

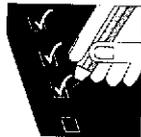


Preliminary Assessment of Munitions in San Diego Bay Primary Ship Channels and STENNIS Homeporting Beach Replenishment Areas

Introduction

This fact sheet tells you about a study being performed by the Navy. This study addresses areas of San Diego Bay historically used by the military as primary ship channels, and where bottom sediment (sand) was dredged to make the channels deep enough to accommodate ships passing into the bay. Some of the dredged material was placed on San Diego area beaches as part of beach replenishment (rebuilding) activities. However, in 1997, the Navy discovered munitions (weapons; in this case, eleven 20-millimeter rounds, two 81-millimeter mortar rounds, and two small-caliber rifle rounds) on an Oceanside, California beach that was receiving dredged material from San Diego Bay. This material was created when the Navy dredged San Diego Bay to accommodate the presence of the *USS John C. Stennis*, an aircraft carrier that makes Naval Air Station North Island its home port. This discovery led regulatory agencies and the public to question the nature and extent of munitions in San Diego Bay. The Navy is conducting this study to help answer that question.

What is a "Preliminary Assessment"?

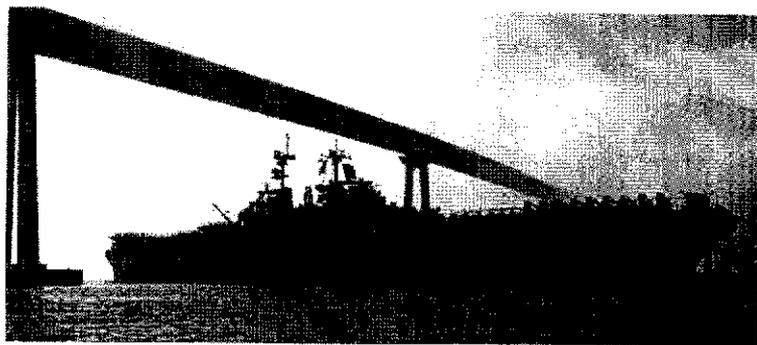


The Navy is performing a Preliminary Assessment, a limited-scope investigation designed to identify sites that may pose a potential threat to human health and the environment and therefore require further study. A Preliminary Assessment is the first investigative step under a federal environmental cleanup law called CERCLA – the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980.

The Navy will collect, review, and evaluate relevant information about two areas:

- Past activities associated with the historic transfer and handling of Navy munitions in the vicinity of the historic primary ship channels in San Diego Bay; and
- Placement of dredged material at area beaches during the Navy's recent STENNIS homeporting-related channel dredging activities.

This information will help identify potential threats to public health or welfare or the environment from munitions in the primary ship channels and at beach sand replenishment areas. The Preliminary Assessment report will be prepared following federal (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Navy) guidance and requirements. A draft report will be available for public review and comment in the summer of 1999.



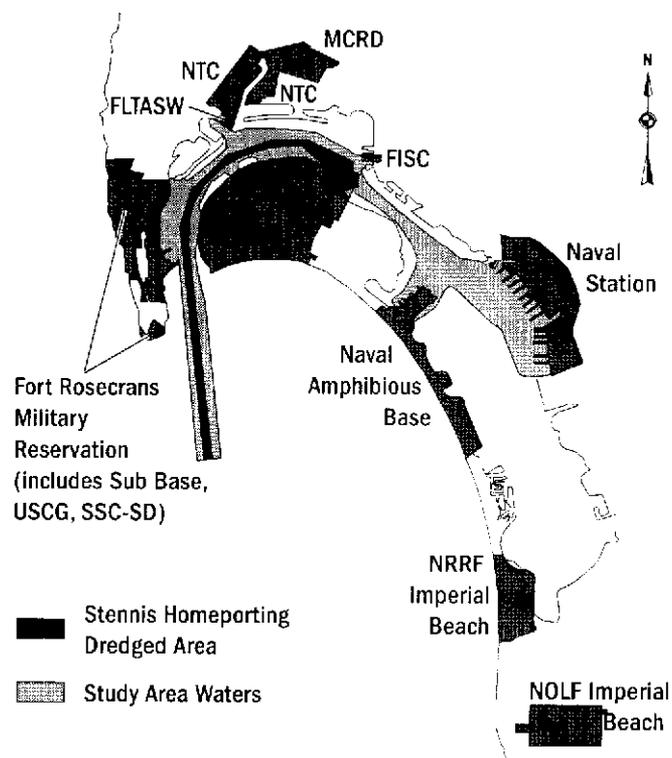
U.S. Navy ship passes under Coronado Bridge in San Diego Bay. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Felix Garza

When Will This Work Be Conducted?

Historical record searches in support of this work were initiated in late 1998, and interviews with military personnel about past munitions handling practices started in January 1999. A Work Plan – a blueprint for carrying out the Preliminary Assessment – was prepared and is being reviewed by oversight regulatory agencies. It is also available for public review. The Work Plan outlines the plan for:

- Research and review of written records and photographs of historic primary ship channels and military ship movement in San Diego Bay;
- Interviews with former and current military personnel and civilians about munitions-handling practices;
- Review of public records relating to munitions and the San Diego Bay primary ship channels;
- Review of STENNIS homeporting records;

Map of Project Area



List of Acronyms

FISC – Fleet Industrial Supply Center
 FLTASW – Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center
 MCRD – Marine Corps Recruit Depot
 NAS North Island – Naval Air Station North Island
 NOLF – Navy Outlying Landing Field
 NRRF – Naval Radio Receiving Facility
 NTC – Naval Training Center (San Diego)
 SSC-SD – SPAWAR [Space and (Naval) Warfare (Systems Command)] Systems Center, San Diego
 USCG – United States Coast Guard

- Review of pathways of contact and “potential receptors” (those who might come into contact with munitions in the bay); and
- Collection of information on communities surrounding San Diego Bay, including interviews with local residents, elected officials, public interest groups, and others.

Community Relations

An important part of conducting this Preliminary Assessment will be holding interviews with local residents, elected officials, and representatives of various interested groups and organizations. The interviews began in early 1999.



Fact sheets (brief informative newsletters — this one you're reading is the first

of three) will be developed and distributed to the public during the course of the project. And, at all times during the course of the study, Navy and regulatory personnel will be available to answer questions and address concerns the public may have about this study.

A Community Relations Plan will be developed that will help the Navy understand and better address the interests and concerns of the public about this study. This Plan will present a program for two-way communication between the Navy and the interested public. A draft Community Relations Plan is expected in the late spring of 1999.

In addition to the Community Relations Plan, a series of public meetings and presentations to local Restoration Advisory Boards (community advisory groups for each of the three naval facilities in the San Diego Bay area: Naval Training Center, Naval Air Station North Island/Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, and Naval Station) were held in January 1999. The meetings served to inform the public about the purpose and findings of the Preliminary Assessment study.

For More Information

For more information on the Navy's study of munitions in the primary ship channels of San Diego Bay, please contact:

Mr. Lee Saunders, Code 00PAE
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San Diego, CA 92132-5190
(619) 532-3100
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If you have information you would like to share with the Navy that would assist in conducting this study, or would like to participate in the Preliminary Assessment interview process, please contact:

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Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command
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One or more Information Repositories (files containing current information and set up in local, convenient, publicly accessible locations) will be established so that the public can read about the Navy's munitions study. The location of the information repositories will be determined as a result of the community interviews, and the public will be informed of the locations in future fact sheets.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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**Inside - Information on:
Preliminary Assessment of Munitions in
San Diego Bay Primary Ship Channels and
STENNIS Homeporting Beach
Replenishment Areas**



Printed on recycled paper

MAILING LIST

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, then you are not on our mailing list to receive information on this project. To receive future mailings, including notices of the upcoming public meetings, please complete this form, clip, and mail to: Mr. Lee Saunders—Code 00PAE, SWDIV NAVFACENCOM, 1220 Pacific Highway Building 128, San Diego, CA 92132-5190.

Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Affiliation (optional) _____

E-mail address _____

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THE NAVY NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command is conducting a Preliminary Assessment (PA) regarding munitions in San Diego Bay primary ship channels. SWDIV decided to perform the PA as a result of the discovery of munitions in a recent dredging project. This study will describe the nature, potential location, and extent of munitions in San Diego Bay primary ship channels and on certain beaches that received dredged material as part of a beach replenishment program.

The Navy is presently interviewing current and former Armed Services personnel regarding past munitions handling practices. If you are a current or former member of the Armed Services, served in the San Diego area at any time, and have information regarding the potential presence, location, and/or type of munitions in the San Diego bay, please take a moment to fill out the attached **interview questionnaire**. As discussed in a letter from **Admiral V.Z Froman, Commander, Navy Region, Southwest** (copy attached), **"Interviewees should not be reluctant to speak about past munitions handling and disposal practices because we will not be pursuing any adverse action against individuals for unauthorized disposal of munitions based on information supplied during the interviews"**.

Information can also be provided by calling 1-800-234-5439