 that pose an additional hazard to my child, and
4 that answer is no, the levels are so low at Katy
5 field that even being wet, when things being wet
6 might more easily penetrate the skin. Then in
7 this case, because the levels are so low, that
8 they would not be of concern for penetrating the
9 skin.

10 MS. BOUGHTON: Another question, I
11 know you kind of, like, answered this somewhat by
12 saying how much the kids eat and everything, but
13 I was just curious on how much sand and dirt you
14 estimate was ingested by the kids?

15 MS. HOSSOM: Handful.

16 MS. BOUGHTON: And how many days a
17 year did you estimate the children played on this
18 field?

19 MS. HOSSOM: Every day.

20 MS. BOUGHTON: Every single day?

21 MS. HOSSOM: Every single day.

22 MS. BOUGHTON: That's for the one and
23 four year olds.

24 MS. HOSSOM: Everyone.

1 MS. BOUGHTON: And adults?

2 MS. HOSSOM: Yes, everyone.

3 MS. BOUGHTON: And just out of
4 curiosity, did you go with the EPA on this?
5 Because I got information from the EPA which is
6 not coinciding with the information that you're
7 giving me right now.

8 MS. HOSSOM: ATSDR does its own health
9 information. We are not regulators, we are not
10 involved in environmental management. We are
11 cleanup. We are involved only to protect the
12 health of the public. We do things slightly
13 different, we looked at all these groups of
14 people and we used information in our risk
15 assessment specific for those people and we used
16 a lot of other information, we used research
17 information, other studies done in other
18 communities that are similar to this one and we
19 found out that this site poses no hazard.

20 MS. BOUGHTON: And now this, is this
21 your sample or is this the Navy's sample of the
22 samples that were taken?

23 MS. HOSSOM: Navy contractors took the
24 samples.

1 MS. BOUGHTON: Okay. There's seven
2 that were taken on the infields and the
3 outfields, and you compared this, you said
4 earlier that you had taken samples over the
5 previous years?

6 MS. HOSSOM: There have been five
7 times when samples have been collected from Katy
8 Field for various reasons. ATSDR looked at all
9 the data, there was data taken at the swing sets,
10 in the daycare center fenced area, there was
11 samples for lead, I think they're about close to
12 a hundred samples that were sampled for lead.

13 MS. BOUGHTON: To be honest with you,
14 at the moment I'm just concerned with Katy Field
15 itself, the ball field.

16 MS. HOSSOM: Well, other parents are
17 concerned about the daycare center.

18 MS. BOUGHTON: I know. I know
19 somebody that was diagnosed with cancer five
20 years ago.

21 MS. HOSSOM: We wanted to address
22 everyone, we wanted our health evaluation to be
23 applicable to everyone, and that's why we looked
24 at all the data all over the field and the

1 samples that have been collected all over that
2 field.

3 MS. BOUGHTON: All over that field,
4 but if you took only seven from this time and
5 previously you had only taken two samples from
6 the ball field, how could you compare it now and
7 then, over previous years? That's what I don't
8 understand.

9 MS. HOSSOM: I'm not sure I understand
10 your question.

11 MS. BOUGHTON: You took two samples,
12 you didn't take the samples again from the same
13 exact places that you did the last time.

14 MR. SCHAEFFER: When we met with the
15 EPA and with the Rhode Island Department of
16 Environmental Management, we collected a group, I
17 think you heard an earlier place, and the EPA was
18 concerned about the information that the Navy has
19 at Katy Field, among the area of the ball field,
20 another area was where the swings are, these were
21 the so-called high use areas, so as a group we
22 collectively went out there and determined
23 appropriate number of samples to be taken in
24 those areas and the location of those samples,

1 and so between the three agencies the samples
2 that you see out there are going to be adequate
3 to address those data gap concerns.

4 MS. BOUGHTON: Were these two levels,
5 when you did these, were they high or were they
6 within normal range?

7 MR. SCHAEFFER: No. With the
8 exception of the two elevated levels that we
9 already talked about, basically what we talked
10 about was the whole site had very low levels and
11 the new data that we got supports the old data.

12 MS. BOUGHTON: So when you closed the
13 field down in '92 or '93, maybe '94, when you
14 closed the field down, the reason why you did it
15 was because of this site and this one over here?

16 MR. SCHAEFFER: I don't, I mean we
17 have never closed the field down. I'm not sure
18 what you mean by we closed the field down. Are
19 you talking about the daycare center?

20 MS. BOUGHTON: They moved the daycare
21 center in '94 because of these two sites right
22 here?

23 MR. SCHAEFFER: No. The daycare
24 center was moved because the Navy of Newport,

1 like many other Naval insulation and other
2 military insulations across the country received
3 funding to build a new daycare center, and at
4 that time they were operating their child care
5 facility and Newport received money and they had
6 a better location, and that's the reason the
7 daycare center was destructed, so they opted to
8 build a new facility on a new site.

9 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Maybe Carole,
10 somebody could address the thrust of her
11 question, which is basically, if this was such an
12 alarm earlier on and we had excessively high
13 samples, okay, hence, we're all here tonight, and
14 then tonight the news is good, you know, the
15 question is how can you get two substantively
16 different reads, one time you have something that
17 raises an alarm and another time people say, you
18 know, you can eat this stuff by the handful and
19 no problem. That I think is the thrust of what
20 she's trying to ask.

21 MR. SOKOL: I'm Steve Sokol from Navy
22 Environmental Health Center.

23 In the 1994 studies we looked at sites that
24 we thought would be the most heavily contaminated

1 sites, which didn't really apply to the baseball
2 field level, because we didn't think it would be
3 contamination, because it was further removed
4 from the activity, the previous firefighter
5 training activities on the site. We got a single
6 high detect, which was that site that's way out
7 in the outside of the ball field, that we think
8 is an anomaly, we think it's an anomaly either
9 because somebody might have been fishing at the
10 site or some lead dropped, there could have been,
11 on the surface, there's a monitoring well out
12 there, those things are typically painted, it may
13 have been a piece of just a single little chip of
14 lead achromate paint that we picked up in our
15 previous sampling. When we went back this time,
16 we focused on high use areas, as opposed, we
17 looked at the entire site, not just focusing on
18 the ball diamond, but because that had not been
19 addressed before, we addressed specifically those
20 concerns there, also the other high use areas,
21 the playground area of the site, because we
22 wanted to get a better feel for where kids play,
23 what their exposures may have been, and in these
24 studies we were not able to duplicate even that

1 single high level across the entire site. So we
2 feel that that first sample was totally an
3 anomaly, sort of the unluck of the draw, so to
4 speak, we might may have picked up a paint chip,
5 and that's was all that would be required to
6 drive that lead level up that high, okay. Does
7 that answer your question?

8 MS. BOUGHTON: Yes. My next question
9 is, is any of these contaminants going into the
10 bay?

11 MR. SCHAEFFER: That's a good
12 question. We have an off-shore ecological risk
13 assessment, we spent about \$800,000 sampling the
14 bay, along the shore of the bay, specifically.
15 The results of that study are due on February
16 23rd, and they will be presented to the
17 Restoration Advisory Board, Captain Oakleaf, that
18 meets once a month. When that study is
19 completed, we will present the findings of that
20 study and we will explain what it means, and also
21 copies of that study will be at the Restoration
22 Advisory Board, so if you'd like a copy of it.

23 MS. BOUGHTON: I'd really like to know
24 why in November we were told not to worry about

1 anything, when all you had was two samples from
2 the baseball field, that's what I'd really like
3 to know from the Navy. You people told us in
4 November we didn't have anything to worry about
5 and all you had was two samples, that's all you
6 had, nothing else, but two samples, and one of
7 them isn't even where the kids are actually
8 playing on.

9 MR. SOKOL: We had samples from across
10 the entire site, and when you look at samples
11 from the entire site, and we took them again in
12 the most heavily contaminated areas, so what we
13 thought were going to be the most heavily
14 contaminated areas based on the past activities
15 of that site.

16 MS. BOUGHTON: I understand that, but
17 I want to know why you people told us not to
18 worry about anything, when you all you had was
19 two samples -- actually only one?

20 MR. SOKOL: We treated it as a worst
21 case scenario. The sampling that we did was
22 based on that worst case scenario. We didn't
23 anticipate, and, indeed, we validated what we
24 thought, that there is no health risk in this

1 site. I'm not sure I understand what your
2 concern is. You should be actually relieved that
3 what we hold you a month ago was actually
4 verified up to this point, just because we've
5 actually gone out and actually been able to
6 collect that data that supports that.

7 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Yes, ma'am, in
8 the back.

9 MS. PINSLEY: Yes. I'd like some more
10 details, please.

11 THE STENOGRAPHER: I need your name.

12 MS. PINSLEY: Virginia Pinsley. My
13 son attended the day camp at the field, so I'm
14 interested in the entire site.

15 First of all, you said that the samples
16 were made for the aromatics, the metals and
17 dioxin. Are PCBs included in those data samples?

18 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Carole.

19 MS. HOSSOM: Yes.

20 MS. PINSLEY: And they would come
21 under which category?

22 MS. HOSSOM: Actually, none of them.

23 MS. PINSLEY: So there were additional
24 samples taken that we're not addressing tonight?

1 MS. HOSSOM: The samples were taken
2 for PCBs, correct.

3 MS. MCKENNA: In the data that's in
4 1991 and 1993, PCBs were analyzed for, but there
5 were no PCBs detected at the site, so it was
6 determined based on the previous data that we
7 didn't have to look for PCBs in the recent
8 sampling because there had never been any
9 detections with all the past data.

10 MS. PINSLEY: Okay. It seems that the
11 three categories that you sampled for in the
12 metals category seem to be concentrating on lead,
13 and I think it would be very helpful to all of
14 the parents to know, we would like to know what
15 the range for every chemical that was tested, I'd
16 like the range, I'd like to know, if that would
17 tell us if there were hot spots, I'd like to know
18 what the median, mean level, whichever central
19 measure you took, I would like to know what the
20 mean was, or whichever, and the standard
21 deviation, please.

22 MS. MCKENNA: I have with me tonight
23 for anyone who's interested a summary of the data
24 that has the maximum concentration, the minimum

1 concentration, the mean and the location where
2 the maximum was detected.

3 MS. PINSLEY: Excellent. And will it
4 be accompanied by a map?

5 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yes.

6 MS. PINSLEY: Okay. Good. Now, for
7 the ATSDR, you have a different type of study, I
8 understand that, but for the benefit of the
9 parents, we'd like these details. You said that
10 you've monitored other victims of pollution, in
11 the form of pollution, and that urine blood
12 findings were not positive, and, therefore, you
13 based your risk assessment on these findings.
14 What was your method of tracking these people?
15 And, also, the survey, as to use, I'd like to
16 know what the numbers were, how many people were
17 surveyed, what was the response rate and how does
18 that compare with the number of people who used
19 the site on a regular basis? In other words, I
20 would expect that every family who had children
21 attending the summer camp, that every one of them
22 would have been contacted, that all of the
23 instructors would have been contacted and so on,
24 all Middletown baseball teams, little league. I

1 think those are all. So I'd like to know the
2 sample size, I'd like to know the response rates.

3 MS. HOSSOM: Okay.

4 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Come on up,
5 Carole, so you can use the microphone.

6 MS. HOSSOM: Let's see if I can
7 remember all the questions.

8 I think you're referring to the
9 questionnaire, and the questionnaire is what EPA
10 puts out to query people who had families that
11 were at Katy Field. Because we wanted to be sure
12 that not only the respondents to the
13 questionnaire were included, we wanted to be sure
14 that everyone was included, whether they
15 responded to the questionnaire or not, and that's
16 why we had the groupings from the different
17 people, the infants that were at the daycare
18 center, the toddlers that were at the daycare
19 center, the teachers that were at the daycare
20 center, the teenagers that may have been playing
21 on the field, at the day camp, all the groups of
22 people that were likely to have used Katy Field
23 in the past. I think your question of response
24 rate goes to EPA regarding the questionnaire, but

1 we wanted our message to relate to everyone, so.

2 CAPTAIN WYMAN: I think she's asking
3 about your mark on this chart, you base it on
4 blood and urine.

5 MS. HOSSOM: Okay. First we did the
6 risk assessment, which is different than this, we
7 compared exposures. First we did the risk
8 assessment and then we used information from
9 other studies that had been done and compared the
10 levels that were at Katy Field with other sites
11 that were similar to the levels that were found
12 here, and Dr. Robert Johnson is with our exposure
13 investigations group that performs these studies
14 of urine and blood samples at other communities
15 across the country. Dr. Johnson.

16 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Come on up,
17 Doctor.

18 DR. JOHNSON: I'm Dr. Robert Johnson.
19 I was just trying to think about what would be a
20 logical way to help you on it. Maybe it would
21 be, we've done other exposure investigations
22 around the country at other sites, and tell me if
23 this is encouraging to you or not, we've a done
24 sites, for example, in Everett, Washington, a

1 site where the arsenic, I'll use for example
2 there, because that's one that we looked at in
3 soil here, in the metal groups, where the arsenic
4 was up at levels thousands of times, or actually
5 up to almost percent levels, so levels where
6 there was many hundreds, even thousands times
7 higher than anything we saw here, a thousand
8 times higher, and we checked individuals that
9 were living on that site, and these sites were
10 actually in residential yards, so we were
11 sampling their gardens and in their play areas
12 and backyards, pretty high use areas for kids in
13 those areas, so we sampled a large group of
14 people in those areas and we only had one kid
15 that was slightly elevated from those
16 contaminations that we expected in those
17 particular sites. So we look at sites like that
18 around the country and that's how we kind of
19 start to decide where we should have, what levels
20 and what use levels of land, what concentrations
21 of the chemicals in the soil and what levels of
22 use by the kids and adults and stuff we should be
23 worried about, that's kind of how I think Carole
24 was pointing out that exposure investigations at

1 other sites, this is other sites, how we can pull
2 that information back compared to your community.
3 Obviously, there no communities like your
4 community, there's no site just like Katy Field.
5 We have to kind of adapt, that's the whole
6 process of our risk assessment here that Carole
7 was talking about here, we try to apply as
8 specifically as we can the risk or the factors of
9 the kids, how long they're playing, how many
10 days, how much dirt they might be eating, to the
11 concentrations of lead and arsenic and other
12 things in the soil and that's how we try to make
13 these predictions. Did that even get close to?

14 MS. PINSLEY: It's not detailed
15 enough. How long did you track these people for
16 and what was your method for determining which
17 people to contact? I mean, did you just wait for
18 them to come and call you or did you go to the
19 local public schools and ask for student
20 enrollment and that type of thing?

21 DR. JOHNSON: You know, it differs
22 with each site, and we have sites that we have
23 looked at people as much as 20 years after
24 exposures for different contaminants, such as

1 metals, for example, as much as 20 years after
2 and looked at them and have seen no significant
3 risk effects in those particular ones. They're
4 at levels similar to your particular site here.
5 How we contact people, it's kind of a stage or a
6 step thing. If we determine that a site, that
7 there doesn't appear to be risk because the
8 levels are so low in the soil, we may not contact
9 anybody at all specifically saying you need to
10 come in and be tested because the soil levels are
11 high. If we found, if the levels were high here,
12 we should be sitting down and talking about who
13 are we going to contact, how are we going to
14 contact them, who should be involved, that would
15 be our goal at the meeting tonight, but if we had
16 found there were, in fact, levels that would pose
17 a risk to anybody, we would identify, Carole
18 might have found that it's fine for adults and
19 teenagers there, but for toddlers that may be
20 eating two handfuls of dirt there, if we had
21 found that that was a potential health risk, we
22 would need to be tracking down those toddlers and
23 those families. Fortunately, we don't have to do
24 that at this site at this time.

1 MS. HOSSOM: I want to say in our
2 health consultation that will be coming out next
3 month, we will have all the references that we
4 use in order to make our health determination,
5 and if there's anyone that's interested in any
6 particular one when they get that mailed to their
7 home, they can surely contact our office and we
8 will be glad to provide those specific studies
9 that were done in other communities.

10 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Carole, I think
11 that will be very helpful, because I think people
12 need to digest some of this information, be able
13 to make a better judgment as to what their
14 questions are and whether this answers their
15 questions and whether they haven't gotten the
16 full kind of faith effort to answer all their
17 questions, so I think there are some very pointed
18 questions, a lot of it has to do with how much,
19 you know, evidence and what the methodology is,
20 so I think tonight people are sort of getting it
21 for the first time, maybe they need some time to
22 digest it a little bit, and what we can do is
23 make your offer whole insofar as, if those people
24 want to have further consultations, we'll arrange

1 another meeting whereby those further concerns
2 can be addressed. It just seems to me there's
3 some very emotional, I mean the woman who came up
4 to speak before lost her nephew and neither side
5 of their family had cancer and lost their nephew
6 to cancer, and this woman is asking a very
7 forthright question, you know, how do you survey
8 the number of people who have been to these
9 places and have any of them had any higher
10 incidences of disease or cancer that we can tell,
11 and so there are a lot of other questions that I
12 think people are having. I think maybe we can
13 get to those specific questions with the
14 individuals. I think I appreciate the doctor's,
15 you know, answer, because I think if we maybe set
16 that up, it might be useful. I don't know if,
17 does that sound good?

18 MS. BOUGHTON: Yes. I think we should
19 have another meeting so that they can give us all
20 the answers to her questions that she raised, and
21 she raised some very good questions. I would
22 like to know, you know, 25 years ago is when that
23 firefighting school was cut down, they've had
24 daycare centers and everything else. Has anyone

1 informed anyone from the daycare center or the
2 workers or the kids that went there to see if
3 anything has happened to them over the past 25
4 years or the past 20 years?

5 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Well, I think
6 that the doctor had said that if there had been
7 excessively high levels across the field, then
8 that would have been what their next step would
9 have been to do, is to go after and find out what
10 the effects of that were.

11 MS. BOUGHTON: But they found the
12 levels high enough to close it in '94.

13 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: That is a
14 question that has yet to be really examined.
15 They found that there was an individual site that
16 was high and you closed it down or what?

17 MR. SOKOL: The close of the site had
18 absolutely nothing to do with it.

19 MS. GALLAGHER: I understand that that
20 site was closed due to a significant problem. It
21 was not closed due to a new building. It was
22 deemed closed and having a new building put up
23 for that reason.

24 THE STENOGRAPHER: Can I have your

1 name.

2 MS. GALLAGHER: Sarah Gallagher.

3 MS. BOUGHTON: Look at the records and
4 know what you said to us back then.

5 CAPTAIN OAKLEAF: I don't know where
6 your information comes from, for what happened in
7 1994. Let me just get the 1994 stuff out and
8 then see where your information is coming from.
9 I do know that we have evidence, I have evidence
10 that a new building was constructed in 1994. The
11 building that is located right here, Building
12 144, it's a terribly ugly, terribly old building.
13 The size, in order to put children in a child
14 care center, was inappropriate for the use of
15 that building. The local Congressman was able to
16 come up and get military construction funds,
17 that's when the new building was built, and it's
18 been there almost five years now, so there's no
19 evidence that there's any reason that that was
20 closed, because a military construction project
21 takes many years to develop, so I would be
22 curious to see what evidence you have to show
23 that there was some.

24 MS. GALLAGHER: I'm not saying I had

1 evidence. What I'm saying is that rumor has it,
2 I know people that worked in the daycare center
3 when it was closed, the rumors from the girls
4 that were working in the daycare center were that
5 there was a problem and that's why it was being
6 closed. So if there was a problem, even a rumor
7 should be justified, especially where children
8 are concerned.

9 CAPTAIN OAKLEAF: I personally, I
10 don't know what those rumors were.

11 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Sir, why don't
12 you come up here. Let's go.

13 MS. BOUGHTON: Back in November you
14 said 1987 there was gasoline found in the soil,
15 that was from the Navy?

16 MR. SCHAEFFER: I think what you heard
17 are exactly that, are rumors, because --

18 MS. GALLAGHER: But, regardless, if
19 they're rumors are not, they had to have
20 originated somewhere, somebody that had some
21 knowledge. People don't just say they're closing
22 down a building and then the EPA comes out with a
23 study ten years later regarding the same
24 unfounded rumors.

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: I'm not sure what
2 study the EPA came out saying there was.

3 MS. GALLAGHER: Okay, this study
4 that's currently active now. So if 15 years ago
5 I heard a rumor that there was a problem over
6 there and now 15 years later they're coming out
7 with a study that there may be a possible
8 problem, I wouldn't think they were rumors 15
9 years ago, would you?

10 MR. SCHAEFFER: Well, I can just tell
11 you that based on the data that we collected on
12 Katy Field in 1991 and 1992 and the risk
13 assessment that was done in 1994, that risk
14 assessment concluded that the site was even
15 suitable for use at the daycare center. Now, I'm
16 just saying that was based on assumptions that
17 the Navy and use of at that time, we didn't do a
18 risk assessment today for use of a daycare
19 facility. I can tell you that the 1994 risk
20 assessment concluded that it was safe for the use
21 of a daycare facility.

22 MS. GALLAGHER: Okay. Tell me, I'm no
23 longer employed by Military Youth Activities
24 because we no longer have any programs currently

1 functioning, okay, I lost my job as a result of
2 this study. Would I have lost my job as a result
3 of this study if there was no concern?

4 MR. SCHAEFFER: What study are you
5 talking about?

6 MS. GALLAGHER: This study that's
7 currently going on, that in October we shut down
8 all our functioning programs because of this
9 study, okay. I woke up one morning and found my
10 building, where I was employed, all over the
11 news. This study.

12 MR. SCHAEFFER: This study that we're
13 currently doing, okay. The only thing I can tell
14 you is that the 1994 risk assessment found that
15 there was no other supplemental risks for
16 operation of a day care center as well as
17 recreational use. There were concerns expressed
18 by EPA and RI DEM about data gaps, about the
19 change of use at the site, we collected
20 additional data and the data we collected is new
21 data and is consistent with the old data.

22 MS. GALLAGHER: Forgive me, but I
23 don't have a lot of confidence in any of your
24 data. I was employed at the military.

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: Ma'am, I'm not aware
2 of any study that came out.

3 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: What they're
4 referring to is the fact that the EPA just came
5 out, it's the reason we're all here tonight.

6 MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you.

7 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: It's that study
8 that raised the issue that put this in the paper.
9 Can someone address that question? Sir, can you
10 address that question? EPA came down the Navy's
11 throat for saying that you didn't do things
12 right, you should have shut this thing up. Why
13 did the EPA do that? That's the nature of the
14 question.

15 MR. BERGER: Don Berger, B-E-R-G-E-R.
16 I'm not sure that EPA went down the Navy's
17 throat, but I certainly understand what you mean.
18 We don't use dead bodies as an indicator of a
19 cause for action. I would really appreciate it
20 if the media didn't use those words in sound
21 tonight. That's the best way to describe it. I
22 don't mean to make light of this. We use
23 theoretical risks. We estimate, we make
24 assumptions, we do the best we can, Carole very

1 well described it, and we raised a caution flag.

2 MS. GALLAGHER: Which is the same.

3 MR. BERGER: And that resulted in you
4 losing your job, which I'm sorry about.

5 MS. GALLAGHER: Right. Which is sad,
6 because that is the one job I had in my entire
7 life that I truly enjoyed. However, what I'm
8 saying is, you're saying that the risk, okay, and
9 you compare it to, for instance, the way they
10 compute their auto insurance. Okay, when you're
11 computing somebody's auto insurance, that doesn't
12 say if they're low, low risk, that is not saying
13 they're not going to go out on the road within
14 the next five minutes and get in an accident, the
15 same goes for this. My daughter, who was
16 attending camp on a daily basis, and she had
17 severe migraines towards the end of the season
18 when they started, and very severe migraines,
19 where she was incapacitated, completely
20 incapacitated, these migraines completely ceased
21 a couple of weeks after she was no longer exposed
22 to the field, and while all the data in the world
23 can tell me that this has nothing to do with that
24 field, my feeling is, if she was on that field

1 for that period of time, she had those problems
2 then, I feel it's too much of a coincidence. I'm
3 not comfortable. Nothing is going to make me
4 comfortable with this situation. I just want
5 some reassurance that some day down the line, 20
6 years down the line my daughter is going to be
7 able to have children, that this isn't going to
8 effect her life permanently at any given time,
9 that's all I'm asking.

10 MR. BERGER: I can't give you that.
11 If there's someone here from ATSDR who can,
12 please, by all means, come up here and do that.

13 MS. GALLAGHER: But do you understand
14 my point, it's a very difficult situation, she's
15 my only child, she means more than anything to
16 me.

17 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Well, we want to
18 hear -- EPA raised the red flag here, am I right?

19 MR. BERGER: Right.

20 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Took great pride
21 in that. ATSDR says now, the Navy, you know,
22 made an assessment and the assessment has been
23 proven true, that there was no contamination that
24 threatened public health. Since you raised the

1 issue, you have to explain, when you raised the
2 issue, what you saw and what you see in today's
3 results that leads you to believe that things
4 have changed.

5 MR. BERGER: There are two things, and
6 thank you, Congressman, because I don't want to
7 be redundant about what you said when I read my
8 little speech. The two things that are different
9 now, from what they were when they raised the
10 quote unquote "red flag," are we have a lot more
11 red dots here than we used to have, we have a lot
12 more information than we had before, that was our
13 first problem, and ATSDR agreed with EPA and
14 their assessment from years ago, and I can't
15 remember the dates, saying they wanted to see
16 more data, as did we, before we determined that
17 it's safe, that's the first thing that's
18 different between now and the before picture, we
19 have more data.

20 The second picture, second difference is,
21 after all the interviews, the people in this room
22 so kindly subjected themselves to, we have a lot
23 different picture of past exposures than we have
24 even two months ago, that certainly is different

1 from what we were given four years ago, five
2 years ago now, so we've got more data and more
3 accurate and substantially different information
4 on the level and the degree to which people are
5 exposed to this sample, you said sampling data,
6 and that's why I think, to use Carole's word, we
7 have confidence now that if you ate the dirt, it
8 would not be a problem, that doesn't mean to say,
9 and this is your determination to make, it
10 doesn't make any difference if I think we can do
11 the right thing, but the only thing that's
12 important here is if you think we did the right
13 thing, and, please, tell me now, or later if you
14 prefer, if not, but given the lack of data and
15 given the uncertainty over exposures, we think we
16 did the right thing in raising the, quote
17 unquote, "red flag." Fortunately, it appeared,
18 we haven't proven wrong that the site is safe and
19 EPA agrees with that, our toxicologist agreed
20 with the State's toxicologist, with the ATSDR's
21 toxicologist with the Navy's toxicologist, we
22 even had private toxicologists that were brought
23 into a meeting two weeks ago that Captain Oakleaf
24 described to you when she made her statement.

1 There were 30 people in the room on the Navy base
2 less than two weeks ago, that laundry list of
3 experts, as well as the private, third-party
4 disinterested people I've ever met before in my
5 life, experts, and they all believe the site is
6 safe based on the data that we have now, we can
7 always use more data, but everybody is in
8 agreement that the sampling plan that was
9 established and the samples that were collected
10 were adequate.

11 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. SOKOL: Hi. My name is Linda
13 Sokol. I would like one answer and one answer
14 only from the Navy. Can you tell me, without
15 hesitation or anything, that I have nothing,
16 absolutely nothing to worry about now, five years
17 from now, ten years from now, thirty years from
18 now with my three children and myself that played
19 on that field, can you tell me, not likely,
20 because I can likely walk outside and not likely
21 get hit by a car, but it's possible, so can you
22 tell me, no, I have nothing to worry about, my
23 kids will not get sick?

24 CAPTAIN OAKLEAF: I can address that,

1 but I'm not going to. The health risk
2 assessment, and I, of course, cannot tell you
3 that because I don't know what other exposure
4 your children have in their life other than at
5 Katy Field, but ATSDR is the one that did the
6 assessment for us and maybe you can address it
7 that way. I have no assurance.

8 MS. HOSSOM: There's overwhelming
9 evidence, all the information we looked at with
10 these levels are safe, compared to communities
11 who have levels of the same chemicals at Katy
12 Field to the exposures that are here, and that
13 all the evidence says that no one will have
14 health effects, no one has health effects, no one
15 had health effects when they are exposed in other
16 communities, no one's had health effects even 20
17 years later, we looked at those people, we looked
18 at results from their blood and their urine and
19 still have not seen any health effects in those
20 people 20 years later.

21 MS. SOKOL: But you still can't tell
22 me no? There's still a little question there.

23 MS. GALLAGHER: Tell me why my
24 daughter was so sick while she was there and no

1 longer sick at all after?

2 MS. BOUGHTON: During one of our games
3 there was a little girl that played, by the
4 second inning she had to sit down because she got
5 nauseous and headaches and stuff whenever she
6 played at Katy Field, but when she played
7 elsewhere she was fine.

8 MS. GALLAGHER: And, also, there were,
9 I, as a counselor at that camp, saw there were
10 several other children that were sick on a
11 regular basis with headaches and then the
12 vomiting, and then after they would go home, they
13 would be fine. I would talk to their parents,
14 make sure that they were okay. It wasn't just my
15 daughter that had that very same problem.
16 There's several spots on the --

17 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Maybe the doctor
18 can tell us, just in his experience, because he's
19 probably called in on these situations quite a
20 bit, you know, when you have these reported cases
21 of high sampling of the particular substance, do
22 you often see a corresponding effect on the
23 people that, you know, are exposed to it if it's
24 a sustained exposure, I mean tell us, if what

1 they're saying can be correlated to the samples?

2 DR. JOHNSON: Yes, you're asking some
3 great questions, there are some difficult
4 questions, some questions that our agencies
5 wrestle with all the time, as to how do we know
6 what exposures are. I guess I can say a couple
7 of things here. First, I want to echo what
8 Carole said. We can never a say a hundred
9 percent. We can never say a hundred percent.
10 How I look at it in my own mind, would I feel
11 comfortable myself if my two kids had been
12 playing out there and if they're going to go
13 through the rest of their life with no
14 significant increased risk because of exposure
15 they had on Katy Field, and I can say yes to
16 that, and I can say yes to that because we have
17 seen other sites and we know the exposure at this
18 level, to the best of our knowledge, if every
19 study that Carole put up there, and exposure in
20 this case, to the best of your knowledge,
21 exposures to kids at this level do not cause any
22 health problems, so that's the best answer we can
23 say on that.

24 Now, addressing your question, yours is a

1 whole different question.

2 MS. GALLAGHER: If you were the parent
3 of my child and you witnessed this type of
4 illness on an ongoing basis for the time that she
5 was exposed to the field, only to have it
6 stopped, would you not be a concerned parent,
7 would you not question?

8 DR. JOHNSON: I would be a concerned
9 parent, and what I want you to do, and I think
10 that's a whole different question and a good
11 question, what this risk assessment and a lot of
12 the stuff that's going on here is showing, is
13 that there are not chemicals present here that we
14 would expect to cause any health effects, but,
15 remember, we're just looking at environmental
16 chemicals here, there's a whole lot more that
17 causes symptoms and disease out there, just for
18 example, with migraines, I just want to kind of
19 plant this in your mind that there's all kinds of
20 other allergic reactions, exposures, too.

21 MS. GALLAGHER: If it was an allergic
22 reaction, would she not have the basic allergic
23 reaction that she would have at that field, she
24 would have elsewhere, also? She's still exposed

1 to the same type of environment all over this
2 community.

3 DR. JOHNSON: Those kinds of
4 questions, I would actually like to take some
5 questions like that this evening, later on, more
6 on an individual basis, and I would be available
7 through this number, any time you want to call,
8 you can reach me at this number.

9 Just a quick closing to those things, is
10 that I also want to stress the importance that
11 you need to be a concerned parent, and if your
12 child is having health effects, we're just
13 telling you that it doesn't really look like
14 they're related to the chemicals at Katy Field,
15 but, obviously, they're related to something and
16 you need to work with your primary care physician
17 and even get a referral to an environmental
18 medicine physician. We have special AOEC clinics
19 that we can talk to you about, if you feel that
20 there's still something there that's being
21 missed.

22 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Thank you,
23 Doctor. In fact, what I want to do is get all
24 the members of ATSDR, which is the agency in

1 charge of public health, I have these chairs here
2 and then there's this desk here, we'll setup of
3 some seats behind them, and anybody who wants to
4 really delve into this, have a chance to talk to
5 you one on one, because I think that's the best
6 way, and if there's someone else that you need to
7 refer to in the group, you can talk to Louise or
8 the doctor or who have you. I can tell you from
9 my study of who these people are and having
10 become more familiarized with ATSDR over the last
11 several weeks because of what's happened in North
12 Providence, I can tell you that they truly are an
13 independent firm, they're not part of the EPA,
14 Department of the Navy, they're not out there to
15 try to cover someone else's behind, okay, their
16 job is to come in and do an assessment when
17 there's some accusation against one of these
18 other Federal agencies, that they haven't done
19 their own job internally. So I just want to let
20 you know that I think these are the people that
21 you definitely need to talk to. I think to bring
22 the Navy people in right now, who are the ones
23 that, you know, are contracting out with these
24 people to do the things would misrepresent, let

1 these people who do the impact study on public
2 health be the ones to answer your specific
3 questions.

4 I'll just take one more, and then I think,
5 two more and then I'll ask if we can wrap it up
6 and have our doctor up here.

7 MR. BARK: I can address this to the
8 EPA and the Navy. If this was the only
9 contaminated site on the base, would it now be
10 classified as a Superfund site?

11 MR. BERGER: It would be the same
12 answer I gave you the last time you asked that
13 question.

14 MR. BARK: Roger Bark.

15 MR. BERGER: This is surface soil
16 data, where exposure to children and everyone
17 else that played on that children and their
18 parents, this does not represent the study that
19 Captain Oakleaf said they were going to be
20 finishing up in the next year or so, and that's
21 the intensive investigation of the subsurface
22 material, that's why it's part of a national
23 priority list site, it's what's covered
24 underground there. The surface soil is

1 irrelevant for the purposes of that listing.

2 MR. BARK: You didn't answer my
3 question. Would it be classified as a Superfund
4 site on its own, with what you know now?

5 MR. BERGER: Yes, the same answer I
6 gave you the last time.

7 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. GOUGH: Hi. My name is Heather
9 Gough and I just had a question for the Navy.
10 Are they going to offer a summer camp there next
11 year? I mean, where is it going to be? Because
12 I don't think it would be at Katy Field. My son
13 was in the camp last year.

14 MS. GALLAGHER: I can answer that
15 probably. Yes, actually they do have expect to
16 have summer camp next year. It's supposed to be
17 located somewhere else. They're not going to use
18 the same site.

19 CAPTAIN WYMAN: I don't know where
20 your information comes from. We might have the
21 summer camp. It definitely will not be at Katy
22 Field because I plan on keeping the fence up.

23 MS. GOUGH: But you're definitely
24 having summer camp?

1 CAPTAIN OAKLEAF: I said I don't know
2 if we're having a summer camp. I would like to
3 have a summer camp. If we can find an
4 appropriate area to have one, we certainly will
5 do that.

6 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Okay. Everyone
7 from ATSDR, and we do have some really renown
8 specialists in the area, and I'd like to have
9 them all come up, and let me first have Louise,
10 doctor, would you, the doctor spoke, the head of
11 toxicology, could you come up here, I'll ask them
12 to introduce themselves briefly so you get a
13 sense of their background, because it's
14 impressive. Anybody who has questions for ATSDR,
15 please come up and see these experts.

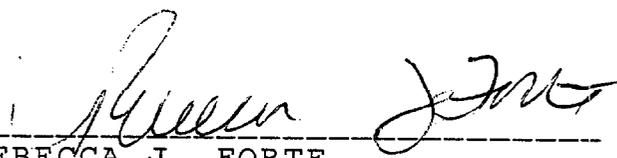
16 (HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:35 P.M.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PROVIDENCE, SC.

I, REBECCA J. FORTE, do hereby certify that I am expressly approved as a person qualified and authorized to take depositions pursuant to Rules of Civil Procedure of this Court, especially, but without restriction thereto, under Rules; that transcript contains a true record of proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I hereunto set my hand this
12th day of February, 1999.



REBECCA J. FORTE
Notary Public
Shorthand Reporter
My Commission Expires 7/15/2001