

**National Naval Medical Command  
Montgomery County, Maryland**

**Site Location**

The National Naval Medical Command site is located at 8901 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, Maryland. It is approximately eight miles north-northwest of downtown Washington D.C. The facility consists of more than 85 buildings spread over an area of 243 acres.

**Site History**

In the Summer of 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt personally selected a parcel of land in Bethesda, Maryland for the construction of a new National Naval Medical Center (NNMC). Later that same year, Congress appropriated funds and ground was broken for NNMC in 1939.

Since the start-up of operations, the NNMC has undergone extensive redevelopment and administrative changes. At the present, the center provides the necessary services to support various commands and also acts as a central authority for cooperation with military and civilian authorities in matters pertaining to public health, disasters and other emergencies.

**Environmental Investigations**

A Preliminary Assessment was performed for the NNMC in 1988 that covered general environmental issues and five specific potential hazardous waste disposal sites.

A Site Inspection (SI) was initiated in 1992 that addressed the five potential hazardous waste disposal sites at the facility. The SI recommended additional sampling for two sites and no further action for the remaining three.

In 1993, two small mercury pools, less than two inches in diameter, were discovered on the soil floor of the crawlspace of Building 17. These pools and the associated soil were removed. Two mercury pools, less than two inches in diameter, were again discovered in 1996 in the same area. The National Institutes of Health HazMat Team responded and removed the mercury as well as associated soil.

In response to this second mercury discovery, the Navy produced an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) that determined a non-time-critical removal action was necessary to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to public health or welfare. This removal action was conducted in 1998.

**Current Status**

NNMC is a permitted Resource Conservation and Recovery Act treatment, storage, or disposal facility. They also have a permitted storage building for hazardous waste.

**Contact**

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