

## Community involvement opportunities update

The wide array of information and opportunities available throughout the Monterey Bay community frequently requires making choices among many competing interests. Almost daily community members must weigh new opportunities against current professional, family, and personal obligations and priorities.

As a member of the Fort Ord Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT) along with the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB), the Army considers the opinions and ideas of community members an important part of the cleanup decision making process. Through workshops, presentations, mailings, and other outreach activities the Army has been talking with community members about the Fort Ord environmental cleanup for nearly 10 years. Many community members, interested in the cleanup, say that they would like to get more involved, but their schedules are full, the issues are too complex, or the public participation process too lengthy.

A recent community relations survey of 22,000 households in communities around the former Fort Ord found that many seniors, professionals, parents, and others interested in the cleanup couldn't participate in our cleanup workshops and public meetings. The ideas and opinions of all community members are valuable in the cleanup decision process. The Army's environmental staff continues to look for ways for everyone interested in the cleanup to learn more and to get their ideas and concerns heard.

In response to recommendations from community members, the Army has made some changes to the cleanup outreach program. The number of cleanup fact sheets and other information sent monthly to the more than 700 community members on the

cleanup mailing list has been increased. These fact sheets are summaries of cleanup site assessments and possible solutions. Each fact sheet provides a contact person for more information and to receive comments. The fact sheet information is also placed on the cleanup web site [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com). Through the "Contact Us" feature on the web site, users can get their interests, concerns, and advice to the Army via email. A response to all inquiries is provided within 2 working days.

In August, a post-paid envelope will be included in the monthly mailing those community members on the community relations mailing list. The post-paid envelope is to encourage community members to share their thoughts and opinions about the cleanup. If the envelope is used to send in a comment, a replacement post-paid envelope will be included with the Army's reply, thereby supporting a continuous information sharing loop. This and other changes should make it easier for those who cannot attend workshops and meetings to get information and provide their opinions and concerns to the Army.

If you would like to join the Army's cleanup information loop, please contact the community relations office at (831) 393-9691, email: [cqc@redshift.com](mailto:cqc@redshift.com), FAX: (831) 393-9188.