

Submitted
June 15, 2000

After Action Report
March 27, 2000 Oil Spill

USS CAMDEN
'Water For Life' Program

Presented to:

Washington State
Department of Ecology
Resource Damage Assessment
Committee

Presented by:

Navy Region Northwest
Naval On-Scene Coordinator

Participation in the 'Water for Life' Program

1) Background:

On March 27, 2000, the USS Camden spilled an estimated 35 gallons of diesel fuel, most (if not all) of which was recovered. Notifications were conducted and response actions were taken. On April 12, 2000, the Washington State Resource Damage Assessment Committee met and approved participation in the 'Water for Life' program, to provide full compensation for natural resource damages resulting from the oil spill.

2) Scope:

The *Water for Life* program was established in 1990 in response to concern regarding the ecological imbalance of Dyes Inlet. Adult volunteers from local Navy/Marine Corps commands educate the community's children to broaden their understanding and help them become ecologically responsible adults and provide the manpower to cleanup, restore, and preserve Dyes Inlet.

3) Operation:

On May 12, 2000, approximately 18 members from the USS CAMDEN participated in the *Water for Life* program. (The Navy committed to sending at least 5 crew members to assist in this program). The USS CAMDEN crew members escorted and supervised children from Jackson Park Elementary School. USS CAMDEN / Jackson Park Elementary School team was assigned a section along Erlands Point instructed to scour the beach and remove all trash and other non-indigenous debris from the beach and nearby shores. Safety issues were discussed with the children before leaving the meeting points and all participants wore gloves of plastic or other such material to protect from injury. The participants in USS CAMDEN / Jackson Park Elementary School team were on the beach for over two hours. All waste materials were collected in decomposable burlap sacks and deposited at assigned locations along the waterfront for pick-up by motor launch for proper disposal by other *Water for Life* participants.

All *Water for Life* participants then returned to Silverdale Waterfront Park for sack lunches, cookies and punch. Awards were handed out for the most trash collected, most unusual piece of trash, longest piece of trash and heaviest piece, etc. Captain Thomas, Commanding Officer SUBASE Bangor, presented the trophies for the winning participants.

Thirty-one commands and 31 schools from the Central Kitsap School District participated in the event, for a total 450 adult volunteers and 460 children. Over six yards of trash were collected and properly disposed of.

Photographs of the project are included for your viewing. See Enclosure (1).

4) Recommendation:

The crew of the USS CAMDEN took pride in the task given and received a better understanding of the value of our environment. While the focus of this project was elementary education (vice direct action on the part of the crew) we believe it was very successful. Recommend this type of project again for future incidents, where appropriate.



