

**Naval Command Control Ocean Surveillance Center, In-service Engineering (NICE)
East Coast Division, St. Inigoes, MD.
(Federal Facility)**

Site Location.

NICE East (St. Inigoes) currently referred to, as NAS Patuxent River Webster Field Annex is located in St. Mary's County, MD, approximately 10 miles to the southeast of Lexington Park. The 1,000-acre base is currently the home of unmanned aerial vehicle research for the Navy and Marine Corps. The Air Field consists of three paved 5,000-foot runways of which two are still active.

Site History.

The Navy acquired 773 acres of the northern part of the former St. Inigoes manor in 1942. The area was originally named NAS Beachville, and soon thereafter renamed Webster Field, in honor of Captain W.W. Webster, USN.

It was originally used as a dispersal field in the event of aerial attacks and also as an auxiliary landing field for NAS Patuxent River. It was also used for ordnance testing, dive-bomber rocket systems, aerial gunnery and glider control experiments.

There was a reduction in activity after World War II until 1947 when the Naval Reserve Training Unit reactivated Webster Field. In 1967 the base was renamed Naval Electronic Systems Test and Evaluation Facility and was removed from NAS Patuxent River's control. After subsequent name changes command was returned to NAS Patuxent River in 1994 and the base was named NAS Patuxent River Webster Field Annex, its current name today.

Environmental Investigations.

An Initial Assessment Study (IAS) was performed in March 1984 as part of the Naval Air Station Patuxent River's IAS. The Navy identified two Sites during the IAS, Site # 32 Disposal Site and Site # 33 Drum Disposal Area.

Site # 32 was the official disposal area for Webster Field from the early 1960's to 1967. Typical wastes included garbage from mess halls, scrap metal from electronic plating operations, organic (vegetative) matter, construction debris and waste oil. Material was placed in trenches 10-15 feet long and 5-10 feet wide. The material was then burned and covered. Numerous reports stated that no industrial wastes were generated at the Webster Field Annex while this disposal site was active. Presently the area is vegetated with a stand of pine trees. Some organic matter, large tree trunks and branches were visible at the time of the on-site survey.

Site # 33 is a forested area located in the southwest portion of the Webster Field Annex. In 1984 approximately 50 very corroded drums were identified during the on-site survey. Most of the drums were empty but some contained a dark tar-like material that was believed to be runway sealant. The small quantity of material was found to be almost insoluble. During a site visit undertaken by the MDE in October 2002 numerous drums were discovered, as well as the presence of inert ordnance.

Current Status.

Currently only two areas are known to have been disposal sites. The facility has recently received increased interest from the Navy and the MDE; and it had been selected to receive funds in the spring of 2002 for a Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation (PA/SI), at the current time, these funds have been delayed indefinitely.

In October 2002, as a result of the site visit undertaken by the MDE, Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) were discovered at Site 33, subsequently, one inert shell was removed in October 2002. MEC remains on site. A time critical removal action previously scheduled for February 2003 was delayed and is now planned for Fall 2003 in order to remove the remaining MEC.

Facility Contacts.

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