

# Environmental Action

# UPDATE

A Quarterly Newsletter about the McClellan AFB Restoration Program

April 1997

## Effort to Complete Investigations at McClellan AFB Begins this Summer

The term “Remedial Investigation (RI)” has been used for many years to describe the ongoing search for information about the locations and types of contamination at McClellan AFB. Most of the base has been investigated or is being investigated. Beginning this summer, an RI will begin in the remaining area of the base, Operable Units (OUs) E, F, G, and H, where location and extent of any contamination have not been defined (see graphic).

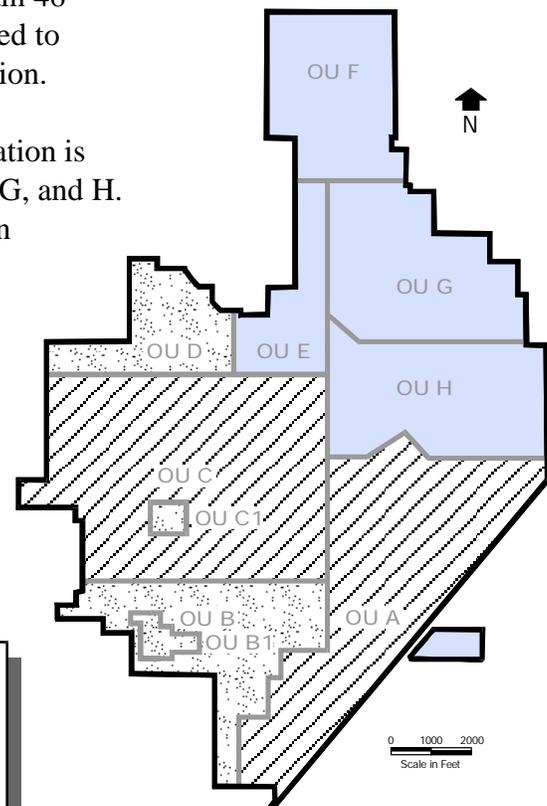
Operable Units E, F, G, and H consist of approximately 1,076 acres in the northern portion of McClellan AFB. OUs E and F remain mostly undeveloped and are used primarily as an aircraft take-off and landing “safety

zone.” Several wetlands and vernal pools exist there. The RI will evaluate potential risks to ecological receptors (plants and animals) in these areas as well as to humans. OU G contains most of the base housing and recreation areas, but also contains some aircraft maintenance facilities. OU H is fully developed with aircraft maintenance hangars and shops. Together the OUs contain 46 sites previously identified to need detailed investigation.

To date, limited information is available for OUs E, F, G, and H. Contaminants have been detected at a few sites, but most of the sites have not yet been sampled. The first part

of the RI is expected to last about 5 months, from May through October. The RI will identify clean areas as well as areas of contamination. The process is scheduled for completion in 1999, but will provide site information needed throughout the process to allow cleanup and transfer of the property. 

### Investigation Status 1996



*The base map illustrates investigation status at McClellan AFB. The entire investigation will be complete by the fall of 1999.*

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# "Foundry of the Future" Nears Completion At McClellan AFB

A government and industry open house will be held at the McClellan foundry, building 238, April 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will be hosted by the Casting Emissions Reduction Program (CERP).

The 60,000 square-foot research facility is a pilot project designed to reduce emissions, verify data and to test environmentally innovative production processes. The foundry is scheduled to be on-line by the end of May and capable of accepting products for testing by August. It will be operated by a team of six government technicians and a foreman.

A team of air samplers from McClellan are currently in Mexico collecting actual emissions data from two foundries belonging to General Motors and Ford Motor



Workers prepare equipment for the new foundry.  
Photo by Mike Dial

Company. The data collected will provide a "baseline" standard from which to compare with data collected at McClellan.

CERP is a program aimed at assuring domestic availability of low cost, high quality metal casting for the Department of Defense.

"This is the most integrated and controlled foundry ever built in this country," said Bill Waldon,

CERP site manager. "This open house will give industry a chance to see how far we have come and base employees a chance to see what may become the wave of the future."

CERP is a cooperative agreement between the Department of Defense, the big three auto makers (General Motors, Ford,

and Chrysler), the American Foundryman's Society, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Air Resources Board. The funding comes from DoD. The goal is that research at the foundry will help American companies develop new processes at the base that can be applied to full-scale manufacturing operations. 

Courtesy of Richard Bartlett,  
Spacemaker Staff

## McClellan AFB Assessed Penalty for Sept '96 Spill

The Air Force received a \$15,000 penalty from the U.S. EPA for the September '96 groundwater spill (see Oct. '96 newsletter). On March 6, the base announced it had received the penalty and the period of dispute was allowed to go by because the base acknowledges the penalty and is working with the AF

Base Conversion Agency to align funding to pay for the penalty.

The penalty is for failure to comply with three terms or conditions of the Federal Facilities Agreement between U.S. EPA, the Air Force, and the State, dated May 1990, concerning McClellan AFB:

- 1) Contaminant discharge levels,
- 2) Sampling frequencies, and
- 3) Configuration of carbon filters.

The base has taken several corrective actions to prevent this from happening again. 



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The *Environmental Action Update* is a publication of the Environmental Public Affairs Office at McClellan AFB, California, designed to keep the public informed of environmental activities at the base. For questions, comments, or to be added to the mailing list, please write to SM-ALC/PAE, 5050 Dudley Blvd., Suite 3, McClellan AFB, CA 95625-1389 or phone (916) 643-1742, ext. 354.

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## 7th Annual Creek Week—April 11–19

### Creek Cleanups and Wetland/Vernal Pool Walks in Store at McClellan AFB

The seventh annual Creek Week, coordinated by the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council with support from local sponsors, will be held April 11–19. Creek and vernal pool tours, nature walks, and fishing are some of the planned activities. On Saturday, April 19, a clean-up competition will be held for those with the most interesting items taken from creek cleanups, along with other festivities, at the Discovery Museum Learning Center from noon to 2 p.m.

Public Affairs is looking for volunteers to join Team McClellan in the cleanup of Don Julio Creek, one of the 42 creeks sites involved in this year's event.

Participation at this site is open to the community and base members. Team McClellan will meet at the credit union parking lot on base at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 19, and will caravan to Don Julio Creek where clean-up activities will take place. At the conclusion of the clean-up, approximately 11:30 a.m., all

volunteers are invited to join the other Sacramento teams at the Discovery Museum for the Creek Week celebration which includes food, music, games, prizes, and fun for all.

In addition, a guided tour of McClellan's relocated and historic vernal pools will take place April 15 at

6:00 p.m. McClellan is home to several wetland species. This is an excellent opportunity to view wildlife.

For more information and/or to register for Team McClellan, call Bonita Dobbs, Public Affairs, at 643-6127.

Volunteers are also needed to participate

in cleaning 42 creek sites throughout Sacramento county. Adults and children are encouraged to participate in the week long events. All activities are free. For more information about activities and times call 482-8377. 



*Vernal pools at McClellan AFB provide habitat for this fairy shrimp, which is listed as a state and federal Threatened Species.*

April 15th  
Vernal Pool/  
Wetland Walk



# Mark your calendars!

April 19th  
Creek Cleanup

#### Upcoming Meetings:

##### April 23

- RAB General Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Vineland Elementary School, 6450 20th Street, Rio Linda

##### April 24

- Public Hearing on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, 7:00 p.m., Vineland Elementary School, 6450 20th Street, Rio Linda

##### May 12

- Environmental Compliance Forum, 6:00 p.m. poster board session, 6:30 p.m. meeting starts, McClellan AFB Officers' Club, Camellia Room

##### June 5

- RAB Executive Session, 6:30 p.m., Building 269D Conference Room

##### June 12

- Relative Risk Ranking Committee, 6:00 p.m., Building 269D Conference Room

##### June 18

- RAB Community Relations Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Building 269D Conference Room

##### July 23

- RAB General Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Vineland Elementary School, 6450 20th Street, Rio Linda



## Three Important Meetings

### RAB General Meeting

*April 23, 1997*

See inside for agenda.

### Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report Public Hearing

*April 24, 1997*

### Environmental Compliance Forum

*May 12, 1997*

Watch your mailbox for agenda.

## New People on the Restoration Project

Here are some of the people who have recently joined the McClellan Restoration Team for the regulatory agencies and McClellan EM Staff:

### Agencies

Randy Adams, California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control, has replaced Mark Malinowski as the state's Remedial Program Manager.

James Chang, U.S. EPA, will assist Joe Healy.

### McClellan EM Staff

Craig Marchione will head up the Soils Cleanup Group.

Franklin Mark is a project manager for the Remedial Investigation Group.

Lt. George Joyce is helping out with groundwater projects.

Craig Varnau is a Field Team Representative working on soils.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REMEDIAL SCOREBOARD

As of April 1st, 1997  
Pounds of Contamination  
Removed from Soil and Water:

520,000

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# UPDATE

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