

# **RAB Minutes**

**NAS North Island**

**Restoration Advisory Board**

## **Introduction**

The forty-seventh Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Thursday, June 18, 1998, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Arno Bernardo, Navy Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed RAB members and the public.

**RAB Attendance:** Arno Bernardo, LaConta Coleman, Carla Fargo, Ron Hiland, Laura Hunter, Sandor Kaupp, Bob Logan, Larry McCauley, Art Van Rooy

**Public/Navy Attendance:** Rick Basinet, Mark Bonsavage, Neal Clements, Bill Collins, David DeMars, Marilyn Field, Mike Giorgione, Dan Gruta, Mirat Gurol, Heidi Hanson, Stephanie Kaupp, Walt Kitchin, Ed Kleeman, Lee Lane, Janet Lear, Mike Magee, Vivian Mayer, Dan McCullar, Ray Mello, Ken Mitchell, Tracy Mogg, Roy Oliveira, Kathryn Parker, Rick Phillips, Rey Ringor, Brian Sanders, Betty Schmucker,

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 13, 1998 MEETING:** The May minutes will be sent out at the same time as the June minutes. There will be no RAB meeting in July, and the next RAB meeting will be on Thursday, August 20, 1998 at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Hunter suggested that everyone introduce themselves, and the attendees did so. Mr. Bernardo thanked Captain Mello for all his good work, for his support of the RAB and for initiating the TAPP program. He will be working at the Pentagon. Mr. Bernardo announced that Ms. Marron has accepted a job in the Middle East and will be resigning as Community Co-Chair. In all probability, he will have to resign as Navy Co-Chair by October 1 due to the requirements of regionalization, which may call for other changes as well. Nominations and election of the Community Co-Chair will be on the August RAB agenda.

## **REPORT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (TAPP) – Laura Hunter**

The draft report was sent out with the agenda. Ms. Hunter asked if anyone had comments or questions. In response to Ms. Fargo's question, Ms. Hunter explained that NAS North Island was the first non-Superfund site to receive technical assistance funds, and that this was a pilot program. The report recommends that there be a portion of funds dedicated to pay for the administrative costs of the TAPP. Mr. Kaupp suggested adding the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and a representative from the City of Coronado to address environmental concerns. Ms. Hunter proposed adding representatives from other affected cities. Ms. Hunter put out a plea for new TAPP subcommittee members.

Mr. Collins and Ms. Hunter discussed the items the committee still needs to submit, including the recommendations from the last two presentations. The committee needs to tell him when the contractor has completed the task, so that a final invoice can then be submitted and paid.

#### PAPER TOUR OF NAS NORTH ISLAND – Bill Collins

**Background:** Mr. Collins, who is the team leader for the environmental restoration project at NAS North Island, talked about the passage of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) as the start of the Installation Restoration (IR) program. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is an operating permit program which also requires environmental restoration. In 1984, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) was enacted, which required military facilities to open up their bases and establish technical review committees. These committees were made up of military personnel, some regulators, city representatives, and a few people from the community. Under President Clinton, this evolved into the present RAB, which has greater public participation and is required to meet at night to allow the public to attend. So, the laws governing the IR program at NAS North Island are CERCLA as amended by SARA.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA), through the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) oversees the IR program. The Regional Water Quality Water Board provides assistance, particularly on groundwater issues; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is available for additional advice on difficult issues; and the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health also offers help.

The procedure is as follows. First, everything is documented in the Administrative Record, which is kept for 50 years. There are three phases. Phase One, the investigation phase, includes a preliminary assessment/ site inspection; at which point, if there is enough information to require a full assessment, a remedial investigation work plan is formulated, followed by a remedial investigation (RI) and feasibility study. Phase Two, the decision-making phase, includes submission of a proposed plan, a Record of Decision (a binding agreement between the Navy and regulatory agencies) followed by remedial design and remedial action. Phase Three is the clean-up, which involves operations and maintenance, including ongoing monitoring. This can take as much as 30 years. There are faster actions if the risk is greater, known as removal actions, which are designed to reduce or eliminate the risk in 1-2 years.

Mr. Collins then introduced each of the sites on NAS North Island, with the use of slides.

**Site 1:** Until 1970, the practice was to rinse the floors of aircraft repair facilities and allow that water to go to the storm drain system, which has outfalls to San Diego Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The compounds found at this site include petroleum, aviation fuel, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), creosote, paint strippers and thinners, sludge and heavy metals. Outfalls 1-8 and 16 are currently in the RI stage (reviewed by the TAPP). Outfalls 9-15 underwent a removal action. The outfall pipes were buried. The RI for these outfalls started last week, to verify the effectiveness of the action. It will take about a year to produce the report.

**Site 2:** This is the site of a municipal landfill, utilized from 1917 to the mid-1940's. An incinerator operated there, probably during the last 5-10 years the landfill was open. The ash from the incinerator posed a risk, since it included arsenic. This area went through a removal action in 1996. The incinerator building was demolished, the ash was buried, and a concrete wall was built to block access. The contaminants were covered with soil, then geo-textile. There is also a small area on top of the landfill, perhaps 15 X 15 feet, which has low-level radioactivity from radium dials. This will be cleaned up this summer under another removal action. Groundwater monitoring is on-going at the

site.

**Site 3:** This is in the golf course area. A 10' X 12' site area at the far end of a building was the place where pesticides were washed off equipment and allowed to run off into the ground. An investigation took place, and no risk is present. No further action is recommended.

**Site 4:** This is the Public Works Salvage Yard, alongside the golf course. Compounds found here include asbestos, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), SVOCs, PCB's, and petroleum. A removal action was performed. The Navy Environmental Leadership Program (NELP), which encourages the use of innovative technologies, to find better, cleaner and/or cheaper methods of clean-up, was available. Between NELP and the USEPA's Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation (SITE) program, NAS North Island demonstrated and implemented an innovative technology on this site. A sample of 5,000 pounds of soil was treated from a high reading of 35,000 parts per million (ppm) to less than 2 ppm. This technology was used and the residues were collected and shipped by truck to Utah, where they were incinerated. Mr. Collins thought that less than 10 trucks were used. A dig and haul operation, which had initially been proposed, would have involved more than 2,000 trucks. This approach saved approximately \$3,500,000. Ms. Hunter, in response to Ms. Field's question, explained her concerns with incineration. However, the law requires incineration when PCB's are present in a concentration greater than 50 ppm. The treated soil was buried, a plastic marker layer and two feet of soil was placed over that, and then grass is on top of that. The site is now the golf driving range. Dr. Gurol asked how the solvents were treated. Mr. Collins explained that the solvents were removed from the soil by vacuum extraction and reused for subsequent treatment batches.

**Site 5:** This site was also used as a municipal landfill, and is known as the Golf Course Garbage Disposal Area. This is on the present site of the golf course. There was an incinerator operating until the Vietnam War. There was some hazardous waste in that landfill. A small area with VOC's is being treated by natural attenuation, which is being evaluated.

**Site 6:** Construction salvage was put at this site. At one time, PCB transformers were stored in this area. Several of them leaked, creating a hazardous condition. Once this was discovered, that area was covered with plastic, and then sand was placed over that. A fence was installed after that. The soil from this site was excavated and treated during the Site 4 removal action. The remaining soil meets residential standards for PCB's, and is currently part of the ball field. Ms. Field inquired about residential vs. industrial standards. Mr. Collins explained that Site 6 is a park, and that since access to the driving range is controlled, industrial standards are appropriate. There are no distance standards for residential housing, but none are required since the PCB's are covered and not migrating. This site is recommended for no further action since all of the contaminants were removed.

**Site 7:** This is called the Building 39 Runoff Catchment Area. Ground support equipment was serviced here, there was also sandblasting and paint-stripping, and the fire-fighting training area was included in this site as well. There were hazardous waste tanks, which were removed. Initial soil sampling showed some contamination; a few years later the contamination had degraded naturally and the soil was no longer contaminated. The fire-fighting training area was torn out. While removing sumps, the concrete slab was ripped out as well. These were sampled, then sent to a landfill. The sandblast grit was cleaned up as a house keeping effort. This site will be recommended for no further action.

**Site 8:** This is the weapons testing area, and no waste was disposed of.

**Site 9:** This is known as the Chemical Waste Disposal Site. Millions of gallons of waste were dumped here, including chlorinated solvents (VOCs and SVOCs), some PCB's, petroleum, heavy metals,

paint strippers and thinners. This area was known as the "fiery marsh". There were frequent fires when waste was dumped here, since it was often incompatible. As a result of Fire Department complaints, eventually an industrial waste treatment plant was built at Site 11. Prior to that, they tried segregating waste into 4 pits. The site was then closed during the 1970's. VOC's were present, and a soil vapor extraction system was installed, and up to this point more than 12,000 pounds of contaminants have been pulled off. Ms. Hunter asked where the solvents are going, and Mr. Collins and Mr. Clements replied that they were being shipped to a site in California. FOLLOW-UP: The solvents are shipped to a disposal facility in California where they are then shipped to Texas for incineration. Numerous efforts were made to recycle the solvents, but the wide mixture of chemicals made these attempts unsuccessful.

There is a demonstration project going on now in addition to the removal, and that is called NoVOCs (an in-well air stripper), which is being used to remove groundwater contaminants. There is a flameless destruction unit, which is achieving close to 99.99% destruction of the VOCs removed. This technology shows promise. In response to Dr. Gurol's questions, Mr. Collins explained that the other soil contaminants can be more safely removed once the VOC's are stripped off. She also inquired about the carbon being used to treat the soil, and was told that it is being regenerated by the equipment on site.

Also, there was a small fenced yard with low-level radiation, and that will be cleaned up this summer as another removal action.

Site 10: There was a smelter at this site in the 1940's. PCB's were stored and dumped at this site. Even before the PCB's could be dealt with, there was radiation from instrument fragments in the scrap metal debris on the site. Those fragments had to be removed first, since the soil was being treated at Site 4. The site is now considered clean from PCBs since they were all hauled to Site for treatment and disposal. Approximately 20,000 cubic yards (CY) of radiation slag were cleaned up in an emergency removal, at a cost of \$3.8 million. A rip rap wall was built. They are continuing to look at this site.

Site 11: As mentioned earlier, this was the site of the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant. The site had 4 ponds for oily waste treatment, some sludge beds and circular containers holding chemical waste. There were dense, non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs). They investigated what leaked from the ponds, and the contamination went straight down, quite deep (well over 100 feet). Again, a soil vapor extraction system was used to recover VOC's from the soil. Approximately 4,000 pounds of contaminants were removed with a system similar to that at Site 9. A remedial action plan, the California equivalent of a Record of Decision, is being prepared to determine the final method for cleanup for the remainder of the site.

Site 12: This was a fuel farm and a gasoline station. There was a big gasoline leak in the 1950's. Although much of the gasoline was recovered through extraction wells, the site still required further investigation. However, DTSC concluded that they had no authority over this site, given that the contaminant was petroleum and that it was not covered by RCRA or CERCLA. They passed it on to the Water Board. In 1996, the Water Board agreed that no further action was required.

Summary: Mr. McCauley asked which sites were recommended for no further action. Mr. Collins said that no further action will be proposed for Sites 3, 6 and 7. Site 1 is still unclear since the report hasn't been completed. The groundwater will be monitored on Site 2, and Site 5 will also be monitored, since it is a landfill. Site 4 will also be monitored, since there is PCB contamination in the core, and 3 wells were placed around the pile. Mr. Bernardo added that Sites 8 and 12 have low findings, and require no further action.

Mr. Collins told the RAB that all sites at North Island are called solid waste management units, and

that there are 140 of those, many more than the IR sites. Some are small, and some have already been taken care of. 30-40 have been investigated, and quite a few more are being investigated at the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant. Every hazardous waste tank in the ground is considered a solid waste management unit (SWMU). Ms. Fargo queried whether SWMU's are all related to former practices or former mistakes, and Mr. Collins agreed. Any current spill must be cleaned up immediately. The new Federal Facilities Site Remediation Agreement is being written by the state and will list all the SWMU's. It should be available this summer.

#### NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE (NAB) CORONADO – David DeMars

**Background:** Mr. DeMars is a Remedial Project Manager on Mr. Collins' team. As part of the regionalization mentioned earlier, NAB Coronado was consolidated into NAS North Island, making them one base. The environmental program was also absorbed. Mr. DeMars then showed a video giving an overview of NAB Coronado. NAB Coronado is primarily a training and administrative base. It extends approximately 3 miles down the Silver Strand and borders Silver Strand State Beach. It was built in 1943 from dredge from bay sediments. The water table begins only a few feet below the surface. Highway 75 divides the base in two, creating a bayside and a surf side section. Most of the amphibious training and operations of NAB occurs on the 3-mile stretch of ocean beach. There is a least tern preserve on Delta Beach North and Delta Beach South, immediately south of the main base. South of that is the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) marina, then family housing, including an elementary school. The southernmost 40-acre parcel, down by the border, has been leased to the state as a state park and campground.

The IR program at NAB began with an initial assessment study performed in 1986. There were five IR sites identified. The next step was the site inspection (SI), which was performed in 1995. This is a more thorough study that includes sampling and analysis of soil, groundwater and bay sediment. In order to gain more information, Bechtel performed an extended site inspection (ESI), and at that point an additional site was added. The first four sites are located on the NAB peninsula. Site 5 is at the location of the least tern preserve, and Site 6 is at the MWR Marina.

**Site 1:** This is known as the Building 603 Disposal Pit. A pipeline led to a building 60 feet away. Automotive wastes such as oil, solvents and paints came out of the pipe and went into a depression in the ground. This practice ended in the early 1980's. Six sampling wells and 20 soil borings were installed. The ESI recommended no further action because the risk for human health was below the threshold. Ms. Hunter inquired whether there was or would be any public review. Mr. DeMars said there was only state review, and that no public review was anticipated, although it would be discussed at a future RAB meeting. She requested it be discussed next month.

**Site 2:** This is the worst site on the base. Since the site overlaps with Site 4, they are often combined. A burn disposal landfill for general base refuse and general debris, including oil and solvents, as well as small arms ammunition exists at this site. It was operated from the late 1940's to the early 1970's. The total volume of the disposal area is approximately 40,000 CY.

**Site 3:** This is located on the bay side of NAB, in the northern corner. Boats and other marine craft were painted here. Although most of the buildings are gone, the asphalt and concrete remain. During construction of the new paint facility, they discovered contaminated soil. Approximately 250 CY were removed. Through interviews, it was discovered that there was a half-buried 55-gallon drum, which had been used to dump solvents and paint. Existing monitoring wells and 20 soil borings were sampled. The human health risk was again below the threshold, and no further action was recommended in the ESI. However, the shoreline sediments were also sampled and these showed high hits of PCB's in the sediment. There were no hits of PCB's in the soil or groundwater at this site. DTSC asked for a remedial investigation of the sediments surrounding NAB. But, Site 3 itself

has been closed as far as DTSC is concerned.

**Site 4:** This is the sandblast grit disposal area. The new sandblast facility was built in 1981. Prior to that, any grit generated from sanding boats and other vehicles was disposed of here. At present, this site is also completely paved, thus capping the landfill. In addition, it is an active and crowded maintenance yard. Soil borings, sediment and groundwater samples were taken. There were hits of heavy metals in the soil, groundwater and bay sediments. Further investigation is called for, and the sediment from Sites 2 and 4 will be examined along with the Site 3 sediment. They will be taking additional samples to determine if the landfill is having an impact on the bay or the bay sediment itself. This is why the ESI is still in draft form, despite the fact that so much time has passed. Mr. DeMars estimated that the document should be finalized in July.

**Site 5:** This is in the least tern nesting area. It was used as a disposal area for a dredging project in the mid-1950's. In 1969, unexploded ordinance (UXO) in the form of 20 and 40-millimeter rounds turned up in the dredge material. In 1969, several feet of clean fill was added. In 1984, 75 acres were set aside as mitigation for destroyed habitat at NAS North Island. The least tern preserve is fenced and inaccessible to the public, and no activities are permitted there. The Water Board, the lead agency at that time, reviewed the initial assessment study and removed Site 5 from the IR program.

**Site 6:** This site, located at the end of the old MWR marina, was added to the IR program in 1995. In 1991, an inspector from the County witnessed some boat maintenance during his inspection. Soil samples showed elevated concentrations of copper, tributyltin, and a lesser amount of lead and arsenic. A non-time critical removal action is planned. This will be a simple dig and haul of about 560 CY of sand, to be replaced with clean fill. The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis document (EE/CA) will be available for public review here next month.

**Summary:** In the next three months, the draft ESI report will be finalized; the EE/CA will be sent out for a 30-day public review; and the work plan for sediment investigation will be written and sent out for review.

#### **REVIEW OF RAB APPLICATIONS/NEW MEMBERSHIP VOTE – Arno Bernardo**

Mr. Bernardo said two more applications were received, from Gregory L. Walker and James D. Darnell. He did not make copies, and the applications were passed around the table during the meeting to the RAB members. Mr. Mitchell said that Mr. Walker called him earlier, saying he had a family emergency and would be unable to attend this month's meeting. Ms. Hunter moved that the applications be approved, barring any conflicts not apparent in the application. There were no objections, and the two new members were voted in.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Ms. Hunter repeated her invitation for RAB members to join the TAPP subcommittee, and said they would meet quickly with Dr. Gurol right after the meeting to set up a new meeting. She also said that the RAB should open nominations for Community Co-Chair and vote at the next meeting. At Mr. Bernardo's request, Ms. Hunter agreed to sit in temporarily for the Community Co-Chair at the August meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Hunter requested a discussion of ongoing operations. She has 3 items to bring up on that subject, and would like the agenda from now on to reflect NAS North Island, NAB Coronado and ongoing

operations.

**FUTURE RAB MEETINGS**

Next meeting: Thursday, August 20, 1998

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Saturday, October 17, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. for a tour

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.