



Island Times

Environmental Investigation and Cleanup News
Former Naval Station Treasure Island

Summer 2007, Newsletter No. 13

www.bracpmo.navy.mil/bracbases/california/treasure_island

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The Navy developed this newsletter to update the community on the environmental program at former Naval Station Treasure Island (NAVSTA TI). NAVSTA TI encompasses both Treasure Island (TI) and Yerba Buena Island (YBI). The Navy established the Installation Restoration (IR) Program in 1981 to investigate and cleanup sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Environmental investigations and cleanup under the IR Program and other programs began on NAVSTA TI in the mid-1980s and continue today. The Navy has identified 33 IR sites on TI and YBI and is following the regulatory process of investigating and cleaning up each site.

Please share this information with members of your family, friends, and representatives from any local organizations that may be interested. Individuals, businesses, and organizations can receive future newsletters by completing and returning the mailing coupon on the back page of this newsletter. We also welcome your comments on the newsletter.

FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY:

How Will the Navy Investigate the Clipper Cove Skeet Range to Be Protective of Diving Ducks?



According to Audubon Society surveys conducted from 1984 to 2005, several types of diving ducks live and feed in various locations at TI and YBI. One particular location is in Clipper Cove, between YBI and TI where the marina is located (see map on page 7). Until 1987, the Navy operated a skeet range where clay targets were released and fired at over the cove waters. As a result,

lead shot used in shotguns entered the cove waters. This area is referred to as the Clipper Cove Skeet Range, Site 27 (see map on page 7). The Navy is conducting an FS to evaluate cleanup alternatives for this site. The alternatives the Navy is evaluating are focused on reducing potential risk to diving ducks from ingestion of lead shot in sediment.

The Navy has conducted hydrographic surveys (a study of sediment movement over time) within Clipper Cove. Those surveys show that sediment is being naturally deposited in Clipper Cove, except within the first 150 feet of the shoreline. Sediment deposition has buried the lead shot over time and prevents exposure to diving ducks. However, because sediment deposition is not occurring within 150 feet of the shoreline, it is not known whether a duck diving in this particular area might ingest lead shot. To answer this question, the Navy will conduct an additional field investigation to collect samples in the area within 150 feet of the shoreline.

THE INVESTIGATION

To investigate, the Navy and their consultants will divide the area within 150 feet of the shoreline into a grid [see photo at bottom]. Navy consultants will collect samples of sediment at three locations within each grid square. Samples will be collected at various depths. To collect the sediment samples, a team will mobilize on a boat to reach the sample locations. A sampling device called a Vibracore will be mounted on the back of a boat. The sampling device will be vibrated into sediment to collect a core of the sediment.



Sampling Team

Each sediment sample will be sifted for lead shot. After sifting, the sediment sample will be sent to the laboratory for residual lead analysis. One additional sample, known as a grab sample, will be collected in the top 3 inches of sediment in each grid square. That sample will be evaluated for benthic biomass (typical prey for the diving ducks) to determine if ducks might use the area for feeding.

NEXT STEPS

The Navy is preparing a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) that details how the field investigation will be done. After the SAP is finalized in August 2007, the Navy's consultants will conduct the field investigation in Clipper Cove during September to October 2007. After extensive laboratory analysis and evaluation, the results of the investigation will be presented in the FS in spring 2008.

PROFILE: THE REGULATORY TEAM

The NAVSTA TI Base Realignment and Closure Team [BRAC] Cleanup Team (BCT) has three new regulatory agency representatives: Henry Wong from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC); Agnes Farres from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board); and Christine Katin from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Navy sat down with all three recently to talk about their various backgrounds, responsibilities, and interests. Here is a summary of the interviews.

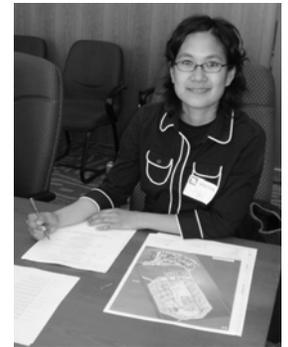
While Henry, Agnes, and Christine all joined the NAVSTA TI team at various times in 2006, Henry has been with the DTSC for almost 20 years. Henry's role at the DTSC is to ensure the program provides protection of human health and the environment in an efficient and effective manner that also addresses the needs of the community. DTSC is the lead agency providing oversight for the NAVSTA TI environmental cleanup program.

Some of Henry's notable achievements include co-authoring the State of California's Permit Writer and Correction Action guidance documents, and working on the successful early transfer of two other military bases from Department of Defense to the local reuse authorities. Henry noted that it's interesting to learn about the objectives and interests of various stakeholders in NAVSTA TI, while working together for a common goal.



Henry Wong
DTSC Representative

As the Water Board representative, Agnes provides oversight for surface and groundwater issues at NAVSTA TI. The Water Board also provides regulatory oversight for the cleanup of petroleum releases at NAVSTA TI. Agnes noted the value of preparing NAVSTA TI for transfer, she commented that the "redevelopment project has so much potential to contribute to the economic vitality of the San Francisco Bay Area." Before working with the Water Board, Agnes spent time as an environmental consultant working on wetland restoration projects.



Agnes Farres
Water Board Representative



Christine Katin
EPA Representative

Christine worked in the water treatment industry and volunteered with the Peace Corps, which influenced her decision to join the EPA. Christine, as the EPA representative, also ensures that the NAVSTA TI environmental cleanup program protects human health and the environment in an efficient and effective manner and ensures the project meets federal requirements, as applicable. Christine indicated that it is rewarding to "play a part in making a site safer, cleaner and altogether better for people to live and to work."

Even though the work is challenging and keeps each representative busy, each one is involved in hobbies during their spare time. For Agnes, travel is a passion, and she has lived in several places in the U.S. since she moved here from the Philippines at age 12. You can find her outdoors doing anything from gardening to rock climbing, or you may find her inside, making jam or knitting. For Henry, running is his leisure activity, and he runs a tenth-marathon anytime he can. Christine also enjoys running and travel like Agnes and Henry, but her main passion is exploring all the sites in the Bay Area.

All three agency representatives appreciate collaborating with the BCT as well as with their internal agency teams because of the knowledge and multi-disciplinary views they get of various issues. But it's not just the exciting day-to-day collaboration that keeps them going, it's the overall goal of accomplishing the completed cleanup.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

The Navy has several upcoming documents that will give community members an opportunity to read about and participate in the environmental program. Look for upcoming notices in the San Francisco Chronicle about the following:

Proposed Plans for Site 30 (Daycare Center) and Site 31 (Former South Storage Yard)

What is it?: The Proposed Plan is a fact-sheet style document that summarizes different alternatives for site cleanup. (A detailed analysis of cleanup alternatives was documented in the Feasibility Studies, completed on November 16, 2006 and February 16, 2007, respectively.) In the Proposed Plan, the public is presented with site information and evaluations of various cleanup options along with the Navy's preferred option, and asked to comment.

Why is it important?: It's a chance to get a general understanding of the site and give your input on the best way to conduct cleanup. It's also important because this step will determine the selected cleanup option, which will be documented in a Record of Decision (ROD).

Where can I get a copy*?: The Proposed Plans will be mailed to everyone on the NAVSTA TI Community Mailing List. Fill out the form on the back of this newsletter to be added to the list. There will also be a public notice in the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper. Copies of the Sites 30 and 31 Proposed Plans will also be placed in the Information Repositories along with other documents about the sites (see page 6 for locations of Information Repositories). In addition, the Navy will hold a Public Meeting later this year to present the information, provide clarification to questions you may have, and take comments.

Record of Decision for Site 9 (Foundry) and Site 10 (Bus Painting Shop)

What is it?: The ROD is a document that states the selected path forward for cleaning up a site (or sites). It follows the Proposed Plan, and includes responses to comments received on the Proposed Plan. The ROD for Sites 9 and 10 proposes that taking no further action will be protective of human health and the environment.

Why is it important?: It documents the selected cleanup decision for the site. After the ROD is signed by the Navy and Regulatory Agencies, the Navy typically begins plans to design and implement a final remedy. Because no action is required for unrestricted future use of Sites 9 and 10, the signing of the ROD will complete the cleanup process.

Where can I get a copy*?: When the ROD is signed, a public notice will be published in the San Francisco Chronicle to notify the community. Copies of the ROD will be placed in the Information Repositories along with other documents about Sites 9 and 10. (see page 6 for locations of Information Repositories.)

**With these or any other milestones, you can also get more information by attending Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings (see page 6 for details) or by contacting James Sullivan at (619) 532-0966, james.b.sullivan2@navy.mil.*

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE HOUSING AREA?

In March 2007, the Navy and their consultants began a Non-Time Critical Removal Action in portions of the TI Housing Area (Site 12) on Bayside Drive, Northpoint Drive, and Westside Drive. The purpose of the removal action is to excavate the areas mostly behind the green fences, referred to as the Solid Waste Disposal Areas (SWDAs). Work is progressing, however, there have been some changes to the way the work is being conducted, which will extend the completion schedule from the end of summer to early 2008.



Contractors Use the Detector Array Towed (or DART) to Conduct Radiological Screening in Site 12

Specifically, during routine radiological screening in the work areas, some glass decorative buttons and deck markers were found in the soil that contained low levels of radium. The level of radiation found in the buttons is similar to what would be found in some common residential smoke detectors. To date, about 21 small items have been found. As a precaution, Navy radiological protocols call for increasing the level of screening and sampling of the excavation. During screening activities any areas with measurable radiological detections above a level which is based on naturally occurring background levels will be excavated. After initial screening is complete and areas have been excavated, the Navy will use larger equipment to complete the full excavations.



During Excavation Contractors Use Water to Control Dust



Excavation at Northpoint Drive

The Navy wants to keep residents informed of any field work updates and answer any questions you have about the Housing Area Non-Time Critical Removal Action activities. If you have any comments or questions, please contact James Sullivan at (619) 532-0966 or send an e-mail to james.b.sullivan2@navy.mil.

YERBA BUENA ISLAND ANCHORS WEST END FOR THE NEW BAY BRIDGE

As you may know, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (Bay Bridge) is undergoing seismic safety upgrades including the construction of a new eastern span. Part of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) work for the new eastern span involves using YBI to anchor the new section of the bridge. There are three environmental sites on YBI that are located in the areas of Caltrans work: Sites 8, 11, and 29. Site 8 is a former Sludge Disposal Area, Site 11 is the Old YBI Landfill; and Site 29 is the East Side On/Off Ramp (see map on page 7).

Because these are environmental sites, the Navy and Caltrans have been communicating regularly about them. Specific information has been shared between the Navy and Caltrans regarding the location of the sites, soil sampling conducted in the areas, and past and future construction activities that may impact current site characteristics. The Navy is revising the previously issued Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report for these sites to incorporate that information. The revised Draft RI Report is due in August 2007. Navy and Regulatory Agency representatives and consultants were invited to take a boat tour to see progress of the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge in spring 2005.



For more information about the environmental sites, contact James Sullivan at the Navy (see page 6 for contact info). For more information about the Bay Bridge project, visit the Caltrans website at www.dot.ca.gov/.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

It's time for the Navy to update their Community Relations Plan. The purpose of the Community Relations Plan, or CRP, is to:

- Describe the TI/YBI and greater San Francisco communities
- Highlight past community outreach activities conducted at NAVSTA TI
- Identify the current level of community interest and concern about environmental issues at NAVSTA TI
- Outline planned public participation activities

Interviews Are Your Chance to Participate!

The key component to identifying community concerns and interests in the Navy's environmental program is to conduct interviews. Later this summer, the Navy will contact people from various groups and interests and ask them to take part in an interview. The interview will be brief, less than 1 hour, and will include questions about level of interest or concern, the best ways to communicate with the community, confidence in the Navy and regulatory agencies, and any other comments people have about how the Navy can inform and involve the community. Interview results will be used to determine future community involvement activities, the best media for reaching people, and topics people are interested in. This will help to increase the dialogue between the Navy and the community.

If you are interested in taking part in a CRP interview, please call James Sullivan no later than August 31, 2007 at (619) 532-0966 or e-mail james.b.sullivan2@navy.mil.

WHAT IS GROUNDWATER AND HOW IS IT USED AT NAVSTA TI?

Groundwater is water that has accumulated below the ground surface in the soils or bedrock that form NAVSTA TI. Groundwater is first encountered at TI about 3 to 8 feet below ground surface.

Because most groundwater at TI/YBI is too salty for human consumption and the very limited supply of fresh water from rainfall and irrigation would be quickly exhausted, no water supply wells are in use, nor are any planned for installation. Instead, the City of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission supplies all tap water to TI/YBI via a water pipeline on the lower deck of the Bay Bridge.

Groundwater at TI flows from the center of the island toward the edge of the island. Even though groundwater is not a source of drinking water, the Navy has had an ongoing groundwater monitoring program since 1998. The purpose of the program is to test the water for any environmental contaminants to ensure protection of the San Francisco Bay and marine organisms.

In California, a State Water Resources Board was established along with Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Board). The duty of the Water Boards is to protect the quality of the surface and groundwater for beneficial uses. The Navy has been working closely with Water Board staff to ensure protection of surface and groundwater at NAVSTA TI. The Water Board provides technical reviews of Navy documents, comments and recommendations about remedial efforts at NAVSTA TI, and meets monthly with the BCT.

HISTORIC PHOTO



**Water Tank No. 168 Under Construction
at the Top of YBI in March 1919**

TI/YBI HISTORICAL QUESTION

Did Treasure Island have a Post Office?

(see page 6 for answer)

**CHECK OUT THE RESTORATION
ADVISORY BOARD**

The RAB is composed of members of the community who work with the Navy and regulatory agencies to provide input on the environmental restoration of NAVSTA TI. Regular meetings are held to discuss the progress of the Environmental Cleanup Program. It is a great opportunity to find out what is going on and to have your voice heard. Residents or community members regularly drop in to hear the latest news or ask questions. All RAB meetings are public meetings. Everyone is welcome!

RAB meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every other month at the Casa de la Vista on TI and are open to everyone. Upcoming RAB meetings are currently scheduled for August 21, 2007; October 16, 2007; and December 18, 2007. For more information, contact James Sullivan at (619) 532-0966 or send an e-mail to james.b.sullivan2@navy.mil.

TI/YBI HISTORICAL ANSWER

Yes. Building 258, at 5th St. and Avenue H, was the Navy Post Office from 1944 until the Naval Station closed in 1997. During WWII nearly 200 personnel were assigned, processing an average of 205,000 pieces of mail per day.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Did you know the Navy has two conveniently located Information Repositories housing environmental documents related to NAVSTA TI? You can visit these repositories to view various documents published for the environmental program. Visit the Navy's Information Repositories, located at the following addresses:

Navy BRAC PMO Office
410 Palm Avenue, Building 1, Room 161
Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA 94130
(415) 743-4704
Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

OR

San Francisco Public Library
Government Publications Section, 5th Floor
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA
(415) 557-4400
Call for hours

BRAC CLEANUP TEAM CONTACT LIST

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NAVSTA TI IR PROGRAM SITE MAP



NAVSTA TI Mailing Coupon

If you would like to be added to the NAVSTA TI mailing list and receive copies of future newsletters and fact sheets, please fill out the coupon below and mail it to:

James Sullivan
Navy BRAC PMO West
410 Palm Avenue
Building 1, Room 161
Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA 94130-1806

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