

Looking toward the future

What to expect in 2001 and beyond

In 2001, the Memphis Depot will conduct several activities as part of the ongoing environmental cleanup and property transfer programs that will continue moving the Memphis Depot and the community closer to the goal of safely restoring the Depot property for productive reuse:

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expect to sign the Record of Decision in April 2001 for the cleanup of the Main Installation. The Depot will provide the signed document to the public in its Information Repositories.
- The Chemical Warfare Materiel (CWM) project team will complete the safe removal of CWM from Dunn Field. The CWM project team expects the removal project to be completed by May 2001.
- The Depot's environmental investigation contractor, CH2M Hill, will complete groundwater and soil sampling for the Dunn Field Remedial Investigation (RI). The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT) expects to finalize the Dunn Field RI Report in August 2001. This report will provide the BCT with an in-depth scientific analysis of the environmental conditions at Dunn Field and the potential risks to human health and the environment. The BCT will use this information to identify areas that require cleanup. The Depot will provide the document to the public in its Information Repositories.
- The BCT expects to finalize the Dunn Field Feasibility Study, which will evaluate different cleanup alternatives, in September 2001. The BCT expects to finalize the Dunn Field Proposed Plan, which will present the BCT's preferred cleanup alternative for Dunn Field, in December 2001. The Depot will provide the documents to the public in its Information Repositories for review and expects to begin the public comment period in January 2002.
- The Memphis Depot expects to complete a Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) for the property and buildings in Parcel 1. This area includes Building 144, the security guard buildings and the parking lots adjacent to Building 144 on Airways Boulevard. After the Department of the Army signs the FOST, the property will be transferred to the Depot Redevelopment Corporation for productive reuse.

- The BCT expects to finalize the Main Installation Remedial Design (RD) in January 2002. The RD includes plans for conducting the preferred cleanup alternative for the Main Installation.
- The BCT expects Remedial Action (RA) to begin in January 2002 on the areas of the Main Installation identified for cleanup in the Main Installation Record of Decision.
- DLA and EPA expect to sign the Record of Decision for the cleanup of Dunn Field in May 2002. The Depot will provide the signed document to the public in its Information Repositories.
- The BCT expects to finalize the Dunn Field Remedial Design (RD) in September 2002. The RD includes plans for conducting the preferred cleanup alternative for Dunn Field.
- The BCT expects the RA to begin in September 2002 on the areas of Dunn Field identified for cleanup in the Dunn Field Record of Decision. □

A Fond Farewell!

In December, the Memphis Depot Caretaker Division and the Depot's environmental team said goodbye to Shawn Phillips, who has served as the Depot's Base Realignment and Cleanup (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator (BEC) since 1998. Mr. Phillips has accepted a position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Memphis.

Mr. John DeBack, Base Transition Coordinator at the Depot, will serve as facility co-chair of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) until further notice.

For more information, please contact John DeBack at (901) 544-0617. □



state that the site should be cleaned up to the reasonably anticipated future land use. The Depot, EPA and TDEC recognize the Depot Redevelopment Corporation (DRC) as the entity that sets what the reasonably anticipated future land use is, which in this case is light industrial and recreational use. In 1998, the Depot cleaned up the housing area to residential standards and the cafeteria area to industrial standards. In 2000, the Depot cleaned up the old paint shop and maintenance area in the south-west corner of the Main Installation to industrial standards.

Q. Does the risk assessment take into account long-term exposure?

- A. Yes. Since the human body will naturally defend itself against harmful substances throughout its lifetime, toxicity factors are developed using animal and human studies that mimic a lifetime of exposure. The Risk Assessment for the Depot evaluated long-term exposure to workers and hypothetical future residents assuming exposures would add up over time. Scientific evidence suggests that the body develops natural defense mechanisms to fight the effects of exposure to low levels of chemicals.

Q. Is there any long-term monitoring of residents planned to safeguard health?

- A. According to CERCLA, any cleanup must protect public health and the environment, now and in the future, by preventing or minimizing the

release of or exposure to hazardous substances. To ensure this, CERCLA requires that the cleanup remedy is reviewed periodically, at least every five years. The proposed cleanup alternative for groundwater includes a monitoring program to make sure the groundwater remedy is working properly. As long as the conditions and requirements set forth in the Record of Decision for the cleanup alternatives continue to be met, the remedy is considered protective of current and future public health.

Q. Why was soil removed at the housing, cafeteria and paint shop areas if there was no threat?

- A. DRC identified the housing area, the cafeteria area and the paint shop/maintenance area of the Main Installation as high-priority areas for redevelopment and reuse. At the time of consideration for early transfer, a Risk Assessment had not yet been conducted at these areas. CERCLA allows for early removals if the extent of the contamination has been identified and it would be financially advantageous to do a removal action rather than continue studying the area. Sampling at these areas identified the extent of contamination was above screening levels, so the Depot decided to voluntarily remove soil and structures from these areas to facilitate early transfer. □