

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
YUMA, ARIZONA
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
FINAL**

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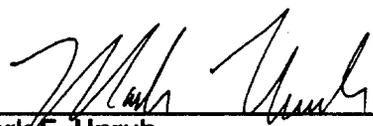
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980
CRP	Community Relations Plan
DERA	Defense Environmental Restoration Account
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DOD	Department of Defense
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FFA	Federal Facility Agreement
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
HRS	Hazard Ranking System
IRA	Interim Remedial Action
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
JPAO	Joint Public Affairs Office
MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
MEK	Methyl Ethyl Ketone
NACIP	Naval Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants Program
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (National Contingency Plan)
NPL	National Priorities List
OU	Operable Unit
PA	preliminary assessment
PA/SI	Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection
RA	Remedial Action
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RAOC	RCRA Area of Concern
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
RD	Remedial Design
RD/RA	Remedial Design/Remedial Action
RFA	RCRA Facility Assessment
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
ROD	Record of Decision

SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986
SI	Site Inspection
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant
TRC	Technical Review Committee
UST	Underground Storage Tank

GLOSSARY

Baseline Risk Assessment - A CERCLA study conducted concurrently with the remedial investigation that determines and evaluates the risk that site contamination poses to public health and the environment, in the absence of remedial action.

Community Relations Plan - A plan outlining specific community relations activities carried out during the remedial response activities. The community relations plan outlines how the lead agency will inform the public of work at the site and the ways in which citizens can review and comment on documents and reports.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) - A federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. CERCLA establishes a program to identify releases or potential releases of hazardous substances, to ensure that they are cleaned up, to evaluate damages to natural resources, and to create claims procedures for parties who cleaned up the sites.

Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA) - A money account used to cleanup active, inactive, formerly used lands, and lands and resources affected by DOD releases of hazardous substances.

Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) - A law, separate from CERCLA, enacted by SARA. It is similar to EPA's "Superfund" Program, but is broader. DERP emphasizes the identification, investigation, and cleanup of contamination from hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants under CERCLA; correction of

other environmental damage such as unexploded ordnance detection and disposal; demolition and removal of unsafe buildings, structures and debris; and improvements to DOD hazardous waste operations. DERP requires that hazardous substance, pollutant, and contaminant investigations and cleanups be conducted in accordance with CERCLA's federal facility section. The latter requires that such facilities investigate and remediate sites to the same degree as if they were privately owned.

Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) - An interagency agreement between a federal facility, EPA, and the appropriate state agency that details the process agreed to for dealing with releases of hazardous substances at federal facility NPL sites. A work plan or statement of work is often attached to the FFA describing what work will be performed. The agreement becomes effective when signed by the negotiating parties.

Groundwater - Underground water that saturates soil or rock; it can be a drinking water source.

Hazard Ranking System (HRS) - A system used by the U.S. EPA to decide whether a site should be placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). The score a site receives from the HRS compares the relative hazards of different sites, taking into account the impact the site has on groundwater, surface water, and air, as well as the number of people potentially affected by the contamination. Sites receiving a score of 28.5 or higher are proposed for addition to the NPL.

Initial Assessment Study - This report outlines the preliminary findings on contamination of identified areas of potential contamination. It is very similar in scope and intent to the preliminary assessment conducted under CERCLA.

Installation Restoration Program (IRP) - This program is the Navy's version of DERP.

Interim Remedial Action (IRA) - An early action taken at an NPL site to eliminate, reduce, or control the hazards posed by a site or to expedite the completion of a total site cleanup. It frequently involves the removal or containment of a source of contamination to halt or slow the migration of contamination, while long-term cleanup studies are proceeding. An interim remedial action does not preclude the need for a final remedial action and must be consistent with the final remedial action. Examples of interim remedial actions include the removal of a contamination source such as an underground tank, or the containment of contamination such as the construction of a temporary storage cell to hold highly contaminated soils until a final remedy has been selected.

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan - A set of federal regulations (referred to as the National Contingency Plan [NCP]) that sets forth procedures and standards for cleanup of actual or potential uncontrolled hazardous substance releases. The NCP establishes a framework for initial assessments/site investigations, the hazard ranking system, the National Priorities List, and requirements for the emergency removal of hazardous substances, and the remediation of contaminated sites.

National Priorities List (NPL) - A list of uncontrolled hazardous substance release sites that are priorities for investigation and cleanup under EPA's CERCLA regulatory program. NPL sites include those that have been evaluated according to the HRS and given a score of 28.5 or greater.

Operable Unit (OU) - A portion or area of a CERCLA site. An OU may be based on a particular type of contamination (one or more chemical compounds), type of contaminated media (such as soils or water), sources of contamination (such as landfill areas or storage tank areas), and/or geographic locations.

Preliminary Assessment (PA) - A CERCLA study that involves interviews and a detailed records review to collect and review all available information about a known or suspected waste site or release. This study may involve an on-site reconnaissance and/or an off-site reconnaissance to determine if a release requires additional investigation or action. The PA results determine if further site investigation is needed in the form of a site inspection.

Proposed Plan - A summary of the cleanup alternatives considered for controlling contamination at a CERCLA site. The proposed plan includes a description of the alternative preferred by the agency or facility charged with the responsibility for cleaning up the site.

Record of Decision (ROD) - A consolidated source of information about the site, the remedy selection process, and the selected remedy for a cleanup under CERCLA. This public document contains a responsiveness summary that responds to public comments on the preferred alternative and the other alternatives evaluated.

Remedial Action (RA) - An action taken at a CERCLA site to stop or significantly reduce a release or threatened release of hazardous substances to protect present or future public health, welfare, or the environment.

Remedial Design (RD) - A phase of the CERCLA cleanup process that includes the development of engineering drawings and specifications for a remedy selected to address contamination.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) - Two interrelated CERCLA studies. The RI identifies the types, amounts, and locations of contamination at a facility and evaluate potential risk to public health and the environment from exposure to contamination. The FS identifies and screens different alternatives for cleaning up contamination.

Removal Action - A short-term, immediate action taken to abate, prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate or eliminate the release or threatened release of hazardous substances that may pose a threat or potential threat to public health or the environment. Such actions can include, but are not limited to, security fencing around contaminated sites, temporary alternative drinking water supplies, or drum removal to reduce the potential for spillage, leakage, fire, or explosion. Removal actions can occur at NPL, other non-NPL CERCLA sites, and anywhere else needed.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 - A federal law, revised and amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, that regulates the generation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes at active sites. It provides for a cleanup program, similar to that under CERCLA, for permitted facilities.

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) - A board of community members and representatives of MCAS Yuma and state, federal, and local environmental and public health agencies that provides a vehicle for public participation in the Installation

Restoration Program. The board is not a decision-making body, but is designed to be a forum for the exchange of information and a means for individual members (and the general public) to express their ideas and concerns about the Installation Restoration Program.

Site Inspection (SI) - An on-site investigation to determine whether there is a release or potential release of hazardous substances and the nature of any associated threats to public health or the environment. The SI supplements information collected in the PA and to generate, if needed, sampling and other field data to determine if further action or investigation (in the form of an RI/FS) is appropriate.

Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) - Grants that provide up to \$50,000 to community groups wishing to hire consultants to interpret sampling results, reports, and other documents. Unless waived, twenty percent of the requested funding amount must be matched by the group. The matching funds may be obtained from in-kind services and may originate from non-federal sources.

Technical Review Committee (TRC) - A committee established according to Section 211 of SARA that requires a TRC to be formed whenever possible and practical to review and comment on actions and proposed actions with respect to releases or threatened releases at an installation. The TRC is comprised of representatives of the federal and state regulatory community, the military, units of local government, and the community at large. The TRC reviews and comments on Department of Defense-proposed actions with respect to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances at an installation.

PREFACE

In February 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma (MCAS) to a list of approximately 1,200 Superfund sites across the country. This was done as a result of an environmental evaluation that found contamination that may pose a long-term threat to public health and the environment.

The evaluation does not, however, provide sufficient information to warrant cleaning up the contamination. A more detailed study must first be conducted to determine the full nature and extent of contamination. MCAS Yuma's Installation Restoration Program will conduct this study and any subsequent cleanups, in accordance with all applicable federal and state environmental laws and regulations.

This community relations plan sets forth a set of activities designed to keep the community informed about the project. In addition, the plan provides opportunities for the public to express their ideas and concerns about this environmental restoration effort to MCAS Yuma.

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1.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNDER CERCLA

1.1 Introduction

This Community Relations Plan's objectives are to address the concerns and satisfy the information needs of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma personnel and residents, and the Yuma community, regarding the investigation of actual or potential uncontrolled hazardous substance releases at the station. The work is being conducted under the Navy's Installation Restoration Program (IRP). This program identifies, studies, and then cleans up or controls, if necessary, contamination that is a result of past hazardous waste disposal practices. This plan complies with a federal environmental law called the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA, more commonly known as "Superfund") and its amendments, as contained in the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA).

Most information about site activities will be communicated to the public through MCAS Yuma Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings. The meetings are open to the public and will be announced in advance through public notices in local newspapers and other means determined by the board. The meetings will provide the community an opportunity to discuss the project with representatives of MCAS Yuma and the regulatory agencies. The activities listed in the plan will be conducted during the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) phase of CERCLA activities at the installation. If, during the course of the RI/FS, it is determined that the plan is not meeting the community's needs, MCAS Yuma will modify it.

Information sources of used to prepare this plan include reports and other background materials obtained from the files of MCAS Yuma and its contractor, Jacobs Engineering Group. Community residents and public officials, who were interviewed in March 1990 for this plan, also provided valuable information about the community's interests and concerns about potential environmental problems at MCAS Yuma. Similar information about the community's environmental concerns was obtained through conversations with some of the attendees to MCAS Yuma's environmental conferences, which have been held yearly since 1991.

The plan meets all of the applicable federal regulations and guidance for establishing a community relations plan under CERCLA. Relevant federal guidelines include the *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Relations in Superfund: A Handbook* (EPA OSWER Directive 9230.0-03C, January 1992), the *Navy/Marine Corps Installation Restoration Manual* (Chief of Naval Operations, February 1992) and the *Installation Restoration Public Affairs Plan* (Department of the Navy, Office of Information, Washington, DC, 26 January 1989).

1.2 The CERCLA Regulatory Process

This section overviews the CERCLA/SARA regulatory process and its implementation at federal facilities. CERCLA, as amended by SARA, directs the federal government to respond to the release or the substantial threat of release of contaminants into the environment, and to respond to contaminants that may present an imminent or substantial danger to public health or the environment.

1.2.1 CERCLA Implementation at Federal Facilities

Concurrent with the passage of CERCLA in 1980, the Navy embarked on a program to identify, investigate, and clean up past hazardous substance disposal sites. This program was called the Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants (NACIP) program. The NACIP program closely paralleled the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) CERCLA program but not procedurally.

The 1986 SARA amendments to CERCLA required federal agencies and facilities to comply with the procedures and substantive requirements of CERCLA. In 1986, the Navy adopted the EPA's CERCLA terminology and procedures and dropped those of the NACIP program. The resulting effort was the Navy's Installation Restoration Program.

It should be noted that Department of Defense installations conducting hazardous substance remediation in accordance with CERCLA provisions do not receive funding from the CERCLA Trust Fund (Superfund). Pursuant to the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), Section 211 of SARA (10 U.S.C. section 2701, *et seq.*), Congress set up the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA), independent of CERCLA, to pay the cost of Department of Defense (DOD) responses to hazardous substance release sites.

1.2.2 Major Stages in CERCLA

The CERCLA process consists of several stages to identify, investigate, and clean up hazardous substance contamination at a site. The major stages are:

- preliminary assessment/site inspection (PA/SI)
- remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS)
- record of decision (ROD)
- remedial design/remedial action (RD/RA).

Appendix A describes each CERCLA stage.

At any time during the CERCLA process, short-term or interim response actions such as removal actions or interim remedial actions, can be initiated, if warranted. Appendix A provides a brief description of these actions, as well as the rationale for conducting them.

Community relations activities are conducted throughout the CERCLA process to keep the public informed of site activities to make the community aware of project documents available for public review, and to encourage the public to participate in the decision-making process.

1.3 Implementation Responsibility

The DOD is the lead agency and receives its authority from CERCLA by Executive Order 12580. The Commanding Officer, MCAS Yuma, implements CERCLA activities at the station, including the community relations plan. Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest Division, in San Diego, California, provides consultation, lends technical and legal assistance, allocates funding, and contracts administration support for Installation Restoration Program matters.

Remedial work at the facility is guided by a three-party federal facilities agreement, which became effective on January 7, 1992, between the U.S. Department of the Navy, the EPA, and the State of Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The agreement establishes a framework and schedule for the performance of activities to investigate and, as necessary, remediate contamination associated with MCAS Yuma.

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2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Site Location

MCAS Yuma is immediately southeast of the City of Yuma, in southwestern Arizona near the California and Mexico borders. The station, which occupies approximately 3,000 acres, is on the Yuma Mesa. Access to MCAS Yuma is via Avenue 3E, one mile south of U.S. Interstate 8. The station's runways and taxiways are in a triangular-shaped area to the north and west of the station's main buildings.

The majority of land surrounding MCAS Yuma is used for agriculture. Irrigated citrus groves border the station on the east, south, and southeast. Commercial and industrial areas are primarily north and west of the station. Yuma International Airport, along the northernmost east-west runway, shares runway privileges with MCAS Yuma. McDonnell Douglas has test facilities on the west side of the station.

The Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District supplies water to MCAS Yuma through a system of open irrigation canals. For two weeks in the fall, while the canals are shut down for maintenance, the station uses a well to supplement its drinking water.

2.2 Site History

On 21 February 1928, the U.S. Government leased 640 acres of desert land, near the City of Yuma to Yuma County, Arizona for use as an airfield. The airfield was built in the same year. The land was leased to Yuma County by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for

20 years, with an option for an additional 20 years. In 1937, Yuma County constructed a small hangar and runway.

From 1941 to 1946, the facility was leased by the U.S. Army Air Corps for pilot and bomber crew training. During this period, the base was one of the busiest flight schools in the Army Air Corps. Flight activity ceased at the end of World War II and the area was returned to the control of the Bureau of Reclamation. Yuma County obtained rights to use the airfield from the Bureau of Reclamation in 1948 pursuant to Section 16 of the Federal Airport Act.

On 7 July 1951, the U.S. Air Force reactivated the base as a Weapons Proficiency Center for fighter-interceptor units. In 1954, the base was declared a permanent Air Force installation. The Air Force re-established joint-use of the airfield with Yuma County in 1956. In January 1959, the base and its associated range facilities were transferred to the U.S. Navy.

MCAS Yuma was established on 10 January 1959. The primary mission of MCAS Yuma is to maintain and operate facilities and provide services and materials to support operations of a Marine Aircraft Wing and subordinate units of the Wing. The station has approximately 4,000 military personnel and about 600 civilian employees.

MCAS Yuma operates the airport as a joint military/civilian airport. Since MCAS Yuma was established, major improvements have included the construction of a 13,300-foot runway, development of the Instrumented Special Weapons System, and the addition of a Tactical Aircrew Combat Training System.

2.3 Potential Waste Contamination at MCAS Yuma

Starting in the mid-1950s, waste fuels and solvents from refueling and servicing of aircraft were reportedly disposed of directly onto the ground or into unlined pits. In addition, combustible materials such as fuel oil and organic solvents were deposited on the ground or burned during fire training exercises. These and other activities may have resulted in contamination to surface areas, surface and subsurface soils, and groundwater.

Previous CERCLA-related investigations indicate that waste has been disposed of at the air station, including waste oils, solvents, acids, paints, paint thinner, stripper, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), fuel, silica chips, methylene chloride, polyethylene glycol, methanol, phosphates, pesticides and herbicides. More detailed information about potential contamination can be found in four previous investigation reports: *Initial Assessment Study*, September 1985; *Investigation of Soil and Groundwater at the Drain Field Area South of Building 1585*, October 1985; *Confirmation Study*, April 1988; and *Site Investigation Report*, April 1990. These documents have been placed in the administrative record file.

2.3.1 Potential Contamination Study Areas

To conduct CERCLA investigations, the facility has been divided into three operable units (OUs) or areas of potential contamination. OU 1 addresses regional groundwater. OU 2 addresses surface disposal units and landfills. OU 3 will address any new areas of potential contamination discovered during the course of this project.

2.3.2 New Areas of Potential Contamination

New areas of contamination may be identified during other regulatory studies. In addition to the CERCLA investigation, a variety of studies are being conducted to meet the regulatory requirements of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA). This law includes provisions that regulate the generation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes at permitted facilities.

As part of the RCRA work at MCAS Yuma, a RCRA facility assessment (RFA) is being conducted. The objective of the RFA (which parallels that of the CERCLA preliminary assessment [PA]) is to identify releases or potential releases of hazardous waste into the environment. Current and past operations, which were not previously reviewed under the IRP, are being evaluated now as part of the RFA. These areas are known as RCRA areas of concern (RAOCs).

Areas identified during the RFA, qualified to be a part of the IRP (areas meeting the regulatory conditions of CERCLA), will be incorporated into the ongoing CERCLA RI/FS studies for OU 3. The EPA and ADEQ will be party to decisions regarding further action at these areas. Areas not transferred into the CERCLA RI/FS activities will be addressed within the RCRA Program.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

This section overviews the community surrounding MCAS Yuma. A profile of the City and County of Yuma is provided. It includes historical background about the area's settlement; a description of government administration at the county and city level; socioeconomic information about population, land use, and employment; as well as information on community organizations, educational resources, and media sources in the area.

In addition, a chronology of community involvement, to date, in environmental cleanup programs at MCAS Yuma is provided. This section also summarizes specific community concerns or issues associated with potential contamination problems at MCAS Yuma. Identification of these issues was based on interviews conducted with local officials and residents of Yuma.

3.1 County and City of Yuma

Yuma County is in the southwestern corner of Arizona, bordering California on the west and Mexico on the south. The City of Yuma lies approximately 23 miles north of the Mexican border at the confluence of the Colorado and Gila Rivers.

3.1.1 History of Area Settlement

The area was first inhabited by the Yuma group of Native Americans, including the Cocopah, Quechan, and Mohave tribes. Spanish explorers, missionaries, settlers, and gold seekers followed the rivers to a site that became known as

Yuma Crossing. In 1854, the Gadsden Purchase gave control of southern Arizona to the United States. The town founded at the river crossing in 1854 was originally named Colorado City, then Arizona City, and finally Yuma. The City of Yuma was recognized by the Arizona legislature in 1873, thirty-nine years before Arizona received statehood. The strategically located settlement became the Yuma county seat.

3.1.2 Government Administration

Yuma County Government

Yuma County is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors that oversees law enforcement, school districts, county planning and zoning, subdivision regulation, health regulation, and property assessment and taxation. County supervisors are elected to serve four-year terms.

The Board of Supervisors meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Yuma County Administration Building. Immediately before the noon break, a public forum known as Call to the Public is held. During this public forum, citizens may express their concerns; supervisors cannot respond to concerns during the Call to the Public comment period. At 1:30 p.m., public hearings begin. Citizen attendance at county supervisory meetings varies extensively depending on the topics for discussion. Based on information gained during community interviews, meeting attendance is heaviest when planning and zoning issues are discussed. These topics have been known to exceed the meeting room's capacity.

City of Yuma Government

The City of Yuma, as a Charter government community, is headed by a mayor and a six-member council. A city administrator directs and supervises department heads and staff. Both the mayor and city council members are elected to four-year terms. City Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council chambers.

3.1.3 Socioeconomic Overview

In 1983, the original land area of Yuma County was split into Yuma and La Paz counties. Currently, Yuma County is approximately 5,561 square miles. Ninety-three percent of the land in Yuma County is owned by the federal and state governments. According to the Yuma County Planning and Zoning Office, an estimated 60 square miles (or one percent) of county lands are devoted to residential and residential-related development.

Based on 1990 U.S. Census Bureau data, the populations of the County and City of Yuma were 106,895 and 54,923, respectively. Fortuna Foothills, an unincorporated community approximately six miles southeast of Yuma, had a 1990 population of 7,737. Between 1980 and 1990, Yuma County's population increased by 40.3 percent, while the City of Yuma's population grew by 29.3 percent. During the winter months, the county's population increases by approximately 45,000.

Agriculture contributes substantially to Yuma County's economy. Because the climate is arid (an average annual rainfall of 3.17 inches), agriculture is concentrated along the Colorado and Gila Rivers, which provide water for irrigation. Based on the Arizona Department of Economic Security's first quarter data for 1990, other major employment sectors in the county included government, retail trade, and services.

Although not included in civilian labor force data, the military also contributes substantially to the local economy. Military installations in Yuma County include the Marine Corps Air Station and the Army's Yuma Proving Grounds. In 1989 there were approximately 5,000 military employees in the county.

Tourism also plays an active role in the economy, having brought in approximately \$230 million in revenue in 1987. Yuma's economic diversification is also increased by new and existing light industry. Table 3.1 identifies major employers in the county.

According to the Arizona Department of Economic Security, in 1989, Yuma County supported a civilian labor force of 54,986 of which 30,372 people (or 55 percent) were employed within the City of Yuma. In 1992, county-wide unemployment averaged 21.8 percent. In comparison, both the state and nation's average annual unemployment rate for 1992 was 7.4 percent. Within Yuma County, the 1992 average annual unemployment rate ranged from 17.3 percent in the City of Yuma to 52.9 percent in San Luis. The seasonal nature of employment in agriculture and tourism industries is perceived as a major factor in the county's high unemployment.

Table 3.1**Major Employers in Yuma County**

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>No. of Employees</u>
U.S. Army Yuma Proving Grounds	U.S. Military	*1,000
Yuma Regional Med. Center	Medical Services	955
Yuma Elementary School District 1	Public Education	800
MCAS Yuma	U. S. Military	* 584
Yuma Union High School District	Public Education	564
Yuma County Government	Local Government	525
Crane School District #13	Public Education	450
America West Industries	Mfg./Yarn	400
Arizona Products Co.	Food Processing	400
U.S. Border Patrol	Government	339
U.S. Dept. of Interior Bureau of Reclamation	Government	* 237
Arizona Western College	Public Education	225
Pasquinelli Produce Co.	Produce	200
U.S. Postal Services	Postal Services	168
Circle K Food Stores	Retail	164
Russell Coil	Mfg./Comm. Refrig.	163
Yuma Daily Sun	Newspaper	143
VIRCO	Mfg.Comm. Furniture	140
Arizona Public Service	Public Utilities	102
Spectra Star Kites, Inc.	Mfg./Kites	80

* Civilian employment not including contract employment.

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce, Yuma County, Arizona Industrial Profile, December 1990.

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3.1.4 Community Organizations

Several business, civic, and cultural organizations offer information and other services that promote Yuma's benefits as a place to live, work, and visit. These organizations include the Yuma Chamber of Commerce, the Yuma Economic Development Corporation, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Environmental organizations in the area include the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, Arizona Toxics Information, the Yuma Environmental Society, and the Arizona Native Plant Society (Tucson chapter).

Other civic and cultural groups in Yuma include the League of Women Voters, the Cultural Council of Yuma, and the Yuma Cross Cultural Alliance.

3.1.5 Educational Resources

Yuma County offers a variety of higher education opportunities. A two-year community college, Arizona Western Community College, is located a few miles east of Yuma. Northern Arizona University has established a permanent academic center on the Arizona Western College campus where it offers bachelor's and master's degrees. Webster University and Southern Illinois University offer numerous off-campus degree and credential programs.

3.1.6 Print and Broadcast Media

Serving MCAS Yuma is the *Cactus Comet*, which is published every Thursday. *The Yuma Daily Sun* and *The Yuma Advantage* have a wide circulation in the Yuma area. *The Yuma Daily Sun*, which has covered MCAS Yuma cleanup activities since the mid-1980s, has a weekday circulation of approximately 17,000; Sunday circulation is approximately 21,000. *The Yuma Advantage*, a weekly publication, has a circulation of approximately 26,000. *The Advantage* is delivered to supermarkets in the City of Yuma, to mobile home parks in the foothills, and as far south as San Luis.

Other newspapers in the area include *Bajo El Sol* and *The Valley Foothills News*. *Bajo El Sol* is a weekly Spanish language newspaper with a circulation of 10,000. *The Valley Foothills News*, a free weekly paper, has a circulation that varies from 3,000 to 10,000.

Three television stations, Channel 9 (CBS and Fox affiliate), Channel 11 (NBC) and Channel 13 (ABC and Telemundo affiliate) broadcast from Yuma. Cable service is also available in the area. Channel 24 is a community cable access channel operated by Sun Television.

Yuma's AM radio stations are KBLU and KEZC. KTTI, KJOK, and KYXI FM radio stations also serve the area. KAWC, on the Arizona Western College campus, transmits AM and FM signals.

3.2 Environmental Conferences

Three environmental conferences have been held at the station on July 1991, June 1992, and March 1993. These conferences provided community representatives with progress reports on environmental programs at the station. Those invited to the conference included representatives of the EPA, state agencies, local officials, media, and local concerned citizens. The conferences included a presentation on the regulatory laws associated with various environmental programs. They also provided a progress report on work of various environmental programs including CERCLA IRP activities and RCRA activities such as underground storage tank (UST) investigations and corrective action studies. Other topics of discussion included work associated with requirements of the Endangered Species Act and energy conservation activities.

3.3 Technical Review Committee

On 12 April 1990, the first meeting of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) was held at MCAS Yuma. The TRC was formed as required by SARA, Section 211, which states that whenever possible and practical, a TRC will be established for each facility with areas of hazardous waste contamination. This committee is involved in the review and comment of CERCLA/SARA actions and proposed actions associated with releases or threatened releases at MCAS Yuma. The TRC is comprised of individuals from the regulatory community, the military, and a public representative of the community involved. Appendix C lists the TRC members.

3.3.1 Restoration Advisory Board

In response to a federal facilities advisory committee recommendation, the Marine Corps issued draft guidance requiring technical review committees to convert to restoration advisory boards. The guidance, which was issued in early 1994, aims to enhance environmental restoration decision-making by increasing public participation in the IRP.

Restoration advisory boards (RABs), like TRCs, are not decision-making bodies. They are intended to act as forums for the exchange of information between the Marine Corps, the regulatory agencies, and the local communities. Although RABs, as a whole, cannot vote or make recommendations on an environmental topic or issue, individual members, and the general public can voice their comments and concerns.

There are several significant differences between technical review committees and restoration advisory boards. The focus of technical review committees is to review documents and discuss matters related to CERCLA activities. Restoration advisory boards, will be concerned with installation environmental restoration efforts. Another major difference is that the new boards will have two co-chairs: one representing the Marine Corps and the other representing the community. Currently, TRCs are chaired by a Marine Corps representative.

The draft guidance places greater emphasis on public participation. Other provisions of the draft guidance call for public notices to announce RAB

meetings, place meeting minutes in information repositories, and allow time for the public's questions and comments either during or after the meeting.

The conversion to a restoration advisory board will begin in the fall of 1994. MCAS Yuma will notify the public of the change and the procedures for applying for board membership.

3.4 Community Interviews for Community Relations Plan

From 12 March through 16 March 1990, the MCAS Joint Public Affairs Officer (JPAO) conducted broad, cross-section community interviews with government officials, community leaders, media representatives, community group representatives, and local residents. In addition, other interested parties were identified as a result of the interviews. These interviews assessed current community concerns about the site to aid in the development of this community relations plan.

Information from these interviews was supplemented with information obtained from the three environmental conferences.

3.4.1 Environmental Concerns

The environmental concerns about the effects of potential contamination at MCAS Yuma expressed during the March 1990 interviews and during the environmental conferences are summarized below.

Concern Over Public Sensitivity

There was some concern about the contamination at MCAS Yuma being unnecessarily "blown out of proportion." To alleviate this problem, it was recommended that the public be kept well informed to better understand the issues.

Groundwater Contamination

A number of concerns expressed during the interviews related to groundwater contamination. One individual indicated that this is due to groundwater already being affected by agricultural activities in the area, and another mentioned that groundwater wells operated near MCAS Yuma have many uses. The determination of the nature and extent of any groundwater contamination was felt to be important.

Several concerns were expressed about off-site migration of contaminated groundwater and its effect on irrigation waters and the Colorado River. It was also suggested that wells be sampled occasionally to monitor the contamination.

Remedial Action

The main concerns expressed regarding remedial action focused on the disposal and storage of contaminated materials and off-site transport. Questions most frequently asked related to:

- type of containers used during transport and disposal
- methods for transporting contamination
- transportation route used
- location of waste storage
- hazards during transport and disposal
- schedule for the MCAS cleanup of hazardous waste areas.

Most of these issues were requests for information rather than concerns. One person emphasized that MCAS Yuma should be required to meet all regulatory requirements during site cleanup.

Current Practices

Several concerns were expressed about current practices regarding hazardous wastes. One concern focused on whether hazardous wastes are still being generated. If so, there is concern over how these hazardous wastes are handled and the toxicity of these wastes. Other concerns regarding current practices related to underground storage tanks, petroleum storage, the transport of hazardous wastes into MCAS Yuma, and actions regarding hazardous wastes generated by the Naval Branch Medical Clinic at MCAS Yuma.

Other MCAS Yuma Concerns

Other, less frequent, concerns included:

- windblown contamination

- radiation contamination from aircraft instruments
- use of nuclear devices
- properties near the station denied funding due to proximity to the station contamination
- health of family members, especially small children
- buried containers of hazardous waste including pesticides and insecticides.

3.5 Base Residents Concern About Exposure to Contamination

In December 1993, surface soil samples were taken from the playgrounds and other places in the base housing area where children often play. Because portions of the housing area were constructed on land where contaminants may have been buried, MCAS Yuma was concerned that young children may be exposed. Young children are more susceptible to harm from exposure to contaminants than are older children and adults. The samples taken from the base housing area did not have contaminants at levels that would pose a threat to children or adults.

The sampling caused some alarm among base residents. To alleviate their concerns, base residents were informed of the sampling results. In addition, the sampling was discussed at a base housing meeting held in March 1994.

4.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

This section describes community relations activities designed to meet the objectives identified in Section 1.1.

Information Contact

The MCAS Joint Public Affairs Officer (JPAO) receives and responds to requests for information and coordinates this plan. Non-routine requests (i.e., Freedom of Information Act [FOIA]) should be submitted in writing and directed to the FOIA Officer for MCAS Yuma. Appendix C lists the JPAO, FOIA Officer, and other key contacts for MCAS Yuma. Fact sheets, press releases, and other public information releases provide the name, address, and phone number of the JPAO. The MCAS JPAO will work closely with the Navy Southwest Division Remedial Project Manager and the MCAS Yuma Installation Restoration Program manager to ensure that activities are coordinated according to the RI/FS schedule.

Mailing List

MCAS Yuma will maintain a mailing list of residents and other interested persons or businesses. Notices and fact sheets will be mailed to all addressees on the mailing list and the list will be updated as needed.

Information Repository

MCAS Yuma has established an information repository at the Yuma County Library at 350 South Third Avenue. The information repository is made up of two parts. The first part is the administrative record file, the second is general documents and reports about the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, the Installation Restoration Program, and the Superfund program. In addition, information about the EPA's Technical Assistance Grants program has been included. The repository location will be identified in fact sheets, public notices, and press releases.

Administrative Record File

Pursuant to Executive Order 12580, the Department of Defense, through the U.S. Department of the Navy and MCAS Yuma, will compile and maintain an administrative record file. This is a legal file of documents upon which the lead agency (the Department of the Navy) bases its selection of a response and upon which any judicial review is based. It also serves as a vehicle for public participation in the selection of a response. The administrative record file (a term that refers to the incomplete record, that is, to the documents as they are being compiled) has been established prior to the start of the RI/FS, as required by the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

Since the administrative record (the term used for the completed record at the time of the ROD) documents the rationale and basis for a selected response, the administrative record will contain the information MCAS Yuma considered or relied upon to select a response, including documents furnished by the EPA and the State. In addition, it will

contain the documents that demonstrate that the public was provided an opportunity to participate in and comment on the selection of a response.

A master copy of the administrative record file (containing original copies for all file materials) will be housed at the Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command in San Diego, California. To preserve its integrity, the master version will not be accessible to the public. However, a copy of the file will be maintained at the Yuma County Library. Both the original and duplicates of the file will contain an index to the file. Special documents not included in the file due to size or space constraints such as large maps or sampling data will be incorporated in the file by reference (identified in the index but not physically contained in the file). For such documents, the index will indicate where the documents are publicly accessible.

A copy of the administrative record file is part of the MCAS Yuma Information Repository established at the Yuma County Library. A public display notice announcing the local availability of the administrative record file was published in the *Cactus Comet* on June 23, 1994 and in the *Yuma Daily Sun* on June 26, 1994. All future community relations materials will mention the administrative record file copy maintained in the Yuma County Library.

Notification of the Technical Assistance Grants Program

The Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program, administered by the EPA, provides funds of up to \$50,000 to qualified citizen groups to hire independent technical advisors to help them understand and comment on technical factors in cleanup decisions that affect them.

As stated in CERCLA, groups eligible to receive grants under the TAG program are those whose members may be affected by a release or threatened release of hazardous substances at any facility listed on the National Priorities (NPL). In general, EPA community relations guidance defines eligible groups as individuals who live near the site and whose health, economic well-being, or enjoyment of the environment are directly threatened. Such groups may include existing community associations, environmental or health advocacy groups, or coalitions of groups formed to address community concerns. Groups not eligible for funding include academic institutions, political parties, and groups established or sustained by government entities (including emergency planning committees and citizen advisory boards). Any group applying for a TAG must be nonprofit and incorporated or working toward incorporation under state laws.

To be supported by TAG funding, a group must cover 20 percent of the total cost of the project. All or part of the matching fund requirement can be waived if a group demonstrates financial need after a good faith effort to obtain funds, or if it is determined that such a waiver is necessary to facilitate public participation. The group must budget the expenditure of grant funds to cover the entire cleanup period, which averages six years. If the group is not incorporated and it is awarded a TAG, it must

then become incorporated. Finally, only one TAG award is permitted per NPL site, but the grant may be renewed.

A public display notice announcing the availability of technical assistance grants was published in the *Cactus Comet* on June 23, 1994 and in the *Yuma Daily Sun* on June 26, 1994. The EPA Region 9 Community Relations Specialist assigned to MCAS Yuma (See Appendix B) is the point of contact for more information about the TAG program.

Fact Sheets

In November 1993 a fact sheet was sent to everyone on the project mailing list. The fact sheet briefly discussed the history of MCAS Yuma, summarized previous studies of areas of potential contamination, and described the CERCLA process. Additional fact sheets may be prepared during the remainder of the project.

Briefings for Local Officials

MCAS Yuma representatives will brief city and county officials on site work progress on an as-needed basis.

Public Meetings

The community is encouraged to attend the open MCAS Yuma Restoration Advisory Board meetings. Because the technical review committee is converting to a restoration advisory board, a meeting schedule has yet to be determined. Public display notices

published in a local newspaper will announce upcoming RAB meetings. MCAS Yuma will hold a public meeting during the public comment period for each proposed plan issued. The meetings will be announced in the *Yuma Daily Sun* and through other channels.

Press Releases

MCAS Yuma's Joint Public Affairs office may issue press releases during this project.

Public Notices

Public notices in a local newspaper will announce the:

- administrative record file availability to the community
- EPA's Technical Assistance Grants program
- date, time, and location of MCAS Yuma Restoration Advisory Board meetings
- release of proposed remedial action plans
- start of public comment periods on proposed remedial action plans
- signing of records of decision.

Public Comment Period

As required by CERCLA, a minimum 30-day public comment period will be held for proposed remedial action plans. A comment period gives the community a formal opportunity to convey its ideas and opinions about MCAS Yuma's proposed remedial

action plan and the other remedial plans evaluated. At the public's request, the comment period may be extended 30 days.

Responsiveness Summary

A responsiveness summary will be prepared at the conclusion of a remedial action comment period. The summary will contain responses to significant public comments on the proposed remedial action plan and the other plans evaluated by MCAS Yuma. The summary will be placed in the information repository for public review.

Record of Decision

A record of decision will be issued for each proposed remedial action plan. The decision is MCAS Yuma's declaration of the final remedy for the contamination addressed in the proposed remedial action plan. Once a record of decision has been issued, a copy will be placed in the information repository.

Community Relations Plan Review

The community relations plan will be reviewed prior to the start of remedial design work for each operable unit. According to the NCP, the plan will "determine whether it should be revised to describe further public involvement activities during RD/RA that are not already addressed or provided for in the Community Relations Plan (CRP)."

Technical Review Committee

In accordance with the Installation Restoration Program, MCAS Yuma formed a Technical Review Committee (TRC). The TRC includes representatives of MCAS Yuma; Southwest Division, Navy Facilities Engineering Command; U.S. EPA - Region 9, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the City of Yuma, and the Yuma community. The TRC will convert to a restoration advisory board as called for by recent Marine Corps draft guidance.

Restoration Advisory Board

The TRC is currently converting to a restoration advisory board. When the conversion is complete, the RAB will decide how often and where to meet. MCAS Yuma views these meetings, which will be publicized in a local newspaper, as an effective means for the community to keep abreast of environmental restoration developments. The public will have an opportunity at the meetings to talk to representatives of MCAS Yuma and the regulatory agencies about the project.

APPENDIX A
CERCLA Process Overview

APPENDIX A

CERCLA Process Overview

This appendix overviews the CERCLA process establishing federal action to respond to the release or substantial threat of a release of hazardous substances into the environment.

Major Stages of the CERCLA Process

Once a site containing past hazardous waste contamination has been identified, CERCLA regulations arrange to identify, investigate, and clean up hazardous waste contamination at the facility. Each of the major stages of the CERCLA regulatory process is described below.

Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI). In accordance with Navy/Marine Corps policy, a preliminary assessment (PA) is conducted after site discovery and notice has been provided to EPA within 12 months after the site is listed on the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket. (The docket is a list of federal facilities where potential hazardous waste substance release problems may exist.)

The principal purpose of the PA is to collect information to evaluate the existence of hazardous substance releases at a site and to determine the potential for hazardous substance migration. The PA includes a review of information about releases and disposal practices at the site and interviews with persons having historical knowledge of the site and its operations.

If appropriate, the PA consists of an off-site reconnaissance to determine if a release may require additional investigation or action. The off-site reconnaissance will determine pathways of possible off-site migration, types and numbers of possible receptors. It will also detect visible signs of off-site migration and obtain and review data from state and local authorities that could indicate the presence of off-site contamination. An on-site reconnaissance may also be conducted.

Depending on the results of the preliminary assessment, a site may be referred for a site inspection (SI). A site inspection consists of an on-site investigation to determine whether there is a release or potential release and the nature of any associated threats. The SI augments data collected in the PA and generates, if necessary, sampling and other field data to determine if further action (such as a removal or remedial action, as described later in this appendix) or investigation.

During the SI, on-site sampling identifies sources of contamination. Multi-media sampling in the vicinity of a suspected source determines the existence and approximate extent of any contamination.

In addition, frequent off-site surveys (which may include off-base areas) assess the population, land use, and operations that may affect, or be affected by, site operations and conditions. These investigations identify such information as land ownership near the base, land use, water supplies, waste disposal practices, and potential receptors of any wastes that may migrate off the site via soils, groundwater, surface water, or air. Off-site sampling may determine any possible contamination of off-site receptors from site contamination. It may also identify

contamination unrelated to the site resulting from waste disposal practices on nearby properties.

The findings of the SI (as contained in the SI report) determine if the site should proceed to the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) phase of CERCLA investigations.

Hazard Ranking System (HRS)

Information from the PA/SI is used by EPA to score the site using the hazard ranking system (HRS). The HRS scores sites according to their potential to affect public health, welfare, and the environment. Hazardous waste sites receiving the highest scores (the highest potential for affecting public health, welfare, and the environment) are put on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL lists hazardous waste sites targeted for long-term investigation and cleanup under EPA's CERCLA regulatory program.

The HRS takes into account:

- possible health risks to the human population from site contamination
- potential hazards created by substances at the site (e.g., from direct contact, inhalation, fire or explosion)
- potential for substances at the site to contaminate the air or drinking water supplies

- potential for substances at the site to contaminate or harm the environment.

If a site scores above a certain value (28.5 at present), the site is eligible for proposal by EPA to the NPL.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). If necessary, two related activities, a remedial investigation and a feasibility study, are planned and conducted. During the RI/FS phases of work, comprehensive sampling programs are often designed and conducted to gather and evaluate data about site contaminants. The remedial investigation identifies the nature and extent of contamination both on and offbase. In conjunction with the remedial investigation, a study known as a baseline risk assessment identifies and evaluates the potential risks that site contamination may pose to public health and the environment in the absence of any remedial action.

During the feasibility study, remedial action alternatives for cleaning up site contamination are identified and screened. Upon completion of the feasibility study, the federal facility, with the concurrence of EPA and the state, publishes a proposed plan that contains an analysis of the alternatives listed in the feasibility study and the reasons supporting the facilities preferred alternative. Copies of the feasibility study and proposed plan will be placed in the MCAS Yuma Information Repository prior to the commencement of a 30-day public comment period.

Record of Decision (ROD)

At the conclusion of the public comment period, any new comments, criticism, and data submitted by the public are carefully considered. Following consideration of all

public comments, the federal facility, in coordination with EPA and the state, makes its final remedy selection. The final remedy selection is issued in a Record of Decision (ROD), a document that sets forth and explains the cleanup alternative and the rationale for the selection. The ROD contains a responsiveness summary, a document that responds to all comments, criticisms, and new data submitted by the public during the public comment period. A public notice announcing the decision and the availability of the ROD document will be placed in the local newspaper.

Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA)

Following the remedy selection, the remedial design phase begins. During this phase, all the specific engineering aspects of the remedy are designed. Designing the long-term action, if indicated by the feasibility study, may take six to eighteen months.

At the conclusion of the design phase, remedial action begins and the final remedy is constructed and put into place. The final long-term remedial action typically takes one to two years to construct, although treatment of contaminated groundwater, if needed, may take decades. At the conclusion of remedial action, monitoring of the remedy may continue for many decades to ensure that the remedy remains effective. If the remedial action results in any hazardous substance remaining at the site, section 121(c) of CERCLA requires that the action must be reviewed at least every five years after the initiation of the remedial action.

Role of Operable Units in the CERCLA Process

To expedite CERCLA activities at large or complex sites, a site is frequently subdivided into operable units (OUs) or separate study areas. An OU may be established based on a particular type of contaminant, type of contaminated media (such as soil or water), source of contamination (such as landfill areas or storage tanks), and/or geographic location. Each OU is treated as a discrete action, moving independently through the major stages of CERCLA.

Short-Term Response Actions

At any time during the CERCLA process, an interim (or short-term) response action may be necessary. Depending on the nature of the situation, the interim action may consist of a removal action or of an interim remedial action.

A removal action is a short-term immediate action taken to abate, prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate or eliminate the release or threatened release of hazardous substances that may pose a threat or potential threat to public health or the environment. Removal actions can include, but are not limited to construction of security fences around a contaminated site or run-off diversion controls to prevent the further spread of contamination; installation of temporary alternative drinking water supplies; or drum removal to reduce the potential for spillage, leakage, fire or explosion. Removal actions can occur at NPL and other non-NPL CERCLA sites.

Remedial actions can be either long-term or short-term actions. The term "interim remedial action" (or IRA) is often used to describe a short-term remedial action. An

IRA is an action consistent with the permanent remedy that is taken instead of, or in addition to, a removal action, to prevent or minimize the release or threatened release of hazardous substances so that contamination will not migrate and cause substantial danger to public health, welfare, or the environment. Thus, this type of action is an early action taken at an NPL site to eliminate, reduce, or control the hazards posed by a site or to expedite the completion of a total site cleanup.

An interim remedial action frequently involves the removal or containment of a source of contamination to halt or slow the migration of contamination, while long-term cleanup studies are proceeding. An interim remedial action does not preclude the need for a final remedial action and must be consistent with the final remedial action for the site. Examples of interim remedial actions include the removal of a source of contamination, such as an underground tank, or the containment of contamination such as the construction of a temporary storage cell to hold highly contaminated soils until a final remedy has been selected.

Role of Community Relations in the CERCLA Process

Community relations activities are conducted concurrently with the various technical stages of CERCLA work. Under CERCLA, community relations activities and public involvement typically begin during the start-up of the RI/FS and continue through the construction of the final remedy.

Community relations activities also are conducted in concert with either type of short-term response actions.

APPENDIX B
Key Contacts for MCAS Yuma

APPENDIX B

Key Contacts for MCAS Yuma

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Roger Gingrich
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Priscilla Webb
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Chamber of Commerce
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(602) 782-2567

Karen Nicklaus
Chairperson
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Howard Blitz
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MCAS
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APPENDIX C

MCAS Yuma Technical Review Committee Membership

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD

PORTIONS OF THIS RECORD ARE CONSIDERED
CONFIDENTIAL AND ARE NOT FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

PRIVATE CITIZEN'S HOME ADDRESS AND PHONE
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APPENDIX C

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June 1994

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