

McClellan AFB RAB Meeting

July 24, 1996

6:30 p.m.

Vineland Elementary School

RAB members
attending: Chuck
Yarbrough,
Community Co-
Chair; Mario Ierardi,
Air Force Co-Chair;
Dale Anderson; Peter
Berghius; Stephen
Brown; Del Callaway;
Mannard Gaines;
Bill Gibson; Dennis
Green; Sheila Guerra;
John Leuthe; Jeannie
Lewis; Ben Norman;
Simeon Okoroike;
Bill Shepherd; Burl
Taylor;
Mark Malinowski,
DTSC; Joe Healy, U.
S. EPA;
Alex MacDonald,
Regional Water
Board; Jim Bryant;
Brad Gacke

RAB alternates
attending: Gary
Andresen; Dennis
Lewis; John Bowles;
Brad Gacke

RAB members not
attending: Susan
McKee

Others attending:
Matthew Alix;
Stephanie Benedict;
Rick Blank;
Mary Bridgewater,
AFBCA; Tim
Chapman, BDM
(EMR); John Carrier;
Kim Emerick, EMRP;
April Farnham;
Patrick Foy; Marc
Garcia, EMR;
Capt. Guy Graening,
EM; Ron
Herganrader; Linda
Hogg, DTSC; Chris
Jensen; Bob Leighton;
Lee Lewis;
Amir Matin; Frank
Miller; Jeff Morris;
Wayne Russell; Maj
Robert Senchy; Deb
Soper, EMR; Sarabjit
Singh; Jerry Vincent,
EMR

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Mr. Chuck Yarbrough called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. RAB members were introduced to the public. Mr. Mario Ierardi introduced Ms. Mary Bridgewater, representing the Air Force Base Conversion Agency, who will be working with McClellan on reuse and privatization issues.

Ms. Margaret Gidding of McClellan EM/PAE gave an update on the investigations that were being conducted at McClellan. Ms. Gidding informed audience that 10 of the 11 allegations against Environmental Management (EM) have been found to be unsubstantiated, and the eleventh is being concluded. Mr. Dennis Green, RAB member, said that Congressman Pombo was quoted in the paper saying that he was unsatisfied with the results of the investigation. Mr. Green asked if EM had heard anything more from Congressman Pombo's office as to whether he was going to pursue a GAO audit on the issue. Ms. Gidding responded that EM had not heard anything about that. Congressman Pombo's representative was invited to the RAB meeting, but did not attend.

Mr. Ierardi announced the following personnel changes.

- Mr. Ierardi will be moving to Washington, D.C. to work with the Base Conversion Agency.
- Ms. Doris Bajka will replace Mr. Ierardi as the Environmental Management Restoration Division Chief.
 - Ms. Elaine Anderson, who is the Air Force Remedial Program Manager, will replace Mr. Ierardi as the McClellan AFB RAB Co-Chair.
 - Mr. Paul Brunner, who is the Director of Environmental Management, will be the alternate McClellan AFB Co-Chair.

Mr. Ierardi reviewed the 1995 accomplishments of the Restoration Advisory Board.

- In April 1995, a Charter was signed and a Purpose and Vision was developed.
- A Resource Notebook was developed.
- An Advisory Worksheet process was developed to help gather input from the RAB on issues of importance to the community, RAB members, or regulatory agencies.
- A Community Relations Plan is being developed.
- Many RAB members completed a training program with the University California at Davis.
- Committees of the RAB have been created.

- The FY96/97 Budget was developed.
- Relative Risk ranking of McClellan's sites took place.

Mr. Ierardi and Mr. Yarbrough gave recognition to the following individuals for their service and accomplishments within the RAB:

- Ms. Sue Sher, DTSC, was recognized for her work in the Community Relations Committee.
- Mr. John Leuthe, RAB member, was recognized for his work in the Technical Review Committee.
- Mr. Bill Gibson, Relative Risk Committee chair, was recognized for his assistance in obtaining funding for Environmental Management.
- Mr. Yarbrough was recognized for his work as RAB Community Co-Chair.
- Mr. Ierardi was presented a certificate for his outstanding support of the RAB. A gift and card was also presented.
- All RAB members have put a lot of time and effort into this last year. Their efforts are appreciated.

Mr. Ierardi reviewed the RAB Committee Points of Contact (POCs)

- For the Base Reuse Committee, Mr. Del Callaway is the Community Chair, and Mr. Marc Garcia is the McClellan POC.
- For the Community Relations Committee, Ms. Sue Sher, from DTSC, is the Chair, and Ms. Margaret Gidding is the McClellan POC.
- For the Relative Risk Ranking Committee, Mr. Bill Gibson is the Community Chair, and Ms. Elaine Anderson is the McClellan POC.
- For the Technical Report Review Committee, Mr. John Leuthe is the Community Chair, and Mr. Bob Shirley (who replaces Mr. Kirk Schmalz) is the McClellan POC.

FY96 IRP Funding Levels ³/₄ Mr. Ierardi

An important item of discussion for the RAB this year was the budget. At one point, McClellan had heard that the \$17.6 million in funds for cleanup had been withdrawn. In December, McClellan EM basically had no budget. Through the efforts of McClellan's RAB, and others, that funding was eventually restored.

Even though it has been a difficult year because of budget inconsistencies, to date \$23 million has been received, so essentially McClellan has done better than anticipated. (The initial request was \$32 million.)

McClellan has developed budgets into FY97 and FY98. These budgets, including the projects that were looked at by the RAB, were subjected to a peer review at the Base Closure Agency (BCA), which funds closing bases. That peer review validated those budgets, meaning they are ready to be funded. (Whether McClellan actually get funded or not is another issue.) Because of some of the efforts that have been done this year, McClellan is in a very good position to get additional funding for FY98 above and beyond what was originally requested, meaning there could be an acceleration of the program.

Mr. Green asked what is going to happen with the additional funding, and if a report is going to be generated.

Mr. Ierardi said that McClellan could do that. However, they have already prioritized the sites. For the acceleration, the Relative Risk Committee will need to discuss what those projects will be. Basically, if additional funding is received, FY99 projects will be moved forward

For example, this year, the additional funding is going toward the study efforts, which are important because they establish the condition of property. This condition of property must be determined before any parcel of the base can be reused. McClellan is about two years from completing these studies. Additional funds were also put into operation and maintenance of the systems, and into soil vapor extraction systems.

A BRAC Focus ³/₄ Ms. Elaine Anderson

Ms. Elaine Anderson, McClellan AFB, gave an overview of what reuse means to the restoration program at McClellan. Ms. Anderson emphasized it is not changing EM's mission, which is to protect human health and the environment. The cleanup and risk evaluation are still the primary focus. The additional funding allows McClellan to accelerate their site cleanup and support reuse activities. The closure emphasis is pulling together all of the parties at McClellan to look at innovative solutions to cost-effectively accomplish cleanup in an accelerated manner.

Key issues for the restoration program are to:

- Protect human health and the environment;
- Keep the 2001 closure date in mind to ensure that property is available;
- Ensure that base agencies are programming how McClellan is going to transition in the cleanup;
- Ensure that McClellan is supporting the efforts today for closure; and
- Capitalize on new technologies to clean up faster and cheaper.

In order to accomplish the above, McClellan will focus their investigations on closing information gaps in the Remedial Investigation (RI). Another effort will be to accelerate cleanup actions, including looking at how McClellan can integrate multiple systems such as groundwater and soil actions, and to apply new technologies.

The OU A remedial investigation is now fully funded. It is scheduled to be completed in FY99. Field work is one aspect of the RI that will be accelerated. McClellan AFB currently has a very aggressive program of performing field work using multiple rigs to gather that data, writing the reports, turning them around, and advancing to the next phase of the investigation. Data gained from the investigation will allow McClellan AFB to make cleanup decisions faster.

Soil ³/₄ Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) systems have already been installed in OU D, OU C1, and two in OU B. McClellan has planned the next SVE system in OU A at Investigation Cluster 31 (IC 31). With the additional funding, McClellan AFB has managed to accelerate its program and is now planning to install an SVE system in two sites within OU A and OU C.

McClellan is able to accelerate the program by using single treatment sites for multiple remediation sites. For example, in OU C (at IC 19 and 21) McClellan will be installing wells, but will not be buying another treatment system. Contaminated vapor from the new wells will be piped to the OUD treatment system. It may be possible to pipe vapor from more sites to the OU D treatment system in the future. One other area being studied for cost saving measures is consolidating the treatment systems for the extraction systems in IC 31 and IC 29.

Another advantage of treating contaminants from multiple sites is combining groundwater and soil actions. IC 31 will have an SVE system installed. In IC 29, a groundwater action is taking place. McClellan is piping the extracted contaminants to a central treatment system. Consolidating treatment systems from multiple sites may become a common alternative in the future. McClellan AFB will continue to pursue this because there will be several areas in OU A over the next few years, where many remedial actions are anticipated.

Mr. Green asked if McClellan AFB had any cost-savings projections by these consolidation efforts. Ms. Anderson responded that cost-savings would easily amount to \$0.5 to \$1 million.

A demonstration of 2-Phase™ technology was conducted in IC 1. McClellan is now expanding this. At IC 29, a 2-Phase™ system and dual phase system are being tested to see what the most effective technology at the site will be. McClellan AFB is now looking into areas where they can pull contaminated groundwater out as well as de-water the soil, which means to lower the groundwater level thus exposing more the contaminated soil. An SVE system is applied to the newly exposed soil and the contaminated vapor is extracted and treated. McClellan AFB will continue to look into new technologies. A significant amount of the cleanup budget is going into Operations and Maintenance (O&M). One of the big areas that McClellan is looking to accelerate, is the installation of new systems.

Groundwater^{3/4} The current focus for groundwater treatment has been to treat the extracted groundwater aboveground. McClellan AFB is investigating ways to treat contaminated groundwater in situ, or in place. If methods are developed to make this possible, significant cost-savings are expected. Environmental Management does not see that containment of groundwater is a long term solution, especially for a closing base. With the current technology, pump and treat, it will take several decades to treat the contamination. McClellan need to find cleanup solutions for the contaminants present.

McClellan AFB does have sites with other contaminants, and they are looking for ways to clean those up. In the pit area in OU D, for example, the first focus has been to capture the groundwater and keep it from moving and to address the "hot" soil areas. The next focus will be looking at additional contaminants on the base and making sure that there is a way to address those areas as well. Under the closure scenario, McClellan needs to make sure that all systems. are in place in order to transfer the property.

Referring to minutes of the previous meeting, Ms. Lewis said that she was concerned about the possibility of another flood, and that it would affect contamination. Mr. Bob Shirley, referring to the maps Ms. Lewis was looking at, said that McClellan had sampled additional wells over the years, so sometimes it may look like something is moving, when actually what it has always been there.

Mr. Green asked if O&M is increasing. Ms. Anderson explained that as McClellan accelerates the program, it accelerates cleanup actions. More of the budget will be in the O&M requirements. The more systems that are being put in place, the more funds will be needed in the O&M, because the systems need to be maintained. This has not been quantified at this time.

Mr. Frank Miller said that it is his opinion that too much money is being spent on studies, and that more money should be spent on actual cleanup. Ms. Anderson said was it is not to do more studies, but to fund more of the work that has to be done this year. Originally only six sites were going to be addressed in OU A with the DERA allocation (the source of funding prior to the initiation of the closure process). When the additional funding became available, it was applied to finishing all of the study work that had originally been planned and quantifying where the groundwater contamination is in OU A. It is reflected by spending three times the amount of money that was originally expected.

Mr. Miller asked would any of the money go to fund new studies. Ms. Anderson said no, that it was to execute sampling plans that were shelved because of lack of DERA funds. Mr. Shirley clarified that "studies" should be referred to as investigations.

Mr. Leuthe commented that he agreed with completing the studies to make sure McClellan knows what is the problem before trying to "fix" things. An overall plan is the best approach.

Mr. Green said that the investigation has to be finished, if you want to have reuse at McClellan AFB, it in your best interest to get the investigation done as soon as possible.

Mr. Miller asked what funding allocation was tripled. Mr. Ierardi said that Remedial Investigation funding went from \$1.9 million to \$6 million.

Ms. Anderson said that this will fund field work in OU A, and begin the Remedial Investigation process in OUs E - H. A sampling plan is being developed for OUs E-H. Some of the areas in OU C will be completed, and data collected during the first phase of sampling in OU C will be analyzed. McClellan is moving ahead in all areas of the process where work was stopped due to funding constraints.

Mr. Douglas Self, of McClellan AFB EM added that completing the investigation work was crucial in establishing the design parameters for future SVE systems. Without it, money would be wasted in over-designing or over-implementing systems.

Committee Reports

Mr. Del Callaway ³/₄ Base Reuse Committee

Mr. Callaway and Mr. Yarbrough attended the Local Reuse Authority's Privatization and Advisory committee meeting on July 9. Their purpose was to attempt to reestablish a RAB seat on committee. As a result, there will be a meeting on Friday, 26 July, with Supervisor Roger Dickinson to discuss this issue.

There was a Reuse Meeting in June. The next meeting will be held 6:00 p.m. on September 24, 1996 at McClellan AFB in the 269D Conference room.

Ms. Sue Sher ³/₄ Community Relations Committee

At the last RAB meeting a question was raised about the committee budget. The committee looked at the budget and it was decided to take a detailed look the current and future budgets. The total budget of the Community Relations budget for the FY 1996 is \$247,863 which is less than 0.01% of the entire Environmental Management budget. There will be a more detailed report at the next RAB meeting.

Ms. Sue Sher invited members of audience if they would like to become a RAB alternate to see her at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Bill Gibson ³/₄ Relative Risk Committee

The Relative Risk committee met two weeks ago. One action item was to update and approve the RAB rules of order. It will be submitted at the next Executive Session for approval by the RAB. An ongoing action item is to meet with Ms. Anderson and determine what the objectives are going to be as far as reprioritization of projects from the relative risk standpoint. Also discussed at the meeting was the status of remedial investigation.

A question came up during the Committee meeting regarding access and test dates of various wells, in particular, monitoring wells 111, 112, and 113. The committee took an action to investigate how often these wells are tested after a preliminary review, and will come up with an advisory work sheet to submit for action.

The next meeting will be at the 269D Conference room on October 3, 1996.

Mr. John Leuthe ³/₄ Technical Report Review

The committee received an article from the Pacific Study Center, an organization that monitors cleanup on bases. They publish a document called the *Citizens' Report on the Military and the Environment*. Mr. Leuthe read the first paragraph of this article. It is as follows:

Last year (fiscal year 1996) the Defense Department Environmental Security office convinced Congress to include in the Defense Authorization Act language allowing long-term leases at closing military bases, when cleanup remedies were not in place. This year (fiscal year 1997), the Senate Armed Services Committee has included in its version of the Defense Authorization Bill a Defense Department proposal that goes a giant step further, to allow the actual transfer by deed of federal facilities before remedies are in place.

Citizens' Report on the Military and the Environment Published by the Pacific Studies Center and SFSU CAREER/PRO.

Mr. Norman asked if the RAB will take a position on the above article. Will anything be done before the property is transferred? Mr. Yarbrough said that this is a proposal before Congress. A Technical Report Review Committee meeting was scheduled for 31 July to further discuss this issue and possibly develop an action plan.

Mr. Ierardi clarified that transfer of property does not mean that the liability of the government goes away. Any transfer still requires the Air Force to meet the regulatory requirements of cleanup. Even if transfer occurs, the Air Force would have to continue to meet federal, state requirements.

This article was passed out to the RAB members and the public was invited to give their input.

Approval of the April 1996 RAB minutes

Mr. Yarbrough said that he did not attend the San Francisco RAB Caucus meeting as stated in the minutes. Mr. Gibson moved to accept with the minutes with the correction. They were accepted as corrected.

Mr. Yarbrough commented on the U.C. Davis Training. He said that it was a unique experience in problem solving and mainly communication. Mr. John Leuthe also commented that it was a very beneficial meeting.

Ms. Jamie Cameron-Harley ³/₄ Community Bulletin Board

Ms. Cameron-Harley spoke on behalf of Ms. Margaret Gidding. She announced that progress is being made on the community interviews. That process is where they are seeking individuals with information on past disposal practices and former dump sites that have happened on the base. The project is going very well. The list of people that they are looking to contact has grown to 65; 32 interviews have been completed. An effort is being made to complete the interviews within a month. The information they are

gathering from these interviews helps the base to identify initial sampling locations and types of analysis that need to be done and save time in locating and investigating former sites. It has benefited the entire cleanup process. Ms. Cameron-Harley invited anyone with further information to contact Ms. Gidding at 643-1742 x 354.

Agenda topics for next RAB meeting. The following topics were discussed:

1. Mr. Ben Norman requested that the mass of contaminants remaining in the soil after SVE be put on the poster board.
1. Mr. Green asked if it was time to start thinking about the budget; looking at relative risk; upgrade the relative risk; and give a time frame when the RAB will be involved.
3. Mr. Ierardi said that they will be looking at the budget sometime in September/October 1996 will begin that process again. EM will put together a timeline and provide it to Mr. Gibson. Ms. Anderson said that the timeline should be available to the RAB in October 1996.
 4. Ms. Lewis suggested that there be a comparison of cleanup cost between McClellan and other bases.
5. The Executive RAB will decide if Mr. Button will be on the agenda.

Mr. Green asked if risk was a factor when McClellan AFB was defending the budget with the BCA. Mr. Ierardi answered yes. Mr. Green is asked if risk is being reduced in importance compared to closure issues. Mr. Ierardi said, no, it is being integrated with reuse priorities. Reuse will be a bigger factor next year. (Last year, the budget was driven by risk.) Ms. Anderson said that risk comes into play when you don't have the funds that you need. The budget that McClellan is generating right now supports the full requirement.

Mr. Healy said that the regulators will be conducting a final inspection at IC 31. He invited RAB members who are interested in the site to attend this inspection. It will be on Tuesday, September 3, 1996.

Mr. Burl Taylor moved that authority be given to the Co-Chair to strongly encourage that someone from the RAB be placed on the LRA Planning Team, and that person be from the RAB Reuse Committee. Motion was carried.

Mr. Yarbrough said that any RAB member who would like to attend the meeting with Supervisor Dickinson to see him after the meeting.

Questions and Answers

Mr. Miller asked where the Inspector General report was on the investigation. Ms. Gidding said that they could not release the full report due to personnel considerations. It is available through the Freedom of Information Act in a consolidated form. The report that was released to the media is also a consolidated report.

Mr. Miller said that report is being disseminated to the media. Mr. Miller also said that he would like to see Mr. Larry Button, who has been making many charges to the public, come to the RAB meeting to substantiate his charges. Ms. Gidding said that the RAB meeting is focused on restoration issues. The news media has covered topics that EM has not been able to discuss, and suggested that Mr. Miller should consult the media sources.

Mr. Miller asked if Mr. Button had ever been asked to come to the RAB meetings, and that Mr. Button did not feel welcome. Mr. Yarbrough said that he would personally asked Mr. Button to come and that he would address the issue of having Mr. Button to speak at the next Executive RAB.

Mr. Dennis Lewis, RAB alternate, asked what it means that "the remedies have to be in place." He asked if the remedies had to be complete before a final transfer of any property from the government. Mr. Ierardi said that the remedies have to be in place and have to have demonstrated that they are working before properties can be transferred. Transfer can then occur while the cleanup is still progressing.

Mr. Joe Healy, U.S. EPA, clarified by saying, that pump and treat will be in place for many years before contaminated water can be cleaned to a level that can be safe. Once it is established that the pump and treat operation is operating effectively, transfer can take place. Some places may take 30 to 50 years, and some estimates go longer than that.

Ms. Jeannie Lewis asked if there is a time line when these property transfers can take place. Mr. Mark Malinowski from Cal-EPA/DTSC said that the system usually has to be operating for one year before the property is transferred. It is, however, still site specific, because specific areas have to be validated that the technology is working.

Mr. Miller asked if it was true that \$17 thousand per month is being paid to CH2M HILL to generate the *Environmental Action Update* newsletter. Mr. Ierardi said that EM will furnish this information at the next Community Relations committee. He added that the newsletter was not being produced by CH2M HILL.

Mr. Ierardi thanked the community, the RAB, the agencies, the suppliers, and his staff for supporting him during his tenure at McClellan AFB and closed the meeting.

The following questions were asked on a RAB comment card.

QUESTION: What is status of LRA toward the October completion date?

RESPONSE: Inquiry in regards to the LRA Reuse Plan: The LRA has been working towards the completion of a Reuse Plan in Secrecy called the "Sig Bank." It is now final.

QUESTION: Who is the liaison from RAB?

RESPONSE: Mr. Dal Callaway is currently representing that position as the Reuse Committee Chair.

QUESTION: What facility assessment tool is being used to evaluate structures? Is it similar to Ft. Ord assessments?

RESPONSE: We do not have the methodology used at Ft. Ord. We cannot respond regarding the similarity. However, environmentally, if we need to clean a RCRA permitted facility, we do it in accordance with RCRA Facility Assessment for closure.