



# THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 249.

IN REPLY  
REFER TO

CAAE

**DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY  
HEADQUARTERS  
8725 JOHN J. KINGMAN ROAD, SUITE 2533  
FT. BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-6221**

MAY 23 1997

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD****SUBJECT:** Meeting with Doris Bradshaw, May 16, 1997

On May 16, 1997, Mrs. Doris Bradshaw visited HQ DLA and met with Jan Reitman, Dennis Lillo and Karen Moran of CAAE. Mrs. Bradshaw resides in the community near the Defense Depot Memphis Tennessee and is the Executive Director of the Concerned Citizens Committee. The following issues were discussed or mentioned, though not in the order presented. For clarity, her comments have been categorized by Health, Environment or Justice concerns.

**HEALTH**

Numerous anecdotal reports of unusual health problems in the community adjacent to the depot, including high incidence of cancer, heart disease, kidney disorders, and hysterectomies. Large scale death in the animal population is also reported. Learning disabilities in children (particularly teenage boys) are reported.

Doris Bradshaw would like free health facilities in the community to compensate for health problems caused by past practices at the depot. She would like the clinic to build a database on health, reporting that there are 5000 people within 1 mile of the depot. She indicated that a clinic had been approved but not funded, and that the Governor of Tennessee acknowledges that cancer is a problem in the area.

She reported that the local Health Department had received a \$6000 grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Science to do a needs assessment.

She also recommends the establishment of an educational fund, and indicated a need for a two day workshop, bring in expertise on health problems.

**ENVIRONMENT**

She is aware of the wood treating operation at the depot and is concerned about the health affects of donated wood.



A neighborhood fruit tree kill in 1985 is reported.

She is concerned about residue from the airplane fire at the depot. She reports that the residue was used as fill for the existing building.

She describes the structural failure of the temporary hazardous material building in the 1980s as an explosion.

Open burning in Dunn Field is reported, including tear gas cylinders.

Mrs. Bradshaw expressed reservations about the pump and treat approach to contaminated groundwater -- it does not get rid of the problem and makes the chemicals airborne.

She is concerned that Dr. Kellam of the ATSDR, who prepared the Public Health Assessment, did not look at surface water, since one of her main worries is lead exposure. Past dumping in drainage ditches is a concern, and she stated Hamilton School was built over drainage ditches.

She indicated that there are 369 brownfields sites in the city of Memphis.

#### JUSTICE

The Corps of Engineers cannot be trusted to conduct impartial testing because of reports of discrimination. An independent laboratory is needed.

The RAB is not responsive to the community or representative of it. Numerous examples of lack of interest were cited. The RAB should not be replaced, but should be trained instead. The RAB co-chair is a DLA employee and as such is compromised and cannot act independently. She believes the RAB co-chair cannot be an employee of the closing installation. RAB meetings should be announced in the churches.

The BRAC closure process is moving too fast. When the depot closes this year, there will be great pressure from the Reuse Development Board to move in other industry before the cleanup process is complete. The Reuse Development Board is made up of one black woman and 24 white people (22 men) who are not sympathetic to the health concerns in the community. Fed Ex has already expanded operations at the depot -- she showed a newspaper article describing the new contract. Fed Ex is described as a poor employer, placing employees under bad working conditions with no benefits. Doris Bradshaw recommends the depot be kept open an extra year.

She has consulted with John Rosenthal of the Urban Environmental Institute at Howard University, and Wayne Knox, who is President of Advanced Systems Technology in Atlanta

GA, an independent consulting firm, and suggests we obtain their advice. (Meetings have been scheduled with both.)

There are problems with the PAO (DDMT community relations contractor). The current newsletter goes to the wrong people. The PAO should be someone of color, or at least someone of sensitivity to local minority concerns. She has a more extensive mailing list than the PAO. We asked that she share it so the additional residents could be added. She indicated that she would have to remove the national level addressees from her list.

She asked where the money from the Cash for Trash program will go after base closure. She heard it would be sent to Philadelphia.

She recommends that people in the community be hired for the cleanup work.

Doris Bradshaw believes that DLA does not comply with EO 12898, Environmental Justice.



JAN B. REITMAN  
Staff Director  
(Environmental and Safety Policy)

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