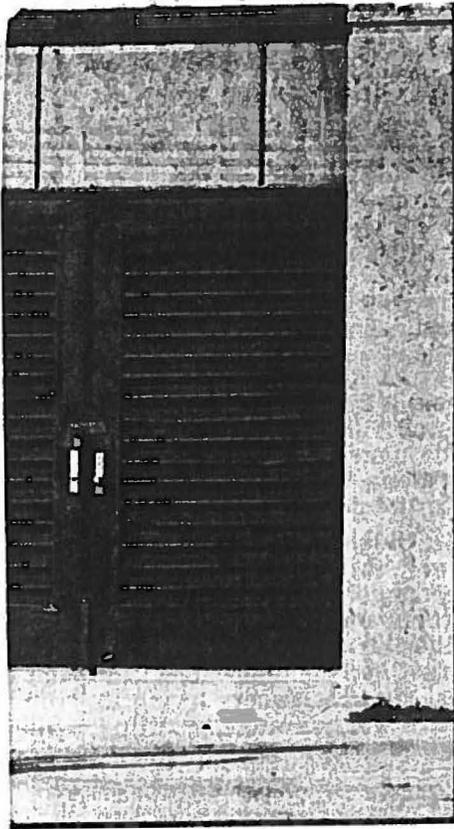


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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "OFFICIALS UNEARTH ANSWERS TO BASE WASTE" MILLINGTON  
SUPPACT TN  
4/25/1994  
THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL



Photographs by Joe Stefanichik

## Kills and worker

Year-old Mud Island employee  
r death Sunday afternoon as  
ned windows on one of the  
the river park. As police and  
ials investigated (above),  
Edwards (left) sat stunned by his  
er's death. Police said Shelly  
it, a junior majoring in  
cial music at Memphis State  
y and member of the MSU  
band, was cleaning an end  
on one of the monorail cars  
apparently lost her footing  
She was killed instantly.

## Urban, rural

For this is the Public Library  
and Information Center's book-  
mobile, a relic that travels the  
same road once used by the milk-  
man and the ice-delivery truck.  
It can be demanding duty, said  
driver George Small Jr.  
"We don't have a bathroom  
aboard, so you have to train  
yourself to hold on till the rest  
stop."  
Please see **BOOKS**, Page A5

10 years, is scheduled to preach  
his final sermon at First Baptist  
July 17. Those moving to the un-  
named new church hope to have  
a temporary meeting place

split. This would be most unfor-  
tunate for the church, her pros-  
Please see **CHURCH**, Page A7

# Officials unearth answers to base waste

By Tom Charlier  
The Commercial Appeal

From a field where German  
mustard gas bombs were de-  
stroyed to pits where cyanide-  
based plating solutions were  
dumped, environmental investi-  
gators face unsettling questions  
as they prepare to clean up Shel-  
by County's two major military  
installations.

For months, officials working  
under an alphabet soup of feder-  
al and state laws and agencies  
have been poring over old re-  
cords and aerial photographs re-  
lating to the Memphis Defense  
Distribution Depot and the  
Memphis Naval Air Station at  
Millington. They've been gather-  
ing information for use in the  
separate hazardous-waste clean-  
ups.

Although the installations and  
their impending cleanup opera-  
tions bear little in common, both  
have presented investigators  
with the same essential chal-  
lenge: identifying present haz-  
ards from long ago and often  
poorly documented disposal  
practices.

At the 642-acre depot, officials  
want to know more about the  
buried wastes that have con-  
taminated millions of gallons of  
underground water. And at the  
naval base, a primary issue fac-  
ing officials is the fate of the  
hundreds of thousands of gal-  
lons of electroplating wastes  
dumped into gravel-lined wells  
during the 1950s and '60s.

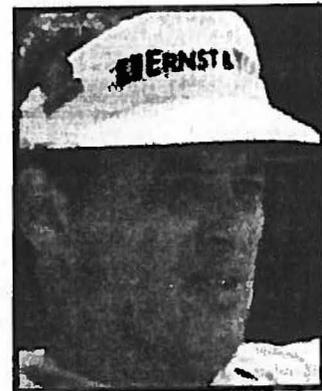
"We're really kind of scratch-  
ing our heads and trying to fig-  
ure out where it is," said Jordan  
English, Memphis field office  
manager for the Tennessee De-  
partment of Environment and  
Conservation's Division of Super-  
fund, who is working on the  
Navy base project.

The issues are taking on re-  
newed importance as work en-  
ters critical phases at both in-  
stallations. Investigative field  
studies and work on an environ-

Please see **WASTE**, Page A10

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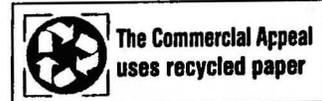
## IN 3-WAY PLAYOFF

■ Loren Roberts of German-  
town will meet Ernie Els and  
Colin Montgomerie today in  
Oakmont, Pa., in the first 3-  
way playoff in the U.S. Open  
since 1963. They tee off at 9  
a.m. Memphis time. Story/D1

■ Simpson may use  
Menendez-style  
defense **A2**

■ Rockets beat  
Knicks, force Game 7  
Wednesday **D1**

■ **WEATHER:** Mostly sunny  
today. High in the mid-90s.  
Variable wind at 5 mph. Fair  
tonight. Low in the mid-70s.  
Details/B3



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From Page A1

# Waste

mental impact statement are set to begin this summer at the naval facility. And officials at the depot are organizing a citizens review committee to help oversee the cleanup and completing a community relations plan outlining efforts to keep neighbors informed.

The two bases will be cleaned up under different laws and programs and for different reasons.

The depot has been named to the national priority list of sites serious enough to warrant action under the federal Superfund program. The naval station was named last fall to the list of military facilities facing shutdowns or reduced operations under the 1990 Base Closure and Realignment Act, which requires that cleanup work be completed before the airfield is turned over to local or state agencies and the rest of the installation is "realigned" later this decade.

At both the depot and the Millington base, officials plan to unearth answers to questions that persist after more than a decade of environmental studies.

In a 1983 report, the Army said wastes that included potent insecticides, acids and even vials used in chemical warfare training were buried in Dunn Field, a 60-acre extension of the depot, between 1954 and 1970. Last year, the Pentagon reported that in 1946 as many as 29 German bombs containing mustard gas were disposed of at the depot after they were found to be leaking.

An 18-month, \$671,000 study completed for the depot more than two years ago found that industrial solvents and metals had seeped into a shallow aquifer beneath the depot. The contaminants were flowing toward a well field operated by the Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division, but they have not been found in the Memphis Sand, the deeper aquifer the utility pumps to obtain public drinking water.

Allison Humphris, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's remedial project manager for the depot work, said the groundwater contamination is the immediate priority at the fa-

cility. Officials want to know how far off base the contaminants have gotten and ascertain more about their source, Humphris said.

"Obviously, it's a potential threat to the Memphis Sand," she said. However, "we don't have any evidence that it has compromised the Memphis Sand."

EPA must go back and check for "gaps in the data" because the earlier study identifying the contamination problem was conducted before the depot was named to the Superfund list, Humphris said. The study was "a good first effort" by the depot to assess environmental problems, she said.

Officials have been reviewing historical records and aerial photos to find out more about the past dumping, Humphris said. They're now revising plans for completing the overall investigation at the facility.

In the meantime, however, officials will pursue measures "to control the problems we know we have," Humphris said. That probably will involve a system to pump and treat contaminated groundwater and possibly curb its migration off base, she said, adding that construction on the project could begin within a year.

The community relations plan for the depot was drawn up amid rising concerns expressed by neighbors. During interviews with base officials in May 1993, residents said they feared that contamination at the depot might be linked to cancers, miscarriages, stillbirths and other health problems in their neighborhoods.

At a meeting set for 9 a.m. Thursday at the depot, a recently named technical review committee will hear a briefing on the overall cleanup effort.

At the Navy base, a total of 65 "solid-waste management units" — places that could be contaminated — have been identified. But officials say they have found no evidence of any serious threat to public health.

"There's never been a great deal of industrial operations here at NAS-Memphis, like you would see at other bases," said David Porter, the Department of Defense representative on the cleanup team at the base.

Of the 65 sites, only 15 will require full investigations and

possible cleanups, according to a plan completed early this year. At more than two dozen sites, officials will merely conduct sampling to confirm that no major problem exists, while 20 others will require no further work.

Base officials have just finished a draft "environmental baseline study." The product of interviews and a review of records, it contains a color-coded map identifying areas that are contaminated, those that are clean, ones that are relatively safe, and ones that need further

investigation.

The major areas of concern are the 3,490-acre base, officials are the six-foot-deep dry two plating shops. For crews poured plating solutions containing cadmium, chromium and other hazardous wastes the gravel-lined wells. Officials received up to 900 gallons according to a 1983 report.

Other potential threats include a hazardous waste area situated near a 19th century cemetery and sites where jet fuel was dumped

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ording to a this year. en sites, of- duct sam- no major 20 others r work. just fin- mental ba- duct of in- ew of re- color-coded s that are that are relatively ed further

investigation.

The major areas of concern at the 3,490-acre base, officials say, are the six-foot-deep dry wells at two plating shops. For years, crews poured plating solutions containing cadmium, chromium and other hazardous wastes into the gravel-lined wells. One well received up to 900 gallons a day, according to a 1983 report.

Other potential threats include a hazardous waste disposal area situated near a 19th Century cemetery and sites where jet fuel was dumped on the

ground and ignited during fire-fighting training exercises.

Nearly two dozen of the 65 sites are within the 1,500 acres of the installation that will be turned over to local or state agencies.

According to the base timetable, the airfield will shut down by October 1995 as training operations are moved to Pensacola, Fla. The interim leasing of base property could begin by late 1995, with the transfer of portions of the facility slated to start in early 1996.

The waste sites that aren't within the portion of the base to be transferred will be cleaned up under a Defense Department program similar to Superfund. That part of the facility will become home to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, which is slated to move from Washington to Millington in 1997.

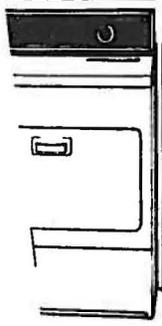
In all, officials expect to spend more than \$5 million on cleanup and investigative work at the Millington facility, including \$175,000 during the current fiscal year.

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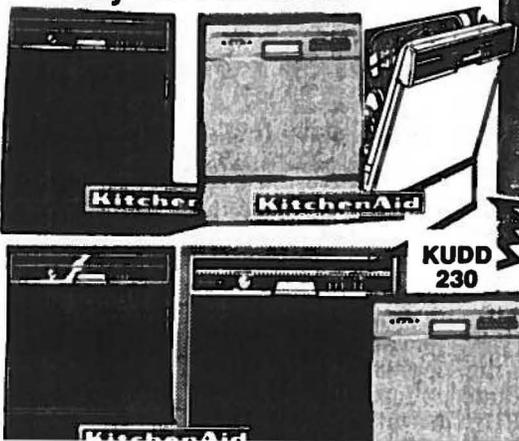
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# THE COMMERCIAL

1994

15th Year, No. 171, 4 Sections

Memphis, Tennessee, Monday Morning, June 20, 1994

## Architects' donations show depth

By Reed Branson  
The Commercial Appeal  
Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE — Architects tend to be more politically involved than the average citizen, and their contributions to the candidates for Tennessee governor show it.

Donations from architects accounted for 19 percent of all the construction dollars identified by The Commercial Appeal in its

computer-assisted analysis of the candidates' financial disclosure forms. Most of the \$64,275 identified as coming from architects went to three candidates: Democrats Bill Morris and Phil Bredesen and Republican Don Sundquist.

Those contributions, and donations from other professionals who do big business with state government, illuminate an ethical gray area in political fund-raising, where civic-minded support of a candidate meets

the potential for getting government business.

Connie Wallace, executive vice president of the American Institute of Architects, Tennessee Society, said the nature of architecture urges political involvement.

"They (architects) tend to have a global vision, a strong planning component in studies and work, which gives them an overview of community and how the community can best be served."

But many architects also do business with the state. Of the architectural firms whose employees were identified by the newspaper as giving to gubernatorial candidates, 16 held contracts with the state during March.

Those chosen to design state buildings are picked by the State Building Commission, a state agency made up of the governor, the commissioner of Finance and Administration (who is appointed by the governor), t

## J.S. hopes leaders in Haiti will agree to go into exile

By Elaine Sciolino  
The New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — To avoid an invasion of Haiti, the United States is trying to induce the three top military leaders of the Caribbean nation to leave for a comfortable life in exile, perhaps by arranging for them to be paid off, senior administration officials say.

As part of that strategy, much of the country's 7,000-man armed forces and military police would stand to avoid punishment on the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the popularly elected president who was ousted in a military coup in 1991.

The latest strategy has emerged in recent weeks as the United States received intelligence reports through intercepted conversations and other

