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PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT SITE VISIT DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY REPORT
FOR NAVY MILITARY MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM (MMRP) MILLINGTON
SUPPACT TN
8/15/2003
NAVFAC SOUTHERN

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**Preliminary Assessment
Site Visit / Data Collection Summary Report
Navy MMRP**

Installation: NSA Mid-South
Prepared by: Milind Pradhan, Team Leader
Prepared: 15 August 2003

The site visit to Naval Support Activity (NSA) Mid-South in Millington, Tennessee was conducted on 05 August 2003 through 07 August 2003. The purpose of the visit was to collect information needed to complete a preliminary assessment (PA) report on an other than operational range identified in the Navy inventory, as provided in Malcolm Pirnie's Statement of Work for NSA Millington (NSA Mid-South), dated 04 February 2003 (Project #18, Contract No. N62472-02-D-1300). This document presents a summary of the site visit and data collection effort to date. The draft PA report will provide additional details on the data collected.

Malcolm Pirnie Team Members: Mr. Milind Pradhan; Mr. Michael Garnes; Mr. Dan Hains; and Mr. Al Larkins.

Navy Representatives: Mr. Jim Reed (SOUTHNAVFAC - Branch Head and RPM). Although the Navy representative was not able to be physically present during site visit, he was provided copies of the briefings and was available to answer questions by conference call.

Primary Installation POC: Mr. Rob Williamson (Public Works – Environmental Protection Specialist)

Other Attendees: Ms. Sue Millican (NSA Mid-South – Public Affairs Officer); Mr. Lee Barker (NSA Mid-South – Planner/Estimator Supervisor); Ms. Tonya Barker (NSA Mid-South – Environmental Director); and Mr. Bob Sipowich (NSA Mid-South – Engineer).

PA Site: Pistol Range

Activities Conducted Prior To Site Visit

Prior to the site visit, Malcolm Pirnie reviewed range related records obtained from the National Archives in Washington D.C. and College Park, Maryland. In addition, the team reviewed web-based information regarding the installation and information available in the Navy range inventory database regarding the PA site.

Briefings

An in-brief was conducted at NSA Mid-South during the first day of the site visit (attendees are listed above). At the conclusion of the site visit, an exit brief was held to discuss the data collected and initial findings.

Installation Location, Mission, and History

NSA Mid-South is located in Shelby County, approximately 15 miles north of Memphis, Tennessee. The Town of Millington is situated west of NSA Mid-South and approximately 5 miles east of the Mississippi River. NSA Mid-South currently encompasses approximately 1,584 acres and maintains an airfield now used as a municipal airport. Currently 30 commands are located at the base that employs approximately 6,000 civilian and military personnel.

Prior to the Navy's acquisition of the land currently known as NSA Mid-South, the Army Signal Corps constructed Park Field, an aviation training school, in 1917 to address the needs for more aviation schools during World War I. In 1937, the Resettlement Administration claimed the land for farm development. At the beginning of World War II, the property was under Navy jurisdiction.

NSA Mid-South was commissioned in 1942 as a Naval Reserve Airbase to train pilots in flight proficiency during World War II. The installation was originally named Naval Air Station (NAS) Memphis. Support and logistics requirements of the activities on base were under control of NAS Memphis, with the exception of the Naval Hospital. In the early 1970's the Naval Hospital moved to a newly constructed facility. Around this time, the Naval Reserve Center Memphis relocated to the base, which brought reservists from the central states to Millington for training. The United States Army Reserve Training Center was also relocated to the base, resulting in an additional nine divisions and battalions along with 1,000 reservists being trained each month at the installation.

In 1995, NAS Memphis was renamed NSA Memphis as a result of the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission recommendations. During the mid-1990's, the Naval Air Technical Training Center was relocated to Pensacola, Florida. The name of the installation again changed in 1998 to Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPACT) Mid-South to reflect the regional approach taken by the Navy. Land previously used by the Navy was given to the City of Millington to spark economic growth to the civilian community. Three parcels of land were provided through the BRAC recommendations, which included 4 acres, the former Brig location through the Public Benefit Conveyance in March 1999, 538 acres of the Airfield through the Public Benefit Conveyance in January 2000, and 1,329 acres of land surrounding the airstrip through the Economic Development Conveyance in January 2000.

In 1999, the Navy Recruiting Command relocated to NSA Mid-South from Washington, D.C. and, following their lead, other major commands also relocated to NSA Mid-South. The installation now serves as a complete community for these commands, providing its own fire department, police force, public works, and financial, commercial, and entertainment centers.

Offices Visited, Records Reviewed, and Personnel Contacted

During the site visit, the following NSA Mid-South personnel were interviewed:

- Ms. Sue Millican (Public Affairs Officer, Historian)
- Mr. Lee Barker (Planner/Estimator Supervisor, Public Works)
- Mr. Bob Sipowich (Civil Engineer, Public Works)
- Mr. Larry Proctor (Disaster Preparedness Officer, Safety/Emergency Management)
- Mr. Dave Wainwright (Real Estate, Facility Planning Division)
- Mr. Robert McConnie (Ordnance Officer, Armory)
- Mr. James Dillon (Training Officer, Fire Department)
- Mr. Charles Wallise (Fireman, Fire Department)
- Chief Peters (Fire Chief, Fire Department)

The following on-base information repositories were visited:

- Public Works Repository
- NSA Mid-South Museum

The following off-base facility was visited:

- Millington Public Library

PA Site Summary

A brief summary of information obtained regarding the PA site is provided below. This information was collected during the data collection and visual site survey efforts conducted during the site visit.

Pistol Range: The former Pistol Range, which consisted of approximately one-third of an acre, is located on the southern portion of the base, adjacent to the only operational skeet range and west of the former dump area. The pistol range was constructed in 1943 and was utilized by military personnel through 1994, when the range was finally closed. The range was primarily used for small arms training for military or civilian personnel responsible for the handling of munitions or involved with base security. Munitions use was limited to small arms, primarily small caliber guns (.22 through .45 caliber). A trap and skeet range located adjacent to the former Pistol Range remains active.

Other Areas of Interest

Several munitions and range related records, documents, and information sources were identified as a result of the data collection effort. Although the information obtained may not directly apply to the PA site, it may be of interest to the Navy and the Installation.

Additional Ranges/Sites: The following additional ranges/sites associated with NSA Mid-South were identified as part of the data collection and visual site survey activities.

- One additional range was listed in the Navy inventory for NSA Mid-South that was not included as part of the PA scope of work. The **Turkey Shoot** is a closed range located at NSA Mid-South that was formerly used for recreational game hunting. The site has been closed under BRAC and remedial action has been undertaken. A letter of No Further Action signed by the USEPA was released in February of 2001 approving the remedial activities taken by the installation.
- ✓ ▪ Three additional skeet ranges were identified through archival search data analysis. The first of the three identified skeet ranges, the **Former Trap/Skeet Range**, is located adjacent to the former Pistol Range, on the northern face of the berm parallel to 7th Avenue. The Former Trap/Skeet Range, which consisted of 10 ranges prior to the construction of the former pistol range, is shown on many base maps and present on aerial photography. The remaining two skeet ranges, the **Former Horse Stables Skeet Ranges #1 and #2** were located north of the installation's golf course and south of the former Rifle Range. Currently, military housing exists where these former ranges were located. Activities conducted at the three identified sites included training of Navy personnel in moving target orientation and may have included recreational use as well.
- ✓ ▪ A **Former Aircraft Firing Range** was initially utilized during World War II for the bore sighting (alignment) of machine guns attached to the planes. The site consisted of two large concrete structured buildings dedicated for aircraft maintenance training, which also included the bore sighting of machine guns. Two large berms located adjacent to the southern face of the two buildings were utilized for the bore sighting of the machine guns.
- ✓ ▪ A **Former Rifle Range**, located in the most northern corner of the installation, was used for qualification and proficiency training for Navy personnel. Three firing positions located south of the berm are shown on historical base maps.

Identified Issues/Concerns

The following issues/concerns were noted during the exit brief and subsequent discussions with the POCs.

- Information regarding two former Machine Gun Ranges was obtained as a result of the National Archives records search. The Machine Gun Ranges located adjacent to the former radio school and the second range within the proposed softball fields were noted on maps dating from 1942. After review of aerial photography and conducting interviews, it was determined that construction of the machine gun ranges was proposed, but the ranges were never actually built.
- Five additional ranges/sites, discussed in the previous section, were identified as a result of the data collection process. These sites, which were not previously identified in the Navy Inventory, have been approved by the EFANE for inclusion in the PA process as a modification to the Scope of Work.

Future Data Collection

Follow-up conversations with the individuals noted below will take place to complete the data collection activities.

- Telephone interviews with Mr. Roger Aitken (Facility Planning Division) and Mr. John Williams (formerly stationed at NSA Mid-South) to obtain additional details regarding historical range and munition related activities at NSA Mid-South.
- Telephone and fax communication with Mr. Dave Wainwright to obtain additional property records.

In addition, maps obtained from the National Archives will be scanned and provided to the Navy RPM in electronic form.