

# Defense Environmental Restoration Program

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*Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 1995*

## Foreword

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The Department of Defense (DoD) is pleased to provide Congress with this report on the progress and accomplishments of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for fiscal year (FY) 1995.

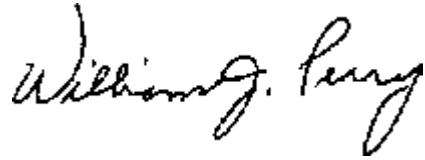
The Defense Environmental Restoration Program is critical to America's overall defense mission. For starters, sites at more than 700 military installations in the United States and U.S. territories are contaminated with fuel oils, chemicals, and other industrial pollutants. Until they are cleaned up, these sites can impact the way we use the land on our installations. Further, property at installations that are slated for closure cannot be turned over to local communities for economic redevelopment until their sites have been restored. But more than needing to clean up these properties, we need to protect our troops, their families, and local communities from pollutants. Moreover, as the third largest federal landowner, DoD has a significant responsibility to protect the land, air, and water that the nation has entrusted to our care. Finally, DoD must comply with cleanup laws--we are not exempt from state or federal environmental statutes and regulations.

1995 will be remembered as a year of accomplishment for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program. In addition to making significant daily progress in restoring contaminated sites and finding better, more efficient ways to accomplish cleanups, we have celebrated some breakthroughs. For example, Fast-Track cleanup at the Sacramento Army Depot in California paved the way to a new life for that installation. On March 3, 1995 the day the installation closed 370 acres of the installation's property were leased to Packard Bell. As a result, 5,000 jobs were created, and by 1998, Packard Bell estimates that as many as 10,000 people will be employed at the facility.

1995 will also be remembered as a time of fiscal constraint on the restoration program. In light of severe budget reductions by Congress, the challenge has been to do more with less. We are working to prevent disruptions caused by unstable funding levels--a factor that only undermines the overall restoration effort. For example, installation commanders across the nation are reevaluating cleanup agreements and schedules that had been made in good faith between DoD and regulatory agencies. To prevent disruptions and slowdowns and to ensure progress and efficiency, the Defense Science Board Task Force on Environmental Security has recommended stable funding levels for the restoration program. Recent statements by members of Congress have echoed that recommendation.

This report demonstrates how DoD is meeting cleanup challenges and responsibilities and describes some of the innovative ways we are doing so more efficiently. In an effort

to help Congress and the public better understand the complexities of the restoration program, we have divided the report into two volumes. Volume 1 includes programmatic information, while Volume 2 is comprised of the data and tables traditionally included in recent annual reports to Congress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William G. Perry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".