

U.S. Navy Environmental Restoration Program

The U.S. Navy's mission is to maintain, train, and equip a world-class, combat ready fleet capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas. Support of this mission requires wide-ranging networks of land-based facilities. As these facilities operated over the years, in some cases contaminants were released to the environment, particularly in early years before safe handling and waste management practices had evolved. Because the Navy is committed to protecting both human health and the environment at its facilities, it has implemented an innovative and efficient Environmental Restoration Program to clean up areas impacted by its activities.

History

The Environmental Restoration Program began in the early 1980s in response to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund. The program's initial phase, called the Installation Restoration Program, addresses sites that were contaminated with chemicals and hazardous substances. Beginning in 2001, the Navy initiated a second phase of the Environmental Restoration Program to address sites with munitions and explosives-related contaminants (excluding operational ranges). This program, called the Munitions Response Program, has completed initial surveys to identify sites and is performing more detailed site investigations to support decisions for cleanup. These two combined phases make up the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program.



Goals

Goals of the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program include:

- Complying fully with federal, state, and local requirements; acting immediately to eliminate human exposure to contamination that poses an imminent threat, including removing or containing the contamination.
- Giving top priority to cleaning up sites which pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment.
- Developing partnerships with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, state, and local regulatory agencies.
- Involving the local community through Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs).
- Encouraging participation with timely information and opportunities for public comment and taking all comments into account when making decisions.
- Expediting the cleanup process and demonstrating a commitment to action.
- Considering current, planned, and future land use when developing cleanup strategies.

Through public input and its partnerships with regulatory agencies, the Navy is committed to meeting or exceeding these goals.

Looking Ahead

As of the end of fiscal year 2010, the Navy has 3,834 legacy installation restoration sites, 330 munitions response sites, and 107 compliance cleanup sites at Navy and Marine Corps facilities. Many of the installation restoration sites are on track to have remedies in place (RIP) or response complete (RC) by 2014. The munitions response sites are expected to have RIP or RC in place by the end of 2020.

The Navy will continue working toward the goal of a clean, healthy environment that supports the fleet mission, without repeating past practices. The Navy seeks continual improvements to the Installation Restoration Program and the Munitions Response Program, fostering innovative investigation and cleanup decisions through technical workgroups, educational opportunities, and annual conferences that bring restoration staff together to share lessons learned. In addition, working through community-supported RABs, the Navy continues to share information with stakeholders about these programs while promoting understanding of total Navy readiness issues.



Chief of Naval Operations
Energy and Environmental Readiness Division
2000 Navy Pentagon (NC-1 Suite 2000)
Washington, DC 20350-2000
703-604-5412
tracey.moriarty@navy.mil
www.greenfleet.dodlive.mil