

McCLELLAN MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2001

McClellan AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting FC Joyce Elementary School

RAB Members in Attendance:

Robert Blanchard, Community Member
Gary Collier, Community Member
Kevin Depies, CA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
Bill Gibson, Community Member
David Green (alternate for Rick Solander), Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA)
Paul Green, Community Member
Joe Healy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Alan Hersh, McClellan Park
Sandra Kinsey, Community Member
James Taylor, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
Julian Tullis, Congressman Matsui's office
Lola Warrick, Community Member

Welcome and Meeting Guidelines

Marie Rainwater, the meeting facilitator, welcomed all attendees to the McClellan Air Force Base (AFB) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting. Ms. Rainwater reviewed the RAB ground rules.

RAB Member Introductions

The RAB members introduced themselves to the public.

Agenda

Ms. Rainwater reviewed the agenda and the procedures for the public comment period. A handout was available that responded to the public comments made during the June 20, 2001, RAB meeting. A fact sheet entitled, "What is a RAB?" was also made available to the public (see Attachment 1).

Comments on June 20, 2001, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved and finalized with no changes.

Cleanup Update

David Green gave an update on the cleanup activities at McClellan (see Attachment 2). A summary follows.

- **Confirmed Site (CS) 10.** Installation of the CS 10 tent is almost complete. Trailers were set up for the on-site laboratory. The electrical lines and generators were installed to provide electrical power to the site. In November 2001, site workers will be simulating the removal and/or opening of the drums to ensure that all personnel are familiar with the safety procedures and practices. The excavation of the site will begin in late December 2001.

- **Operable Unit (OU) B1 Drainage Ditch.** This ongoing cleanup project involves removing approximately one foot of PCB-contaminated sediment. This project is scheduled for completion in November 2001.
- **Soil Staging Pile Facility.** This construction project has just begun. It is a centralized storage facility for contaminated soil. Approximately four acres will be lined with specialized low permeability asphalt. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2001.
- **West Area Grass Fire.** On October 10, 2001, a fire occurred on three acres in the West Area of McClellan. The Sacramento Metro Fire Department could not identify the source of the fire, which burned approximately 1/3 acre of a vernal pool. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was notified.
- **Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP).** In April and May 2001, the Air Force collected effluent samples at the GWTP, and traces of hexavalent chrome were found to exceed the monitoring average limit of 10 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). On August 13, 2001, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) issued a notice of violation (NOV) to the Air Force. This is a complex issue, and the Air Force is working with the contractor and regulators to determine the source and solution.
- On August 13, 2001, Air Force officials spotted a spill of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) into Magpie Creek. The RWQCB issued an NOV to McClellan Park for the incident. Alan Hersh commented that the incident occurred while a foam fire suppressant system was being installed at Building 251. The AFFF foam is an organic substance used in the system.
- David Green thanked Bill Gibson on behalf of the AFBCA for support of McClellan's environmental program. Paul Brunner, McClellan AFBCA Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator, was afforded the opportunity to speak on the status of the Superfund program at the Sacramento Environmental Commission through an invitation by Mr. Gibson.

David Green also thanked Congressmembers Matsui and Ose for their support in the environmental funding program. Last year McClellan AFB anticipated receiving \$5.2 million for the cleanup budget; however, by the end of the year McClellan AFB received \$26.8 million. For fiscal year 2002, the cleanup program requires \$56.8 million. Currently, McClellan AFB anticipates receiving \$29.6 million and has asked the Congressmembers for their continued support in the environmental program.

CERCLA Process Review

Ms. Rainwater gave a simplified, graphical overview of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

Record of Decision (ROD) and Proposed Plan Overview

Joe Healy gave an overview on the ROD and Proposed Plan process.

Final cleanup remedies are officially written in a document called the ROD. The law requires that the alternatives for a final remedy be evaluated and compared using nine specific criteria:

Threshold Criteria (must be met)

1. Protective of human health and the environment; and
2. Legal.

Balancing Criteria

3. How effective it is in the long term;
4. How effective it is in the short term;
5. How easy it is to do;
6. How much it costs; and
7. How much waste will be destroyed as opposed to remaining in place.

Modifying Criteria

8. Requires consideration of state concerns. Before making a final decision, the Air Force is required to submit a Proposed Plan for review and comment. This document, written in laymen terms, summarizes the possible alternatives considered in the ROD, analyzes the nine criteria, and indicates the Air Force's preferred alternatives.
9. Requires consideration of community concerns.

There is a 30-day public comment period for the Proposed Plan. Members of the public can submit their concerns or comments in writing or attend the public meeting. The Air Force is required to provide written responses to the public comments and include these in the ROD. The ROD also summarizes regulators' concerns expressed during the regulatory review.

The purpose of the ROD is to provide legal binding requirements. The ROD freezes the cleanup standards at the time it is signed.

The ROD will be amended if the remedy selected turns out to be unsuccessful or has flaws. This involves going through the decision process again. The ultimate goal is to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

Questions/Answers

Paul Green asked if the Proposed Plan is written in technical laymen terms, are pros and cons included and, if so, are they strictly related to the technical details or do they cover such issues as the amount of noise or other issues that might impact the environment on which the public and RAB would have the opportunity to give recommendations to the Air Force? Mr. Healy stated that the Proposed Plan itself does not go into excessive details. However, it summarizes the key points of the pros and cons and attempts to entice those who are more interested to look at the detailed analysis in the Feasibility Study made available to the public in the Administrative Record.

Paul Green suggests that when writing the Proposed Plan, the Air Force should make sure that the summary includes things that the public will be most interested in, so that the public can make an informed decision of how the alternative will affect them.

Mr. Healy stated they would appreciate getting advice from the RAB in advance so they can focus their presentation of the Proposed Plan on community issues.

Mr. Gibson asked if the ROD were amended, would there be new technology that would improve and reduce the timeframe, or if the standards were changed and tightened and the Air Force needed to do something else to complete the cleanup, would a new ROD be written.

Mr. Healy stated that if a new technology is available, the Air Force would still have to consult with the community. The Air Force cannot unilaterally make a change. If standards become more stringent, they would be compared with the existing cleanup standards. If the existing cleanup standards were no longer within the accepted risk range, there would be grounds to amend the ROD.

Mr. Healy explained that a ROD amendment is essentially a new ROD. In cases where remedies specified in the ROD are revised (due to new information, for example) but are not essentially changed, a document called an Explanation of Significant Differences is prepared.

Lola Warrick stated that if a 3–4 page document were available which bulleted the information in the Proposed Plan, the RAB could use it as a tool to increase public interest in the cleanup activities.

Mr. Hersh asked how the RAB fits in the process. Mr. Healy stated that as the RODs come closer to being finalized, he would like to obtain insight and feedback from RAB members to determine the most important concerns that can be addressed at the public meeting.

Sandra Kinsey asked if there is a status report of current RODs that are in the process.

Mr. Healy stated the RODs would be presented during tonight's meeting.

Ms. Kinsey asked where the Administrative Records are located. Mr. Healy said they are located in Building 10 at McClellan Park.

Ms. Kinsey asked, as a member of the public, if she wanted to find out what the status is, and did not know where the Administrative Records are kept, what other option would there be.

Mr. Healy stated that fact sheets would be distributed containing contact information, a map of how to get to the Administrative Record, and McClellan's environmental Web site.

Ms. Kinsey asked if the Proposed Plan will be on the Web site and can she follow the progress of any ROD using the Web site? Mr. Brunner answered yes.

McClellan RODs

Mr. Brunner stated that the RODs are important for more than just regulatory purposes. The ROD is a major key to transferring the property by deed. In order to facilitate the transferring process, the Air Force divided the cleanup efforts into eight RODS. However, the highest priority, as always, is protecting human health and the environment. This is all explained in the following presentations of the eight McClellan RODs. Each Installation Restoration Program site goes through the CERCLA process and gets closed out.

(Attachment 3 shows maps of the ROD areas, schedules for Proposed Plan public comments periods, and for ROD completions.)

1) Groundwater ROD

James Taylor briefed the RAB on the Basewide Groundwater and Soil Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) ROD. The purpose of this ROD is to select the final remedy and cleanup levels for VOC-contaminated groundwater and soil. Highlights of this presentation are as follows:

- This is a basewide ROD because a contaminated groundwater plume underlies a large portion of the base.
- The source areas for the groundwater plumes are currently being cleaned up under removal actions consisting of 14 soil vapor extraction (SVE) systems, treating soil at approximately 80 locations.
- In 1995, a Groundwater Interim ROD (IROD) was signed, which required capture and cleanup of contaminated groundwater to federal maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in three phases. The Air Force implemented Phases I and II by installing approximately 60 groundwater extraction wells, treating the water at a central groundwater treatment plant, and discharging the treated groundwater to Magpie Creek. Phases I and II have resulted in approximately 90% containment of the groundwater plumes. The agencies have reached agreement to proceed with implementing Phase III of the IROD. This will require construction of approximately 50 additional groundwater extraction wells. The SVE removal action and the groundwater IROD actions have resulted in the removal of over 1 million pounds of VOCs from the environment as of this date.
- The Air Force and the state are currently in formal dispute over the final remedy and cleanup levels for the groundwater plumes. The dispute is over the applicability of state requirements for setting cleanup levels at McClellan. The Air Force's position is that federal standards apply to the groundwater cleanup, whereas the state's position is that state requirements, which are more stringent, apply to the groundwater cleanup.

The Air Force and the state agree that the technical difference in implementing a final remedy to contain the groundwater plume to either 5 parts per billion (ppb) or 2.3 ppb for TCE is not extreme. However, the state requirements would require containment of a larger volume of water and construction of a few more groundwater extraction wells. There is also considerable uncertainty in the estimates of how quickly the groundwater cleanup will proceed beyond the first 30 years the treatment system is operational.

The state believes that the disputed issues over the applicability of state requirements for setting cleanup levels at McClellan could have statewide implications for cleanups at other federal facilities in California.

It is anticipated that the dispute resolution process should be completed in the spring of 2002. Once the dispute is resolved, the Proposed Plan will be reissued, followed by the ROD.

Questions/Answers

Gary Collier asked about the well located near North Avenue and the site designation for the particular plume. Mr. Taylor stated that there is not a source area at that location. The plume underlies that area and will be addressed by the groundwater cleanup.

Mr. Collier asked when an extraction well will be installed. Mr. Taylor stated that Phase III is being implemented. A work plan will be developed, and construction will begin within the next year. At that time, well locations will be selected.

Mr. Collier asked if the extraction wells will pump the water to the main treatment plant. Mr. Taylor stated that the water would be conveyed back to the main plant.

Mr. Hersh asked once the dispute is resolved and a cleanup level agreed upon, what types of alternatives will be evaluated in the groundwater ROD. Mr. Taylor stated that because there are not very many technologies that can treat such large plumes, the Air Force is going with a presumptive remedy, which is pump-and-treat of groundwater.

Mr. Hersh asked if this ROD could come to closure rather quickly after the dispute resolution. Mr. Taylor replied yes, the Proposed Plan will be reissued, and public input will be solicited. It will follow the normal schedule for document review and finalization, which usually takes approximately eight months.

Robert Blanchard asked if there is any plume migration near the Rio Linda/Elverta water district. Mr. Taylor stated that the current groundwater treatment system has contained approximately 90% of the plume. Fortunately, the plume is not moving very rapidly on the fringes. The Air Force and agencies are aware of the possibility that the plume could move, and other wells could be impacted; that is why there is a quarterly monitoring program to keep track of the movement of the plume.

Mr. Blanchard asked if the plume is moving, and in what direction. Mr. Taylor stated that the regional groundwater flow is to the southwest. However, because of pumping influences, the plume could deviate in different directions. The 60 extraction wells that are currently pumping draw down the water level and influence the water to flow back toward the extraction wells. A large portion of this plume is stable. The Air Force will fill additional data gaps during this Phase III effort in an attempt to further define the vertical and lateral extent of the plume.

Ms. Warrick asked how deep are we talking. Mr. Taylor stated that there several layers. Most of the contamination is near the groundwater table, which is shallow. Over time, the contamination has gone deeper—greater than 200 feet in some places.

2) Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) Initial Parcel ROD

Steve Mayer briefed the RAB on the LRA Initial Parcel ROD. This ROD represents the first desired property with regard to the redevelopment of the base. This property is about 20% of the base, 668 acres. There are 110 sites/properties being addressed in this ROD, chosen because they are expected to be easy to clean up and therefore can be transferred quickly. Because the Groundwater ROD will not be in place before this ROD is complete, a mechanism called a Finding of Suitability for Early Transfer (FOSET) will be used to deed these properties. If any site in this ROD becomes contentious, it will be carved out and addressed in a follow-on ROD.

Questions/Answers

Paul Green asked since the contamination at these 110 sites is so varied if it will take another four to five months to determine proposed methods for them all. Mr. Mayer stated that the primary method at these sites is excavation of the soil.

Paul Green asked why it would take until March 2002. Mr. Mayer stated that this time frame includes the time it takes the documents to be produced, for agency and public review and comments, and incorporation of the comments.

Ms. Kinsey asked if the Groundwater ROD is going to impact the LRA ROD. Mr. Mayer stated that by using the FOSET, the Groundwater ROD would not delay the LRA ROD. Mr. Brunner further explained that the two RODs are connected; if the FOSET were not employed, the LRA ROD would in fact be delayed until the Groundwater ROD was completed.

Mr. Hersh asked if McClellan AFB receives funding to prepare the feasibility study, Proposed Plan, and final ROD for the Initial Parcel. Mr. Mayer answered yes.

Mr. Hersh asked if the RAB might assist if there is an area of critical importance that was not being funded because of the shortfalls in funding mentioned earlier. Mr. Brunner stated that the shortfall is essentially in the cleanup of the radioactive site. He said the commitment from the Department of Defense is that as funds are required, funds will be sent.

Mr. Collier asked if McClellan AFB is releasing these properties under FOSET without conducting a radiological assessment. David Green stated that Air Force officials have sampled around CS 10 for radiological contamination of groundwater and air. As Air Force officials address the other landfills, they will also be monitoring for contaminants such as radon, tritium, as well as other fission products.

3) Air Force Small Volume ROD

Mr. Mayer briefed the RAB on the Air Force Small Volume ROD. This ROD addresses 1,400 acres of the base and approximately 100 sites. These sites are relatively small in terms of the amount of contamination that is contained in them. They historically tend to be spill sites. The purpose of this parcel is a packaging of a large amount of acreage in terms of the Air Force's ability to prepare this property to deed over.

An unresolved area, the airfield, has radiological surveys going on. The results of the radiological surveys may have some impacts in terms of the number of sites that will be included in this ROD. If any site in this ROD becomes contentious, it will be carved out and addressed in the Strategic Site ROD.

4) CS 10 ROD

David Green briefed the RAB on the CS 10 ROD. CS 10 is a disposal pit that is less than two acres in size. Plutonium was discovered at this site, and a time critical removal action is underway. The entire site will be excavated, the contents removed, and the hole backfilled with clean soil. There will not be a feasibility study since the site is being dug up. After the effort is completed, the property will be transferred to the LRA. It is anticipated that there will no further actions necessary.

The lessons learned and information gleaned from the excavation cleanup of CS 10 will aid the Air Force in the Strategic ROD, which encompasses most of the other disposal pits.

Questions/Answers

Mr. Gibson commented that at the Environmental Commission Meeting, some of the commissioners expressed an interest in visiting this site. Is this possible? David Green answered yes, and that it would be appropriate for Mr. Gibson to set up the tour through the Public Affairs Office. Excavation will begin in late December 2001 and will become a restricted area for visiting.

5) Strategic Sites ROD

Kevin Depies briefed the RAB on the Strategic Sites ROD. This ROD currently addresses 80 sites, which may be added to if complications arise from other sites. The sites in this ROD generally fall into the most heavily contaminated, are not desired for rapid reuse, and they will benefit from innovative technologies currently under investigation. These sites are likely to be the most expensive sites for cleanup and will require a lot of community input.

6) Building 252 ROD

Mr. Depies briefed the RAB on the Building 252 ROD. This building has its own ROD because it is unique and complex in the type of contamination present. From 1937 to 1990 it was used to repair and maintain cameras, parachutes, and aircraft instruments. Radionuclide compounds, such as radium, were handled. Additionally, this building was used for special classified operations and has also been designated as an historical landmark.

The building and nearby soil is contaminated with mercury, radium, lead, and other metals. There are also high concentrations of VOCs in the soil and groundwater. The VOCs and most of the metal contamination have already been quantified; however, there is some minor uncertainty on the extent of radium and cesium contamination of the subsurface soil. There have been three unsuccessful efforts to clean up the mercury contamination in the building.

Accordingly, protective measures at this site have been taken to restrict public exposure.

Questions/Answers

Ms. Kinsey asked if she should be concerned since she worked in Building 252. Mr. Depies stated that it depends upon what activities she performed. He stated that he would talk with Ms. Kinsey after the meeting in more detail.

Mr. Hersh stated that the best thing for Building 252 is demolition, since there is zero potential for future reuse. Mr. Depies stated that this could be further discussed in the BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) meeting.

Mr. Collier asked when was the last time Building 252 was occupied. Mr. Depies answered 1990.

Mr. Collier asked if the classified operations were the Technical Operations Division or some other entity. Mr. Brunner stated that during investigations of Building 252, there was a reference to a special operations facility within the building. It is unknown if this means technical operations.

Mr. Blanchard stated that with that degree of contamination and category of contaminants, there should be some kind of effort to locate people who had worked in that area and advise them of the potential health problems and/or establish a baseline of some of the problems that have resulted from this building. David Green stated that in the mid-1990s, former employees (radium-dial painters) who had worked in that facility were offered whole-body scans to identify potential exposure. Approximately 50 people were tested, and the results were that these people did not have any exposure to the radium, any more than the normal population.

Mr. Brunner stated he will bring Mr. Blanchard's suggestion to the BCT meeting since more information is surfacing.

Ms. Warrick asked why Building 252 is considered a historical building. Mr. Depies answered because of its age and how it was constructed. He also stated that it should not be very difficult to change the status of this building. There is adequate justification for this building to be demolished.

7) Ecological Sites ROD

Mr. Healy briefed the RAB on the Ecological Sites ROD. This ROD addresses open spaces that are good environments for supporting wildlife. Air Force officials are conducting a study to determine whether pollutants still reside in significant levels in the mud at the

bottom of the creeks or flood plains. The Air Force is working with the USFWS to determine if there are any other requirements that need to be addressed.

This ROD will be linked to the Strategic Sites ROD, because large amounts of creek mud and other soil material might be removed. This will be the last ROD to be completed at McClellan. Any delays in other RODs will cause this schedule to be extended.

Questions/Answers

Paul Green asked if the recent fire in this area will have any consequences for this ROD or if the fire caused the ecological life to migrate. Mr. Healy answered no.

Mr. Gibson asked what contaminants exist in the north part of the base. Mr. Brunner stated that the creeks on the north end of the base are not contaminated. The Air Force purchased property where there was a metal dismantler, which resulted in the area being contaminated with PCBs and metals. This may have contaminated the vernal pools.

Ms. Warrick asked how to get rid of PCBs. Mr. Healy stated that PCBs are difficult because they are persistent. Toxicologists usually want to lower the concentration of what is considered safe. Air Force officials have explored PCBs and various possible treatment options at OU B-1 for many years.

Mr. Collier stated that a report from the USFWS indicated that they did not want to see replacement vernal pools for the damage created on the base. He asked if this will endanger the remainder of the vernal pool area and if the City of Sacramento is applying pressure to develop this land. Mr. Healy stated that he is not aware of development pressures for this land or of any imminent danger to the existing vernal pools. Some vernal pools were potentially exposed to mud dredged from the creek approximately four years ago. This is still being investigated; however, the pools do not appear to be in any danger.

Mr. Collier asked if the vernal pool area will be abandoned. Molly Enlow, AFBCA's contracted natural resource expert, stated that the offset that USFWS requested was for the damage to the creek, damage that has already been done and is compensated.

Mr. Collier asked that in terms of creation of off-site vernal pools, does that mean that the on-site area will be abandoned. Ms. Enlow answered no. USFWS is still requesting that that area be permanently set aside as open space.

Mr. Hersh stated that the approved Reuse Plan indicates the north and west area (except for the paved road and the bunkers) should remain as preserves. McClellan Park is working with the Air Force on mitigating non-beneficial vernal pools located in the grassy areas and the end field.

Ms. Enlow stated that part of the proposal for restoring habitats from the creek damage was to restore the vernal pools along the creeks as part of the mitigation. However, because of the cleanup program and the fact that it will take a while to determine what are the best cleanup options for that area, USFWS are not interested in waiting for that determination to mitigate for the prior action. USFWS wants it to be mitigated offsite.

Mr. Brunner stated that the Air Force is not receiving pressure to do anything more than have it be a natural preserve. The remedy for this ROD is down the road. Mr. Brunner encouraged the RAB and community to participate in the decision regarding the sediments in the creek.

8) No Further Action (NFA) ROD

Mr. Healy briefed the RAB on the NFA ROD. This ROD will address approximately 60

sites where the potential contamination that was originally suspected to exist turns out not to be present or are at levels not harmful to human health or the environment. This ROD could potentially be the first ROD to be completed since no actions will be required.

Questions/Answers

Mr. Collier asked if there would be any public input on the ROD. Mr. Healy answered yes.

Mr. Collier asked if these were primarily underground storage tanks that turned out to be cleaned. Mr. Healy stated that these sites were false leads.

Public Comment

Members of the public were given the opportunity to make comments. Following is a summary of these comments.

Gary Sawyer requested to be part of the CS 10 tour taking place on October 25, 2001. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Air Force and the County are intentionally avoiding a step critical to a thorough and timely cleanup of the base. He requested that his letter regarding a public campaign to contact former McClellan employees be entered in the official records (see Attachment 4). Mr. Sawyer urged the Air Force to get the word out to the community and asked them for their input.

Frank Miller asked what the costs were for the CS 10 cleanup project.

Mike Dryden asked some questions about the RODs and was directed to speak with the presenters at the end of the meeting to answer his questions.

Burl Taylor stated that he was involved in body scanning and passed the test. What was not done was an investigation on the people who were deceased.

RAB Members' Advice, Comments, and Announcements

Paul Green asked do we ever discuss the answers to the public comments. He commented that the answer to Mr. Sawyer's consistent comments shows a limitation. Has the Air Force gone out with a public service announcement on radio and television stations asking people to express the core need?

Mr. Collier requested information about the communication between the agencies in terms of not testing for beta radiation. He is not convinced that everything is being done to protect human health. If you are not going to test and just use the background, it will not show up. He suggested this topic be placed on the agenda, or someone contact him. Mr. Collier also suggested that the RAB form a sub-committee about the issue.

Ms. Kinsey requested an accountability report on the sort of activities that have been undertaken to investigate location and contents of contamination to obtain public comment and/or awareness.

Mr. Blanchard requested that the developers of McClellan Park give a preview on some of the proposals, on new tenants, and what they do. It is his opinion that the RAB should be on the cutting edge of the information. Mr. Hersh stated that he would be happy to provide that information.

Mr. Hersh stated that the ROD schedule and getting the FOSET is based partially on financing. When showing potential tenants property, half the time is spent ensuring them that the cleanup is progressing.

Welcome to the McClellan RAB

Welcome to the McClellan Restoration Advisory Board public meeting. We appreciate that you have taken the time to attend and learn more about the former McClellan Air Force Base (McClellan) environmental cleanup program.

• What is a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) ?

The Department of Defense and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) recognize the importance of public involvement at military bases that require environmental cleanup. Jointly they established a policy on community involvement in 1994 that created Restoration Advisory Boards. A Restoration Advisory Board is called a RAB. The RAB advises the Air Force and regulatory agencies about community concerns and provides advice on environmental cleanup documents.

McClellan's RAB includes members of the community, representatives from McClellan, the US EPA, and state regulatory agencies.

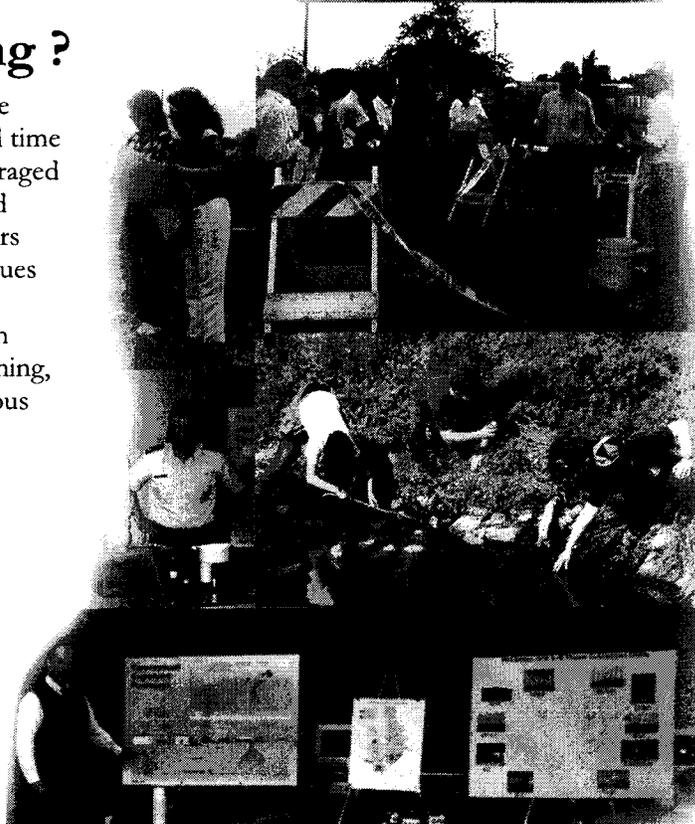
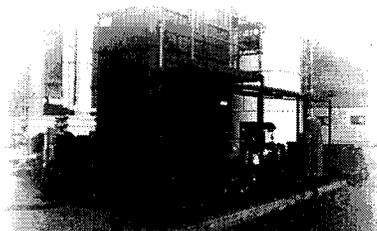
• What does the RAB do ?

RAB members perform a variety of functions including outreach into the community, reviewing plans and documents, and acting as a resource for the community. The RAB is working together toward a common goal to clean up contamination at McClellan.

The RAB is just one aspect of McClellan's community outreach program. The RAB does not replace other community involvement activities such as public meetings for proposed cleanup plans, fact sheets, public notices, and newsletters or the opportunity for the community to provide advice on clean up documents.

• What happens at a RAB meeting ?

McClellan's RAB meets on a quarterly basis. Public notices are placed in local newspapers announcing the location, date, and time of the RAB meetings. The public is always invited and encouraged to attend the RAB meeting. RAB members sit in a designated section and a facilitator conducts the meeting. Various speakers give presentations on environmental cleanup activities and issues at McClellan. RAB members discuss issues and concerns, in particular those brought from the community at large through their RAB representatives. RAB meetings are held in the evening, last approximately two to three hours, and are located in various community centers/schools. The community will have an opportunity to voice comments/questions at the end of the meeting.



More information on back

• What can I do to be more involved?

Attend the public RAB meetings. These meetings serve as an opportunity to get involved in your community and voice your concerns about what is being done in your neighborhood. Find out more by joining our mailing list.

For more information on the McClellan RAB or to be placed on the mailing list to receive information on the ongoing cleanup at McClellan, please contact:



Merianne Briggs
Environmental Public Affairs Specialist
McClellan AFBCA
(916)643-1742, ext. 233 or 232

If you would like to join the RAB, please contact Merianne for an application.

Additional Contacts

Diane Fowler
Cal-EPA/DTSC
Public Participation Specialist
(916)255-6682

David Cooper
US EPA
Community Involvement Coordinator
(415)744-2179 or (800)231-3075

• Meet the RAB

The McClellan RAB is made up of the following members:

Robert Blanchard, Gary Collier, Kevin Depies, Bill Gibson, Paul Green, Carlotta Gutierrez, Joe Healy, Alan Hersh, Rev. Dr. Tyrone Hicks, Sandra Kinsey, Colleen Moore, Paul Plummer, Dan Sharp, Rick Solander, James Taylor, Jillian Tullis, and Lola Warrick.



Attachment 2

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting Field Activities Report Cleanup Update, October 24, 2001

1. **FIELD REVIEW:**

- a) **Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP) and Investigative Cluster (IC) 29 Groundwater Treatment System (GWTS).** The GWTP and IC 29 GWTS is operating at 1150 gallons per minute. Area D wells are shut down because the UV Ox treatment equipment needs repairs; parts on backorder. The October 1st effluent sampling for Hexavalent Chromium (Cr+6) reported at 11 ppb (10 ppb allowable average) so weekly sampling in progress to evaluate a monthly average. The second weekly effluent sample measured 6 ppb however lab results were inconclusive so weekly sampling will be continued.
- b) **Groundwater Monitoring Program.** 4Q01 GWMP will begin on October 29th with placement of diffusion sampling bags in 104 monitoring wells. Sampling of diffusion bags will begin on November 12th and will be completed on or near November 16th, followed by sampling of 16 extraction wells on November 19th & 20th. No groundwater sampling activities are scheduled for November 22nd or 23rd (Thanksgiving). Groundwater level measurements of 567 wells will be conducted during the week of November 26th.
- c) **Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) Systems (10 of 14 operational)**
- 1) IC 1 Vapor Granular Activated Carbon (VGAC) is operational.
 - 2) IC 7 VGAC is operational.
 - 3) IC 23 VGAC is operational.
 - 4) IC 27 VGAC is operational.
 - 5) IC 31 Catalytic Oxidation (Cat Ox) was shut down on 1/23/01 for rebound.
 - 6) IC 35 Flameless Thermal Oxidation (FTO) is operational.
 - 7) IC 35 VGAC is operational.
 - 8) IC 43 FTO is operational.
 - 9) IC 43 VGAC is operational.
 - 10) T 44 FTO was shut down on 3/30/01 and relocated to PRL S-13.
 - 11) OU C1 Cat Ox was shut down because of low Destruction Removal Efficiencies. Contractor is evaluating the problem.
 - 12) OUD Site S is shut down until the sewer line is replaced.
 - 13) SSA-2 Thermal Ox system is operational. Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District has stated that the exhaust scrubber system is not necessary to meet air quality emission criteria.
 - 14) PRL S-13 FTO is operational. Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of the system was turned over to URS effective 10/01/01.
- d) **Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants (POL) activities included:**
- 1) Bldg. 26 – Bioventing unit is operational.
 - 2) Tank Farm 2 – Bioventing unit is not operational. A McClellan Park contractor cut electrical lines. Dolver has been assigned to install a new service meter box and bollards to protect the equipment from the Bldg. 475A tenant traffic near the unit.
 - 3) Tank Farm 7 – Biovent unit is operational with blower motor replacement on Oct 11th.
 - 4) Capehart Gas Station. – Bioventing unit operational. Dolver to locate independent geologist firm to do work plan for groundwater testing. Unit does not have independent electrical service meter.
 - 5) MAT K – Bioventing unit operational. New metered electric service in work. Additional Bioventing unit installation being planned for remediation of Mat K fuel spill area near Bldg. 756.
 - 6) Davis – Bioventing unit operational. Soil Borings completed as of Sep 13th. Global Positioning System of borings completed Sep 17th. Received analytical.

- 7) Bldg. 7D – work plan to remove the UST and perform soil sampling has been drafted and is in coordination. The RWQCB approved the plan, received letter from Grant Joint Union School District Sept. 17th for tank to be removed by AFBCA, under our jurisdiction. After tank is emptied, approved work plan measures will be executed for UST removal. Tank has approximately 1,000 gal of diesel fuel tainted with algae growth. Arrangement being made to dispose of fuel through Ramos Oil.
 - 8) Bldg. 262 UST – Removal of fuel still in progress.
 - 9) Bldg. 251 – This tank is a solvent tank site and will be remediated under CERCLA protocol.
 - 10) Building 332 – Exploratory excavation for UST uncovered UST saddles only, which was located approximately 3 feet east of building. Strong smell of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) encountered. OUA Remedial Investigation Characterization Study mentions that no gas or diesel samples were taken during Remedial Investigation efforts. Soil sample taken: EPA Methods 8015 TPH diesel and 8020. Soil sample revealed 38 ppm TPH Diesel. Site restored to original condition.
 - 11) Bldg. 655 C and D – Final closure request with NFA was sent to RWQCB on Oct 3rd.
 - 12) 7C UST – Final closure request with NFA was sent to RWQCB on Oct 5th.
 - 13) Building 656 – Site marked for extent of contamination boring. Dolver to obtain drill unit that can perform soil borings with limited overhead clearance.
 - 14) Lincoln Receiver Site – Waiting for confirmation and acceptance of transfer letter to Beale AFB.
- e) **Radiation Program.**
- 1) CS 10 site prep and construction continues. All CS-10 tent aluminum support frames have been assembled and erected and all of the tent skin has been installed into the frames. The clamshell ends were also installed. The tent is now substantially complete. The setup of the site lab for analytical is in progress.
 - 2) Airfield Surveys: Cabrera has completed gamma drive over scan. ISOCS data review to continue with biased sampling in work.
 - 3) Plutonium Background Study (PBS) (for Waste Disposal) – received Field Sampling Plan for the PBS, which will enable wastes to be segregated and disposed at a reduced cost.
 - 4) Low Lying Area: Strategy is to perform scan and in-situ gamma spectroscopy measurements in low-lying areas within 250 feet of runway and taxiway. The Biological Opinion (Section 7) consultation letter has been received from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the field-sampling plan was approved. Surveys are scheduled to begin this week.
 - 5) Landfill Surveys: Baseline of previous Remedial Investigation (RI) works completed, and landfills needing additional work identified. Radiation Conceptual Site Model draft distributed on 5 Oct 01. Program documents will be submitted to AFBCA Headquarters for approval. Strategy was to use scan surveys, solid sampling, in-situ gamma spectroscopy measurements.
 - 6) Building Surveys: Surveys continue to be performed. Twenty-one buildings have been released; 3 buildings are currently in regulator review by the end of November; and 18 buildings need surveying.
- f) **Site Security** fence mods for environmental retained properties at Patrol/Shelter Rd are now complete.
 - g) **Drainage** channel maintenance and cleaning will be done by Sacramento County. No channel maintenance activity is currently scheduled as County just recently approved transfer.
 - h) **OUB-1 cap** inspection was completed and additional cap asphalt material is planned for an area east of the existing cap. **OOD-1 cap** inspection was completed in first week of October.
 - i) **OUB-1 ditch** restoration began Oct 15th. Sediment soils is being stockpiled at the Soil Staging Pile Facility.
 - j) **PRL S-033** Site restoration began Sep 12th and is complete at this time. We coordinated with the tenant (Beutler Heating & Air) and McClellan Park regarding the desired level of site restoration due to upgrades being installed following completion of our effort. These include handicap parking, a handicap access ramp, and other features to improve their facilities.

- k) **Soil Staging Pile Facility.** Project phase 2 construction of the facility will commence later this month. Thermal desorption demonstration phase is complete and demobilized. Sample collection completed for bench scale demonstration of Wet Oxidation. URS will resume full-scale demonstration of Soil Washing technology beginning this month.
- l) **Soils Management Plan.** The Final Draft has been completed. A few minor revisions and updates are being made to the document. Encroachment Permit process step-by-step procedures handout, Operation Instructions and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been edited and incorporated into the document.
- m) **Wetland delineation** of the west area was verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), and the verification letter was received. The final delineation report and maps were distributed July 13, 2001.
- n) **Creeks conceptual site model** draft document was circulated to regulatory agencies for review, and comments were received from RWQCB, DTSC, and EPA by July 30, 2001. Review by California Department of Fish & Game was completed on August 23, 2001. The BRAC Cleanup Team has determined that the Draft Final Creeks Conceptual Site Model will not incorporate the creeks scenarios of the radiological model. The Draft Final Creeks Conceptual Site Model is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 5, 2001.
- o) **Vernal pool restoration plan** draft document completed. Plan was submitted to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in January with request for Section 7 consultation. Plan has been approved by the USACOE. Target date for restoration is autumn 2001. The USFWS has determined that the impacted vernal pool is hydrologically connected to a nearby larger pool and that additional mitigation may be required. The USFWS has received the final wetland delineation and is in the process of determining impact acreage and mitigation requirements, including possible purchase of off-site mitigation credits. Minor comments were received from the RWQCB and will be incorporated into the Draft Final document.
- p) **West Area Grass Fire.** A second fire occurred in the West Area of the base on October 10, 2001. Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department responded. USFWS was notified and a field investigation was conducted. Approximately three acres of grasslands, including 0.35 acre of vernal pools, were impacted by the fire and/or by fire response vehicles.

Attachment 4

June 29, 2001

Subject: Four Shortcomings in McClellan AFB's Current Efforts to Gather Historical Information about Hazardous Materials Dumped On (or Off) McClellan Air Force Base

1. McClellan AFB asserts that McClellan AFB and the Air Force has already conducted (apparently years ago) a thorough well-publicized campaign to contact former base employees who may possess information regarding past dumpings of hazardous waste on (or off) McClellan AFB. Consider this:

- From March, 1979 through April, 1996, I was a full-time enlisted member of the 1155 Technical Operations Squadron (later redesignated the Technical Operations Division [TOD])—one of the organizations whose mission has been mentioned in connection with many of the base's hazardous waste concerns. (In that capacity I also associated with many other unit personnel on a daily basis.)
- Since my retirement in 1996 I have associated with former 1155th/TOD personnel on a frequent basis.
- From March 1979 through June 2001, I have continually lived within five miles of McClellan AFB.
- Since 1979, I have been interested in: (1) the 1155/TOD's role in the Community; (2) any news reports regarding what was or may have been dumped on (or off) the base.
- I have always been extremely interested in events going on around me; I read the newspaper and watch local and national TV news daily—almost religiously.

With all of the above in mind, prior to 2000 I never heard any mention of any McClellan AFB (or Air Force) campaign to collect hazardous waste-related information from current or past base employees. I cannot conceive of my missing or not hearing about those notifications firsthand at the time they allegedly occurred. And if not firsthand, I certainly should have heard about it from a news source, neighbor, acquaintance, coworker, or ex-coworker. If someone like me didn't hear about the previous campaign, how in the world did anyone else hear of it? What methods of information dissemination were used?

2. Within the last year, McClellan AFB's Environmental Management Branch has begun interviewing former 1155/TOD employees about hazardous wastes which may have been dumped on base. (I believe this effort was prompted by recommendations I made during past Reclamation Advisory Board [RAB] meetings.) While the Air Force insists this latest effort has been quite extensive, I am concerned about certain shortcomings:

A. 1155/TOD laboratory personnel are only one of the many categories of former base employees who need to be invited to share their knowledge. Rather than concentrate predominantly on interviewing former 1155th/TOD laboratory personnel, members of almost all of the former units on McClellan AFB need to be queried—whether they were: technicians working directly with radionuclides, poisons, heavy metals, or hydrocarbons; Civil Engineering's heavy equipment operators who transported the waste and/or operated the backhoes which excavated and back-filled the waste pits; "bean counters" who did the accounting and tracking of such wastes, or kept higher headquarters informed about the disposition of the waste; higher headquarters which ordered (and archived reports of) the disposals; etc.

B. Even in the case of the 1155th/TOD, the (possibly dozens of) people interviewed thus far may not be the 1155/TOD personnel who need to be contacted and interviewed. I suspect most 1155th/TOD personnel interviewed thus far were former laboratory technicians—the ones who analyzed materials. They (we) would not normally have had any reason to know in which direction the waste went once it left the organization. But our former Headquarters, Command, Supply, and Logistics officers probably knew (and still know) that information...as might 1155/TOD vehicle operators who might have transported the waste away from the organization.

C. While possibly dozens of former 1155th/TOD personnel have been contacted and interviewed regarding hazardous waste, that number is just a drop in the (available) bucket. As I mentioned at the June 20, 2001, RAB meeting, TOD's Reunion Committee was able to contact thousands of former 1155th, TOD, and TOD-related personnel—spanning up to five decades of the unit's history—for a TOD unit reunion held in Sacramento during the late 1990s. TOD's Reunion Committee still has the names and addresses database used to contact those former employees about the reunion. Why can't the Air Force—or an outside source—use that same database to query thousands of former 1155/TOD personnel about the unit's past handling/disposition of hazardous waste?

D. Frequent reference has been made to the fact that the 1155/TOD's former headquarters—the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC), at Patrick AFB, Florida—sent its former members a letter giving them carte blanche permission to discuss all hazardous materials-related information they possess. Unfortunately, that is not true. I received a copy of the letter—as have perhaps only a few dozen former 1155/TOD employees. As stated in the letter, the only former 1155/TOD employees who received the letter were those identified to AFTAC by McClellan AFB's

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Environmental Management Office as potential interviewees; i.e., hundreds or thousands of other former 1155/TOD employees were never sent any letter. And as any former 1155/TOD employee who did receive "the letter" knows, the letter does not give carte blanche permission to discuss what we did—or what we think might have occurred. The letter says, "The origin of samples and the results of analyses may still be classified; however, the Environmental Management Office should not need this information"; the letter then adds, "I urge you not to speculate on what may have been done in the past or to pass hearsay information of which you have no firsthand knowledge." (Together, those statements seem to pretty much rule out any pertinent disclosures by anyone other than: (1) those officers who ordered or approved the disposals, or (2) the subordinates who actually participated in those disposals. I doubt either category would normally include 1155/TOD's laboratory technicians.)

3. During two recent periods of time, McClellan AFB and the Air Force seemed fairly confident that they had a handle on what hazardous wastes were buried where on McClellan AFB. The first period ended, unfortunately, with the unexpected discovery in 2000 of plutonium at Site CS 10. The latest confidence period ended with the unexpected discovery in 2001 of radionuclides beneath some recently excavated railroad tracks near Dudley Boulevard. Both discoveries provide little reason for the Air Force or the Community to feel no more undiscovered hazardous waste sites remain on McClellan AFB.

4. The Air Force has spent millions upon millions of dollars thus far trying to determine the extent of a waste dumping problem whose creation spanned fifty-plus years and the careers of hundreds of thousands of base personnel. So why hasn't (or won't) the Air Force now expend the few tens of thousands of dollars and several months which would be required to better ascertain the extent of the problem? Among the reasons I have heard for not conducting such a campaign are:

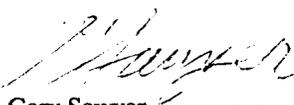
A. The Base and the Air Force has already conducted such a thorough search. [*See my rebuttal in Paragraph #1.*]

B. The Base and the Air Force believe there is nothing more of any consequence dumped on base which has not been located. [*Paragraph #3 disputes that.*]

C. Such a high-profile public campaign might be more time-, cost-, and manpower-intensive than the results would justify. [*On the other hand, the campaign may well pay for itself—many times over—by: locating currently unknown sites; informing the base in advance as to what yet-to-be-discovered toxic materials lie buried in known sites; revealing the sources and histories behind the toxic materials; giving the Community much more reason to believe the Air Force's cleanup effort has been sincere, thorough and complete.*]

D. The base might receive more responses (valid or otherwise) than the base's Environmental Management staff could handle. [*From the standpoint of those in the Community who will have to co-exist for centuries with whatever may remain buried and undiscovered on McClellan AFB, it would be better to have too many responses to sort through than to bypass a few critical responses.*]

E. It would take "forever" to interview each possible new lead in the same thorough manner in which it is being done now. [*When I was interviewed, I was impressed that two interviewers spent so much time with me—nearly an hour or more as I recall. (Another interviewee told me several people interviewed him.) While I applaud the base's thoroughness at these interviews, their information collecting process may indeed be too involved to handle a large number of interviewees. However, instead of using the process' thoroughness as a reason not to search for former employees with valuable information to share... simplify the process. Instead of starting with a live interview for each respondent, employ written or electronic questionnaires which can be collected and screened in order to determine which respondents warrant live interviews. Reduce the number of interviewers to one per interview. Also consider increasing the number of personnel interviewed at one time; interviewing several former coworkers at once would be faster and might prompt more (and more detailed) recollections. Increase the interviewer pool; instead of having just Environmental Management or cleanup personnel conduct the interviews, hire or recruit outsiders familiar with the base and the missions of its former units. For this search for information and these interviews to achieve optimum credibility—especially among those Community members skeptical of the Air Force's sincerity—I believe neutral outside screeners, interviewers, and information compilers must be included in the process. (Yes—I am interested, eager, and available to assist this effort!)]*


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Now an advocate for a thorough and complete McClellan AFB cleanup, I served in the 1155 Technical Operations Squadron (and its successor, the Technical Operations Division) from 1979 to 1996.

July 31, 2001

Subject: The Need to Gather Historical Information about Hazardous Materials Dumped on McClellan Air Force Base

*[Preface: Until recently, a major impediment to the successful cleanup and restoration of McClellan AFB was the adversarial and unacceptable behaviors of a few (former) McClellan AFB Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members. That impediment faded with the disbandment of the (former) RAB. Attention now needs to turn to another critical impediment to a timely and successful cleanup of McClellan AFB: **the thus far incomplete and insufficient effort by the Air Force to search out and compile historical information about hazardous materials dumped on McClellan AFB; specifically, historical information possessed by Air Force units and/or past McClellan AFB personnel (military or civilian).**]*

Sir or Madam,

1. The attached Sacramento Bee article discusses the recent discovery of containers labeled "Pu" [Plutonium] in a decades-old McClellan AFB landfill. The article's uncertainty about whether or not it might be plutonium, when and where it originated, etc., demonstrates that those responsible for McClellan AFB's cleanup have insufficient knowledge of what hazardous materials are buried where on McClellan AFB. The fact that more substantiated information is not currently in the hands of McClellan AFB's cleanup personnel and the Community strongly suggests that the search for information has thus far been incomplete and insufficient. But it doesn't need to be so; there is much more credible and detailed information available. Locating and compiling that information now needs to become a priority of the Air Force, Sacramento County, the State of California, the new RAB, and the Community.
2. Allow me to use the Sacramento Bee's article to illustrate my points. In the article, an Air Force manager speculated that the latest find "came from a secret laboratory operated by the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron," a former tenant organization on McClellan AFB. By today, seven years after the landfill was discovered in 1994, the Air Force could have determined—via former 1155th personnel or 1155th archives—if those were 1155th discards found in that landfill. I say that because I served in the 1155th (and its successor, the Technical Operations Division) for seventeen years. Not having been assigned to the 1155th until 1979, I am not familiar with the landfill or what may be in it. However, veterans who served in the 1155th decades before I did are still alive in Sacramento, northern California, and elsewhere in the United States. If contacted, they could possibly provide important information in helping to determine whether or not the contents of the 55-gallon drums in this landfill originated with the 1155th—and, if so, what may (or may not) be in those drums. Likewise, the 1155th's higher headquarters—the Air Force Technical Applications Center at Patrick AFB, Florida—should be able to provide valuable archival information if the Air Force was inclined to order them to do so.
3. Without doubt, much more information about "who-dumped-what-where" does exist. It exists in:
 - A. The archival databases and file cabinets of existing Air Force and Pentagon units;
 - B. The memories of former McClellan AFB personnel—military and civilian—living in northern California and elsewhere.
4. Much of that information is retrievable—if the Air Force, Sacramento County, the State of California, the new RAB, or the Community would make a serious effort to locate and compile it. To date, that effort has been insufficient. To rectify this, I make the following suggestions:

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A. The Air Force, Sacramento County, the State of California, and the new RAB need to make a thorough effort to let former McClellan AFB personnel—both military and civilian—know that the Air Force and all concerned parties want and need individuals to come forward with any information they possess regarding past dumping of hazardous waste. Assurances must also be provided that there will be no retributions to those who may come forward, or may have been involved in past dumping of hazardous waste. To be thorough, such a search should include all of the following:

- (1) Prominent coverage in the Sacramento Bee and all other northern California newspapers.
- (2) Repeated appeals in the form of commercials or segments on local television news programs.
- (3) Commercials appealing for information on several major northern California radio stations.
- (4) A mass mailer to be sent to a large percentage of former McClellan AFB personnel. (Allegedly, this suggestion has been rejected on the grounds a mailed inquiry might violate the Privacy Act. However, if the Privacy Act does not prohibit such a mailing—and if the Air Force is serious about learning all it can about what is buried on McClellan AFB—the Air Force needs to commit the time and money necessary to conduct a thorough mass-mailer inquiry.)

Note: To be most effective and thorough, the public announcements and mass-mailer should also include requests for information regarding any knowledge of illicit off-base dumping of McClellan AFB hazardous waste which may (or may not) have occurred.

B. Air Force units archive great quantities of historical information and data. However, those units are not going to expend the time and effort to perform thorough historical searches unless top-level Air Force commanders make it clear that such searches must be done. Also, directives from the top echelons must assure personnel that the Air Force won't consider the uncovering and providing of such information to be security violations or career-ending faux pas. Otherwise, past and present military members or military units may be apprehensive—or even afraid—to divulge important information they possess.

5. The Bee article mentions only the 1155th. However, if the Air Force seriously intends a thorough cleanup, all former base military units and civilian workcenters should be ordered (rather than requested) to provide all information about past disposals of hazardous wastes of all types. Anything less than an official order presents the appearance, to both the military units, the workcenters, and the Community, that the Air Force may not really be serious about wanting such information disclosed.

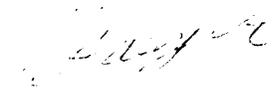
6. Any and all responses from former McClellan AFB employees or units should be handled by a panel which is independent and/or bipartisan (combining Air Force and Community members). Not because I personally believe the Air Force would “cheat” on the results; rather, because there are those who consider cheating by the Air Force to be a real possibility. Whatever the results (or lack thereof), the results would be far less suspect and less likely to create needless suspicions if collected by an independent or bipartisan group.

7. Until upper-echelon Air Force commanders adamantly stress that the Air Force wants and needs both people and units to come forward with information regarding hazardous waste dump sites on McClellan AFB, that information will remain filed away in file cabinets, computer databases, and people's memories. And without that information in the hands of the cleanup teams, there is little chance for a timely and complete cleanup of McClellan AFB.

8. I appreciate you taking the time to consider my inputs. I would appreciate any attention you might give this issue which might prompt the Air Force, the State, Sacramento County, or the new RAB to conduct a thorough

public search for historical information regarding what hazardous wastes were dumped where by whom on McClellan AFB (or in the surrounding areas).

Thank you...



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Atchs: (1) "Jars labeled 'plutonium' found" (Sacramento Bee, Sept 12, 2000)
(2) "Four Un-addressed Issues Pertaining to the Need to Gather Historical Information (from Former Base Employees) about Hazardous Materials Dumped On (or Off) McClellan Air Force Base (Gary Sawyer, June 28, 2001)

Attachment 5

**McClellan Air Force Base Conversion Agency
Responses
to
June 20, 2001
Public Comments Regarding Cleanup Activities**

Several questions and comments about cleanup activities at McClellan were made during the public comment period at the Restoration Advisory Board meeting of June 20, 2001. The Air Force is providing their responses below in order to answer these concerns and to provide information back to the public on McClellan's restoration program.

Public Comment (Summarized)	Response
The Air Force should fund a public campaign to locate former McClellan employees who may have information on past disposal practices.	The BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT), the decision making body for McClellan's cleanup, reviewed past interview activities and considered this suggestion very carefully. Almost all of the base has undergone some form of investigation. Sampling and interviews of past employees and associates are on-going. Numerous soil and water samples have been analyzed and the data used to define and characterize contamination sites. Over 500 interviews have been conducted so far. Based on the quality of past interviews, the extensive site research, and the continuation of both, the BCT urges informational interviews to continue, but does not see a significant added benefit in launching a new, large campaign. The Air Force will continue to interview those persons who step forward with information.
RAB members should be aware of the cleanup program budget and the cost of RAB meetings.	The Air Force shared the annual funding goals and anticipated funding for 2001 through 2005 with the community at the March 28, 2001 RAB meeting. This included the cost of public meetings which is approximately \$12,400 each.
Why did it take so long to put out the	The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department

<p>May 01 fire in the west area?</p>	<p>who has jurisdiction now at McClellan for emergencies responded to the fire. At this meeting a representative from the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department briefed community members on their response to the fire. Additional questions related to their operations should be directed to them.</p>
<p>A facilitator should not be used at RAB meetings.</p>	<p>In consultation with US EPA and California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the decision was made to facilitate meetings to aide in keeping them focused and productive.</p>
<p>ATSDR conducted its study of McClellan only at the request of the base's neighbors.</p>	<p>As part of Superfund, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) was mandated to perform public health assessments at all National Priority List sites. McClellan's assessment was briefed at this meeting. ATSDR's regional representative, William Nelson, is available for additional information at telephone number 415-744-2194.</p>

- Thank you for your participation -