

Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
January 28, 1998 6:00 p.m.
Dwight Middle School

Members/Alternates present:

Brig. Gen. Leroy Barnidge, Jr., RAB Installation Co-Chair	Ms. Annalisa Peace, RAB Community Co-Chair
Mr. Edward Weinstein	Mr. David Johnson (Mrs. Johnson's alt)
Dr. Gene Lené	Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Jr.
Mr. Allan Posnick (Mr. Beyer's alt)	Mr. Willie Jones, Jr.
Ms. Camille Hueni	Mr. Armando Quintanilla
Mr. George Rice	Mr. Sam Sanchez
Mr. Paul Roberson	Mr. Allan Hagelthorn
Mr. Paul Person	Mr. Sam Murrah
Mr. Damian Sandoval	Mr. John A. Jacobi
Mr. Mark Puffer (Mr. Floyd's alt)	Mr. Carl Mixon
Mrs. Dominga Adames	

Members Absent Without Alternate:

Mr. Juan Solis, Sr.	Mr. Larry Hoffmann
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Item I: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m., by Brig. Gen. Leroy Barnidge, Jr., RAB Installation Co-Chair

Item III: Administrative Topics

- A. Gen. Barnidge indicated Ms. Annalisa Peace, outgoing Co-chair, had brought to his attention the agenda in the members' packets was not the one the two Co-chairs had previously approved and that the meeting would follow the prior agenda.
- B. RAB members introduced themselves. The new Air Force Co-chair, Gen. Barnidge introduced himself to the board and described his background. He remarked that he has served on RABs at other bases and believes strongly in the RAB concept. He said he believes that a successful RAB must work together as a team and stay focused on cleanup issues.
- C. Gen. Barnidge said it did not seem necessary to him to read the "Purpose of the RAB" statement at each RAB meeting and suggested discontinuing the practice unless the members preferred to hear it. John Jacobi, Texas Department of Health, moved that the reading of the statement be discontinued. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- D. Review of the Sept. 9, 1997, minutes included a requested clarification by Ms. Peace, Community Co-chair. Ms. Peace pointed out a motion was described in the minutes as

passing “almost unanimously.” She said the minutes should be changed to read “unanimously.”

- E. Mr. George Rice asked that a statement in the minutes that he would be satisfied if the base turned over “all releasable data” be changed to read that he wanted “all data,” not just “releasable data.”
- F. Minutes for the Sept. 9 1997 RAB meeting were approved with the changes.
- G. Minutes for the Dec. 2, 1997, RAB meeting were approved without change.

Item II: Community Statements

- A. The Chair called for comments from members of the public who wished to address the RAB.
- B. Mr. Raul Villar, a local resident who lives in North Kelly Gardens, said he was concerned that the base was causing health problems in his neighborhood. He said his grandson has been diagnosed with bronchitis and has recently been diagnosed with asthma. He said he believes the base is to blame.
- C. Ms. Valentina Trinidad is interested in what areas were surveyed during the community health survey. She said she grew up in the area and has family members who have been sick or died from various forms of cancer and other illnesses. She said she herself has been diagnosed with a form of lupus. She said she would like to talk to the people doing the health studies.
 - 1. Mr. Armando Quintanilla said representatives from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) will be in San Antonio to talk with people the week of February 8. Mr. Sam Sánchez, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, said he would also be involved. Both men said Mrs. Trinidad could contact them for more information.
- D. Mr. Damian Sandoval asked if there would be any further information sent to the community regarding the results of the well survey. Mr. Sánchez said the Health District is currently trying to determine if there is anyone using well water by comparing Bexar Metropolitan Water District’s water service records with electrical connection records from City Public Service. He said if a residence has an electrical hookup, but no water hookup, the Health District will investigate to determine the source of water for that residence.
- E. Another (unidentified) member of the community asked about the drainage project on Quintana Road. Ms. Peace said that will be addressed by Mr. John German, San Antonio Public Works, in a later presentation.

Item III: Election of Community Co-Chair

- A. Mr. Sandoval and Mr. Carl Mixon were nominated as candidates for the community co-chair position. Each candidate made a brief statement of his interest in serving as co-chair.

- B. After some discussion, it was agreed that all RAB members, except for regulators and the Air Force Co-chair, would be eligible to vote on the new co-chair.

A closed ballot was taken. Mr. Sandoval was elected.

Item IV: Cleanup Program Budget

- A. Gen. Barnidge said information on the cleanup program budget is in the packet for review by the members. Mr. Quintanilla asked if the ratio of 65% to cleanup and 35% to studies and management is in line with spending at other bases.
 - 1. Mr. Allan Posnick, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, said according to his knowledge, DOD is emphasizing spending more money on cleanup and less on studies.
 - 2. Ms. Camille Hueni, Environmental Protection Agency, said that bases slated for closure, such as Kelly, are emphasizing accelerated cleanup over studies. She noted that Kelly already has several interim systems in place and is progressing in its cleanup.
- B. Mr. Quintanilla expressed his concern that there would not be enough money to complete the cleanup. He said he is concerned that the money will run out in 2001. Gen. Barnidge said the Air Force will maintain responsibility for cleaning up all contamination it caused and that the cleanup will be funded.
 - 1. Mr. Larry Bailey said the current program is designed to have all cleanup systems in place within the next two to three years. This schedule will put the base in a good position in the future to obtain funding. In response to a question from Mr. Sandoval, Mr. Bailey indicated that long-term monitoring will continue.
- C. Mr. Quintanilla asked if there will be enough money to clean up the neighborhoods. Mr. Bailey said yes. Mr. Quintanilla asked if Gen. Barnidge foresaw any “dirty” land transfers. Gen. Barnidge said he understands that before land can be transferred it must be cleaned up to regulatory standards.
- D. Mr. Quintanilla asked what criteria were used at sites already closed. Mr. Bailey said the state sets standards for site closure. The criteria depend on the type of site.

Item V: Storm Water Project Report

- A. Mr. German, Mr. Gabriel Perez and Mr. David Newman from the San Antonio Public Works Department gave a presentation on the Quintana Road Stormwater Drainage project (See attached slides). They described the location of the new culvert and presented a timeline for the work and completion.
- B. Mr. Newman, an engineer working on the environmental aspects of the project, said soils and water removed during construction will be sent to Kelly AFB for characterization and disposal at an approved disposal facility off base. The City will transport the soils by truck and will transport groundwater through a temporary aboveground pipe. He said that the construction design of the culvert will assist cleanup efforts at Kelly by acting as a

barrier for the shallow groundwater in the area. The culvert will be tied into the Navarro Clay and enhanced with a synthetic liner.

C. Questions and Comments

1. Mr. Quintanilla asked if this project could be done without undoing all the work previously done in the area just a few years ago. Mr. German said they considered keeping the prior work in place, but this new project design best meets the City's needs. He said once finished, the streets, sidewalks and curbs will look better than ever.
2. Mr. Quintanilla asked if the project was considered a cleanup because Air Force cleanup funds were being used and why no permit is being issued for this work.
 - a) Mr. German said the project is characterized as construction, not a cleanup. Mr. Posnick said the activities do not meet the criteria for a cleanup; therefore no cleanup is taking place and no permit is required. Mr. Newman said the city has received a special waste authorization from TNRCC.
 - b) Mr. Quintanilla said he does not understand how Air Force cleanup funds can be used for something that is not a cleanup. Gen. Barnidge said he would look into it and get him an answer.
3. Mr. Rice asked Mr. Newman if the City was planning to excavate and backfill in areas where the Navarro Clay undulates. Mr. Newman said yes. Mr. Rice asked if water would seep through the bedding material. Mr. Newman said the liner will also be tied into the Navarro and will keep water out of the bedding material.
4. Mr. Mixon asked if the Health and Safety Plans, Work Plans and other plans will be brought before the board for review. Gen. Barnidge said that the board can discuss the documents once the City makes them public.
5. Mr. David Johnson asked if the Air Force will take advantage of this opportunity to take soil samples directly from the Navarro Clay. Gen. Barnidge agreed to have the environmental staff look into this.
6. Mr. Sandoval asked if the city will take into account groundwater fluctuations when determining what soil is contaminated. He was told that the City would do so. He then asked if domestic waterlines in the area were in a contaminated area. He was told that they were not.
7. Mr. Rice asked if Kelly is cleaning up the hazardous waste, does the Air Force acknowledge responsibility for all of it. Gen. Barnidge said there is no answer to that question. Mr. Rice asked if the City acknowledges responsibility for it. Mr. German said the City does not.
8. Parker Wilson, TNRCC attorney, explained that a permit was not required to generate hazardous waste and therefore the Quintana Road project would not require a permit. Other regulatory avenues exist for TNRCC to ensure the project complies with the environmental requirements of Federal and State Law.

A short break was taken.

Item VI: Subcommittee Reports

A. Technical Review Subcommittee

1. Mr. Sandoval gave the report of the technical subcommittee. (See attached slides.)
2. Gen. Barnidge suggested it would be better if consideration of the subcommittees' written recommendations on the Zone 5 Remedial Investigation be postponed until the next meeting to allow adequate time for review. The RAB members agreed and the recommendations will be presented at the next meeting. He also suggested future subcommittee meetings be scheduled to allow time for review of materials by all RAB members before the full RAB meets.
3. The RAB agreed that Kelly AFB should consider producing a summary contamination map as recommended by the TRS.
 - a) Motion was made to have the TRS continue work on a map. Motion passed.
4. Mr. Sandoval said Mr. Larry Hoffmann tendered his resignation from the TRS. His resignation was accepted by the board.
5. Three new members were added to the TRS. They include Mr. Dean Pound (GKDC), Capt. Tom DeVenoge (Kelly AFB) and Mr. David Johnson.

B. Rules Administration Subcommittee Report

1. Ms. Peace gave the report of the Rules Administration subcommittee. She said the subcommittee met to consider and make recommendations on several administrative items. The subcommittee postponed consideration of recommendations on the scheduling of future RAB meetings in deference to the new co-chairs. She said the committee discussed the need for the co-chairs to develop and approve the agenda together. Gen. Barnidge said the board should trust him and Mr. Sandoval to develop meeting agendas together and pledged no future problems. He said a formal motion would not be necessary.
2. Ms. Peace said the committee recommends that draft RAB minutes be provided to members within 20 business days following the meeting and transcripts be provided to the public at public repositories within 20 business days. Gen. Barnidge said he was not sure of the stipulations of the contract for RAB support, but he will check into it and report back.
3. The committee requested more information on RAB funding. Gen. Barnidge also said that he would meet with the subcommittee and listen to any administrative requests they may have, but would not discuss funding.
4. The General asked Ms. Peace to ensure both he and Mr. Sandoval were informed of the subcommittee's meetings so that they could attend. Ms. Peace said they would schedule the meeting when both the General and Mr. Sandoval were available.

5. Mr. Rice suggested that the Administrative Subcommittee should consider meeting at St. Mary's University, the location of the TRS meetings.

Item VII: New Business

- A. Mr. Rice announced that in regard to Mr. Quintanilla's lawsuit against the Air Force, a test well will be drilled at Mr. Quintanilla's residence on Thursday, January 29, 1998, to determine whether there is shallow groundwater under the property. Mr. Rice will report the results at the next RAB meeting.
- B. Ms. Peace announced a community forum hosted by Bexar County Commissioners' Court and San Antonio City Council will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 11, 1998, at McCollum High School, 500 W. Formosa in San Antonio. The purpose of the forum is to provide an opportunity to receive information and public input regarding environmental issues of the Kelly Air Force Base vicinity. She encouraged RAB members and community residents to attend.
- C. Mr. Quintanilla asked if the RAB could obtain copies of the Defense Environmental Restoration Task Force's documents regarding the disestablishment of RABs. Gen. Barnidge said the Air Force would try to get the information.
- D. Mr. Johnson said the Committee for Environmental Justice-Action is meeting with ATSDR to discuss the validity of the community health survey done last year by CEJA. He said the discussion is the next step in confirming the results of the study. He said CEJA believes there is a pattern of illnesses and they want ATSDR and other government agencies to study the illnesses further. He asked Gen. Barnidge for an endorsement from the RAB of CEJA's efforts. Gen. Barnidge said although the Air Force wants to get to the bottom of the health concerns issue, the RAB, because it is sponsored by the Air Force, cannot endorse any one particular group's activities.
 1. Mr. Paul Roberson suggested the RAB adopt a posture of endorsing a comprehensive health study, without endorsing any particular group. His motion to do so was seconded and approved by the board. Mr. Jacobi said the state health department would be willing to support the health study wherever possible.
- E. Mr. Sandoval expressed concern that there were RAB protesters outside prior to the meeting. He said these protesters should be included in dialog. Ms. Peace said there is a CEJA meeting to be held at St. John Berchman's Church at 6 p.m., on 12 February 1998.
 1. Dominga Adames, a member of CEJA, said the demonstrators from her group just want to be heard. She said that she and others have been ignored in the past. However, she said the last few months have been better.
- F. Mr. Quintanilla was asked to give a report at the next meeting on the DERTF Conference he recently attended in Phoenix. He agreed to give a short report.

Item VIII: Old Business

- A. Mr. Sandoval asked if there were plans to mail out a second well survey to the neighborhoods surrounding Kelly AFB. Mr. Bailey said the base is planning another round of samples, which would include publicity similar to the announcement of the initial survey.
- B. Mr. Rice asked about the RAB budget. Gen. Barnidge restated that the cost for a RAB meeting is about \$8,400. Mr. Rice asked for more detail. Gen. Barnidge said that is the only answer he will give. He said he is committed to lowering that cost by renegotiating the contract.
 - 1. Mr. Quintanilla suggested some of the money be used to train RAB members. Gen. Barnidge said he will consider that option.
- C. Mr. Rice asked if the Air Force was willing to go on record with its admission of responsibility for contamination as requested by Ms. Hueni at the last meeting. Ms. Hueni clarified her remarks by saying she has never heard the Air Force make such a statement and that her remarks were made in the context of the 300 foot zone outside the base boundary. Leslie Brown, environmental counsel for Kelly AFB, stated that this issue regarding off-base contamination is part of a lawsuit and therefore the Air Force cannot discuss the issue.

Item IX: Community Comments

No members of the community made comments.

Item X: Next RAB Meeting

- A. The Board discussed the date for the next meeting.
 - 1. The next meeting was scheduled for sometime in April 1998. The exact date and location will be determined and announced by the co-chairs .
 - 2. Gen. Barnidge encouraged RAB members to invite more community residents to the next meeting.
- B. Agenda/Action Items
 - 1. Ms. Peace reviewed the following items for the next meeting's agenda:
 - a) Zone 5 Remedial Investigation comments from the TRS.
 - b) RAB meeting schedule and future locations
 - c) Mr. Quintanilla's report on the DERTF conference.
 - d) A discussion of highlights of the City/County Community Fora
 - e) Information on disestablishment of RABs.
 - f) Report on the results of Health District's well survey
 - g) Follow-up on distribution/publicity of the Health Department's well survey.
 - h) Mrs. Adames' report on a dialog with CEJA

2. Action Items

- a) Develop a handout of all in place interim actions.
- b) Find out if the moneys provided for the stormwater project come from cleanup funds and if a permit is needed for the work.
- c) Determine whether the minutes can be provided to RAB members within 20 business days after meeting.
- d) Determine whether the transcripts can be posted to Repositories within 20 business days after meeting.
- e) Get copies of any DOD Discussion Papers or guidance on the disestablishment of RABs
- f) Establish dialogue with CEJA protesters and invite them into the RAB process

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Motions/Resolutions

A. Motions

1. Motion was made to discontinue reading of the RAB purpose at the start of every meeting.
 - a) Approved by a show of hands. Unanimous
2. Motion was made to approve the Sept. 9, 1997 minutes as amended.
 - a) Approved by a show of hands. Unanimous
3. Motion was made to approve the Dec. 2. 1997 minutes.
 - a) Approved by a show of hands. Unanimous
4. Motion was made to accept Mr. Hoffmann's resignation from the Technical Subcommittee
 - a) Approved by a show of hands. Unanimous
5. Motion was made to accept all RAB members as "community members" for the purpose of electing the Community Co-chair with the exception of Regulators and the Installation Co-chair.
 - a) Approved by a show of hands. One vote opposed.
6. Motion was made to have TRS draft a summary contamination map.
 - a) Approved by a show of hands. Unanimous
7. Motion was made to include Mr. Pound (GKDC), Capt. DeVenoge (Kelly AFB) and Mr. Johnson (CEJA) on the TRS.

a) Approved by a show of hands. 10-3

Attachments (Provided at the meeting to all RAB members.)

1. TRS Report Briefing Slides
2. Storm Water Project Report Briefing Slides
3. Memorandum on Procedures for Presenting Subcommittee Reports