

10-00279



NAS MEMPHIS
Millington, Tennessee

**The National Environmental Policy Act
and NAS Memphis**

Fact Sheet

May 1994

• **Introduction**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), approved by Congress in 1969, is the legislation which set the tone for governmental protection of the environment in the United States. NEPA was created to ensure that environmental and community considerations are included in planning federal actions that may have a significant impact on the environment and, therefore, the community. This requirement is independent of other regulations dealing with hazardous waste cleanup, air pollution waste water discharges, etc.

• **NEPA and
the EIS/EA**

NEPA's language is quite broad, but the act's purpose and ultimate aim are quite clear: to include the environment in federal development actions. NEPA requires that the federal agency — in this case the Navy — prepare a detailed **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** for major federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Those actions for which the impacts are not known or which may not be significant require an **Environmental Assessment (EA)**.

• **NEPA at
NAS Memphis**

For the **Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC)** actions at Naval Air Station Memphis, the Navy will be preparing an EA for the realignment of the base to accommodate personnel and operations of the Bureau of Personnel (BUPURS), which will be moving its operations to NAS Memphis. The Navy will also prepare an EIS for the disposal and reuse of that portion of the air station to be transferred from the Navy. Preparatory work on both documents will begin in May.

• **The EA**

Completing the EA will take about seven to eight months. It will address impacts resulting from the reconfiguring of on-base facilities as well as impacts anticipated off-base, both environmental and social, from the base's realignment.

• **The EIS**

The EIS will address impacts associated with disposing and reusing excess property. This property consists primarily of the air operations side of NAS Memphis (the runways, hangars, taxiways, etc.) located north of Navy Road. The majority of the EIS document will address impacts associated with the anticipated new use of this property.

• Reuse and the EIS

The Base Reuse Committee will develop options for reusing land transferred from the Navy to the community. A draft of the Reuse Plan is not expected to be available until early 1995. Once this plan is available, the Navy will incorporate it into the EIS. Approximately eight to nine months is required after the Reuse Plan becomes available before the EIS process is complete.

• Public Meetings

A Public Scoping Meeting will be held in the summer to solicit input on the EIS from interested organizations and individuals. Following this scoping meeting, and after distribution of the draft EIS, a public hearing will be scheduled to provide an opportunity for comment from interested organizations and individuals. Both of these meetings will be publicized in advance.