



# NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING STATION

Lakehurst, New Jersey

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Transfer of Contaminated Soil Completed, Safely**

LAKEHURST, NJ - - In May, the Air Force completed the final shipments of plutonium-contaminated soil from the site of a 1960 nuclear missile silo fire. Cleanup of the Boeing Michigan Aeronautical Research Center (BOMARC) facility, located aboard Fort Dix has been ongoing for the past two years and is now nearing completion.

The shipments (almost 22,000 cubic yards of soil) have been traversing through Naval Air Engineering Station (NAES) Lakehurst in sealed containers via truck and then loaded onto rail cars at Lakehurst's secure railhead for transfer to a disposal site in Utah, according to CAPT Mark Bathrick, Commanding Officer of NAES Lakehurst.

The Air Force built a special secure railhead aboard NAES Lakehurst and improved the roads from the BOMARC site through NAES Lakehurst to accommodate transport of the contaminated soil.

"We worked closely with the Air Force to insure that the contaminated soil was transported only on federal land through Fort Dix and Navy Lakehurst in an effort to avoid any possible hazard to the general public, "

stated Bathrick. “We wanted to ensure that the transfer was done with the utmost safety and least impact to our valued community neighbors. For over two years, the Air Force and the Navy collaborated to successfully transport this contaminated soil from the state of New Jersey, without incident,” continued Bathrick.

The 75-acre BOMARC site is on Fort Dix and owned by the Army, but leased to the Air Force for over 40 years. The site housed 84 nuclear missiles at one time, but was closed by the Air Force in 1972.

After the fire, the Air Force covered the contaminated section of the facility with a concrete and asphalt cap to contain the plutonium. The site has been closed to the public and monitored since that time.

Said Bathrick, “the success of the BOMARC remediation project stands as one of many shining examples of what we have achieved by leveraging the unique geographic and cooperative arrangement enjoyed by Navy Lakehurst, Fort Dix, and McGuire AFB. These three New Jersey military installations reside on a unique, contiguous 42,000 acres of DoD land and are signatories of a first-of-its-kind Joint Installation Partnership that serves as a model for the future for cooperative efforts among other Army, Navy and Air Force installations throughout the Department of Defense.”

*Navy Lakehurst – “A Heritage of Service, A Model for the Future”*