

## Depot plans community involvement initiatives for the future

Members of the Memphis Depot community met with staff from the Depot's Community Relations Office in June to talk about the Depot's ongoing communication efforts.



Helen Turner (left) and Merle Smith met with staff from the Depot's Community Relations Office in June.

The interviews focused on people's opinions on how well the Depot was informing the community. For instance, people were asked if they received enough information and was the information easily understood.

Twenty-three people were interviewed during the period June 24-26, 2004. They were selected randomly from various groups such as community members, ministers, former employees, principals and teachers, community and business leaders, politicians and media representatives. The interviews lasted from 15 minutes to an hour. The answers will help fine tune the Depot's communication efforts.

"The Defense Logistics Agency recognizes the importance of involving the community in the cleanup process," said Michael Dobbs, the Depot's BRAC Environmental Coordinator and Environmental Manager for the Defense Distribution Center (DDC). "Throughout the cleanup process our Community Relations Office and environmental team have taken a number of steps to keep the community informed and involved. We remain committed to ongoing communication as we begin the Remedial Design/Remedial Action phases of the cleanup program and move towards program completion."



Hattie Wooten discusses the Depot's community relations efforts with Gary DuPriest of the Depot's Community Relations Office.

The Depot staff also asked questions to identify current concerns with the Depot's environmental program. The community involvement activities will be revised to respond to the community concerns in the updated Community Involvement Plan.

The Community Relations Plan (CRP), written in 1999, details efforts to involve the community in the

### NEXT RAB MEETING

The Memphis Depot Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) will meet on:

Thursday,  
Oct. 21, 2004  
at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the South Memphis Senior Citizens Center, located at 1620 Marjorie Street. The public is invited to attend this meeting to learn more about the Memphis Depot environmental restoration program.

For more information, call (901) 544-0613.

cleanup program. The updated plan is scheduled for release this fall. The CRP will change its name to Community Involvement Plan (CIP). The name change reflects the language used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its Superfund Community Involvement Handbook.

The Depot's award winning community outreach program has included Community Information Sessions, community newsletters and fact sheets, meetings and presentations to neighborhood associations, school classes and community leaders, and media outreach. □

## Dunn Field Record of Decision signed

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC), Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for Dunn Field at the former Memphis Depot.

This is the final ROD for the Depot and its completion marks an important milestone in the cleanup process. The Main Installation ROD was signed in 2001.

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