

TIERED PARTNERING IN EPA REGION 4

A Bridge to Successful Cleanup

PARTNERING: A cooperative effort using collaborative decision-making processes to produce positive results.

Successful environmental cleanup on a military installation takes teamwork among the main stakeholders — the installation, regulators, service providers, contractors and community members. Because the environmental process is regulated by potentially overlapping federal statutes and state laws, participants often waste time and resources deciding who's in charge of cleanup decisions, which rules apply and other factors.

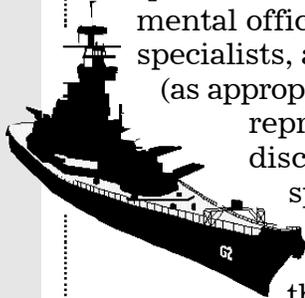
A BETTER WAY

The military major commands, installations, service providers, and federal and state environmental managers in Region 4 are working to expedite this process by “partnering” on environmental cleanup efforts.

Region 4 has established a coordinated cleanup partnership at three levels, or tiers. Participants at each level contribute authorities, expertise and resources to provide installations with a complete set of cleanup tools.

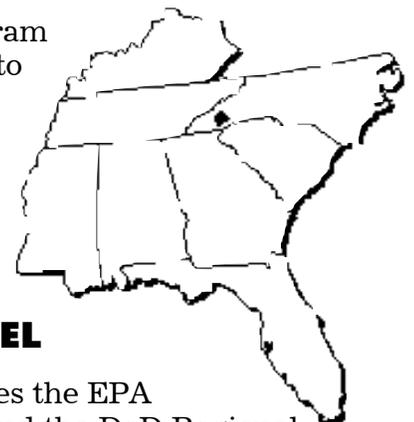
TIER I - INSTALLATION LEVEL

Installation Partnering Teams comprise representatives from the installation environmental office, contractor staff, project managers, technical specialists, and State and Environmental Protection Agency (as appropriate) program managers. These teams include representatives from science and engineering disciplines who can resolve issues specific to an installation. They work together to evaluate the studies that determine what needs to be cleaned up, then design and execute the remedies.



TIER II - STATE LEVEL

State Partnering Teams include installation remedial program managers, Regional Environmental Office representatives, engineer staff, service providers, major command coordinators, and state and EPA program managers. The team's primary role is to support **TIER I** (INSTALLATION LEVEL) teams by resolving issues, providing clarification and guidance, addressing technical concerns and raising policy conflicts to the **TIER III** (REGIONAL LEVEL).



TIER III - REGIONAL LEVEL

The Regional Partnering Team includes the EPA Regional Federal Facilities Manager and the DoD Regional Environmental Coordinator (who serve as co-chairs), the services' Regional Environmental Coordinators, major command program managers, service providers, and State and federal representatives. It assists and supports **TIER II** and **TIER I** teams by sharing information, resolving and clarifying guidelines, streamlining procedures, eliminating roadblocks, integrating technologies and building consistency into the overall program.

The partnering process fosters communication and trust among participants, allowing them to shape effective restoration projects that save time and taxpayer money. In Region 4, it has transformed the installation restoration program from a bundle of conflicting laws, insecure funding, controversial decisions and harried responses into a committed and focused effort to share information, solve problems, expedite cleanup and cut costs.

*Partnering is driven
by a simple goal —
to provide for the
quickest and most
cost-effective cleanup.*

Tiered partnering's facilitated sessions encourage fairness and prevent any one agency or activity from dominating a meeting. Lessons learned at one installation can be readily exported and applied at another installation.

SUCCESS

Good news is coming from all corners of Federal EPA Region 4. In South Carolina, partnering efforts helped Shaw Air Force Base save \$2 million and shorten its document review time by 210 days. Air Force installations in Florida cite cost savings of 10 to 1. At Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, the total time invested in studies and investigation has been reduced by 40-60% through partnering.

In just 18 months at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, partnering efforts transformed a four-year passive program with no significant progress into one that collectively achieved no further action (NFA) on 21 sites. Investigations are complete at

19 sites and 17 remedial investigations are under way.

In March 1998, the Commonwealth of Kentucky hosted its first public "partnering" forum with military installations and their major commands. This commitment to partnering includes formation of TIER I Partnering teams at all military installations in Kentucky, establishment of a Kentucky TIER II Partnering Team and full state involvement at the TIER III LEVEL.

Representatives from the military installations, major commands, states and EPA, which embrace the partnering efforts in the region, recently signed a TIER III Regional Partnership Charter.

For more information about the facilitated partnering program in Region 4, contact your installation environmental coordinator, or state or EPA remedial program manager.

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