

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PLAN  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 1997-2001



SEPTEMBER 1996

## FOREWORD

The Department of the Navy is pleased to forward the Department of the Navy Environmental Restoration Plan for Fiscal Years 1997-2001. It is intended to chronicle the accomplishments made in cleaning up past hazardous waste disposal sites and provide a plan for achieving future restoration goals.

During FY 1996, the Navy refined the way we conduct the business of restoring our Navy and Marine Corps installations. As always, it is our goal to achieve cleanup of past hazardous waste sites in a prudent and cost effective manner. On 25 October 1995, Mr. Robert B. Pirie, Jr., the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment) issued policy guidance which stated that the DON environmental cleanup program is based on the following principles: (1) We will evaluate and ultimately close out all sites in the program; (2) We will use relative risk evaluations and risk management to determine priorities for action within available funding; (3) We will seek to establish and maintain a stable funding profile at a level that protects human health and the environment, and makes progress toward fulfilling our legal obligation to address and reach decisions at all sites; (4) We will plan, prioritize and execute the program in open dialogue with regulators and public stakeholders, and ensure meaningful involvement of affected communities; and (5) We will expedite cleanups by using formal partnering and the flexibilities and lead agency responsibilities described in Executive Order 12580 and the National Contingency Plan for Oil and Hazardous Substance Spills.

Formatting in this year's edition organize data into easy to use categories that allow the reader to quickly locate key information. The use of icons and map boxes enhance the plan's readability. Progress and plans tables track each installation's cleanup efforts through FY 1996 and provide a road map for future cleanup actions over the next five years.

Consistent with previous reports, special emphasis is placed on installations included on the National Priorities List and significant Base Realignment and Closure installations. Detailed narratives provide historical information for cleanup actions taken under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Underground Storage Tank program.

Appendices list Navy and Marine Corps installations by state, program and phase. These tables provide a snapshot of the Installation Restoration Program as of 30 September 1996 using information provided by Remedial Project Managers at each Naval Facilities Engineering Field Division or Activity.

It is hoped that you will find this edition of the five-year plan to be a useful asset in articulating the Department of the Navy's success in the environmental cleanup arena to installation personnel, regulators and the public. Widest possible distribution is encouraged.

## COMMENT PAGE

The Department of the Navy (DON) recognizes that cleaning up the Nation's past hazardous waste disposal sites will impact many different segments of the Navy and the Marine Corps from the Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) working on installation investigations and remediations to the research laboratories developing new technologies to assist in the cleanup. We encourage your comments on this Plan. Please mail your comments to the address below, submitting as many pages as necessary. Our goal is to make this plan user friendly and responsive to your needs. Your input is greatly appreciated.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please include my name on the mailing list.

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Additional copies may be obtained by contacting:

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of the Navy (DON) Environmental Restoration Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 1997-2001 provides a comprehensive look at the DON's efforts and commitment to identify and assess potential areas of environmental contamination resulting from past disposal activities and spills and perform cleanup actions as appropriate.

The DON initiated the Environmental Restoration Program in response to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA). The passage of SARA brought Department of Defense (DoD) under the CERCLA umbrella with the creation of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program funded by the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA). In the FY97 DoD Appropriations and Authorization Acts, Congress devolved the former DERA account directly to each Service. In FY97 the former DERA type funding will be designated Environmental Restoration, Navy (ER, N).

DoD established the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) by implementing guidance set forth in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP). EPA's NCP set forth a procedure for identifying, investigating and cleaning up contaminated sites resulting from past hazardous waste disposals and spills. EPA lists the most contaminated of the sites being addressed under CERCLA on its National Priorities List (NPL). There are 45 DON installations listed on the NPL, was added in FY96.

Along with CERCLA IRP sites, past disposal and spill areas identified under other environmental laws also qualified for DERA funding. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (RCRA), the Corrective Action program identified potential areas of contamination as Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) or as Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) sites. If these sites are the result of past disposal practices and past spills of hazardous wastes, DON uses DERA funding to clean them up. Under the Base Realignment And Closure Acts (BRAC), DON funded cleanup sites that normally would qualify for DERA are funded from a special BRAC account. DON considers BRAC cleanups to be a part of the Environmental Restoration program.

As of 30 September 1996, the DON had 4,433 sites in the Environmental Restoration program at 236 DON installations. Of these, 2,549 sites were in a study phase, 502 had a cleanup underway and 1,382 sites were considered Response Complete (RC) by the DON. Of the 4,433 sites, 3,398 are being addressed as part of the ER, N program while 1,035 sites are funded through the BRAC cleanup account. During FY96, DON spent \$365 million of DERA and \$223 million of BRAC for a total of \$585 million on the Environmental Restoration Program.

DON continues to exhibit a bias for cleanups. During FY96 64% of total program funding was spent on actual cleanups. Expected funding for the DON Environmental Restoration program in FY97 is \$288 million for ER, N (formerly DERA) and \$262 million for BRAC for a total of \$549 million.

Due to Congressional reductions in FY96 funding levels, the DON placed greater emphasis on innovative approaches to program management with an overall goal to reduce the risk to human health and the environment presented by the DON contaminated sites. A second goal was to accomplish cleanups quicker, especially at closing bases, to accelerate the return of land to local communities for reuse.

In FY96, the DON continued to use the DoD Relative Risk Site Evaluation Model to determine a site's relative risk ranking. Of the 3,051 active DON sites, 1,342 were ranked high, 665 were ranked medium and 601 were ranked low relative risk. This determination was a key element in the risk management process used to determine priority for sites receiving DERA funding. In general, this will allow sites posing a greater relative risk to be cleaned up sooner. DON prioritizes funding for BRAC site cleanups based on identified reuse. This allows

quicker transfer of property to promote reuse and create new jobs. DON conducts special surveys to assess all property being transferred, and the property deeds contain assurances that the Federal government has taken all cleanup action necessary to protect human health and the environment. DON plans to have all sites relative risk ranked by the end of FY97.

Additionally, by making use of the removal action and interim remedial action processes outlined in the NCP, the DON has taken steps to reduce the risk associated with contaminated sites. Increased use of innovative technologies and efforts to transfer these technologies to the field has promoted quicker and less expensive cleanups. During FY96, DON increased coordination with regulators and other affected stakeholders to structure a national cleanup program with expanded use of innovative technologies.

In FY97 as occurred in FY96, DON plans to use the risk management process as well as funding availability as the primary factors during negotiations of new legal agreements. Incorporation of Site Management Plans in these agreements will allow for adjustments in schedules to accommodate relative risk evaluations and funding levels.

FY96 brought a continued commitment from DON to involve affected stakeholders in the cleanup process. Some 110 active and closing installations are served by Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) who provide advice to DON decision makers on a variety of cleanup and reuse issues. During FY96 DON provided \$2 million in DERA and BRAC funding to support RABs.

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