

## Appendix N: Restoration Advisory Boards

Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) are collaborative community forums that address environmental cleanup issues at active and BRAC installations, and formerly used defense sites (FUDS) under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). RABs discuss, evaluate, and exchange information through direct lines of communications between their members and installation decision makers. Representatives may include the installation commander, co-chairs, and community members; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and state, local, and tribal government officials. Advice received from RAB participants helps formulate and execute cleanup strategies, while gaining trust within the community.

A RAB is not limited to discussing only environmental restoration at one installation; a RAB may also partner with nearby installations to create joint RABs. The following circumstances might indicate the need for a RAB:

- ▶ The closure of an installation involving transfer of property to the community
- ▶ Fifty or more citizens petitioning for a RAB
- ▶ A request from a federal, state, or local government body to form a RAB.

An installation's decision to establish a RAB is based on a review of media coverage, correspondence files, and consultation with relevant community members and government officials.

Although RABs are not decision-making bodies, they are important to communities and installations. They provide an opportunity for community members to become involved in the environmental restoration process, influence cleanup decisions, provide input to cleanup documents, and interact with their government officials. The RAB may make recommendations for the installation decision makers to consider.

### **RAB Rule**

During the mid-1980s, DoD formed Technical Review Committees as a means of enabling the community to review and comment on technical documents pertaining to environmental restoration efforts. In 1994, DoD further developed the practice of community participation to all interested parties by establishing RABs. On May 12, 2006, the Secretary of Defense published the RAB Rule (71 *Federal Register* 27610) to provide regulations governing RABs in accordance with 10 U.S.C. §2705(d)(2)(A). The rule provides a framework for public participation in the restoration process and outlines RAB establishment, composition, funding, operation, adjournment, and dissolution. The rule applies to all RABs regardless of establishment date.

Following the publication of the RAB Rule, DoD released the RAB Rule Handbook as an accompaniment document to provide flexible guidance to RABs when addressing their own unique concerns. The handbook is written in a question and answer format, serves as a quick reference manual for frequently addressed topics, and follows the outline of the RAB Rule. Both documents are available on the Defense Environmental Network & Information eXchange (DENIX) Web site at <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/cleanup/LA/SI>.

### Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

Once a RAB is established, DoD provides administrative financial support to establish, operate, and support RABs to ensure that both installations and RABs have access to the tools and resources necessary for making the partnership operate effectively. Funding is also provided for activities such as member selection, maintenance and mailing of RAB materials, meeting logistics, site-specific training, and costs associated with procuring facilitators or translators when needed.

RABs may seek independent technical advice to clarify scientific and engineering issues that might affect the installation. Funding for this type of support is provided through TAPP grants. RABs are eligible to receive TAPP funding when they need support assessing technology, reviewing health risks, interpreting technical documents, and participating in relative risk evaluations. RABs and community members can make informed decisions regarding environmental restoration sites at their installations with the advice funded by TAPP.

A majority of RAB community members must agree to request TAPP funding, which is limited to \$25,000 annually, or 1 percent of the total cost of completing environmental cleanup at the installation, whichever is less. TAPP funding is capped at \$100,000 over the lifetime of the installation's cleanup program. DoD has developed a TAPP Rule to provide RABs with information about all facets of the TAPP program. This information can be found on the U.S. Government Printing Office's Web site at [http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr\\_2008/julqtr/pdf/32cfr203.2.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2008/julqtr/pdf/32cfr203.2.pdf).

### Performance Evaluation Criteria

The process of assessing RAB performance is subjective and may be unique to individual RABs. Adjournment may be one methodology in assessing a RAB's success in the following situations:

- ▶ The RAB has fulfilled its intended purpose as defined by the operating procedures
- ▶ The installation has reached remedy in place or response complete
- ▶ Community interest ceases to be sufficient and sustained
- ▶ Property has been transferred out of DoD control, and environmental responsibilities are assumed by the transferee.

A RAB's ineffectiveness may be determined when it ceases to fulfill the intended purpose of advising and providing community input to installation decision makers, develops irreconcilable differences, or can no longer provide input constructively. In these instances, dissolution may be necessary as a last resort if the matter in question cannot be resolved through conflict resolution.

The Defense Environmental Programs (DEP) Annual Report to Congress (ARC) includes information on established, adjourned, and dissolved RABs, but does not contain data on community interest efforts where a RAB does not exist.

### RAB Status and Expenditures

Since their inception, the number of RABs has remained fairly consistent. The number of participating installations may fluctuate annually, as RABs are established, adjourned, or dissolved. During FY2008, there were 306 RABs across DoD, as illustrated in Figure N-1. Figures N-2 and N-3 show the Department managed 228 RABs at active installations and FUDS properties, and 78 RABs at BRAC installations, respectively.

Figure N-1 Total Number of RABs by Component

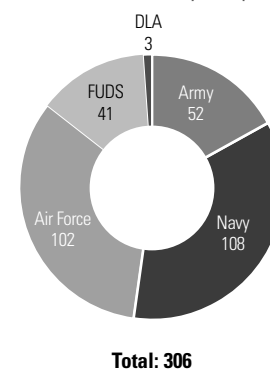


Figure N-2 Total Number of RABs at Active Installations and FUDS Properties by Component

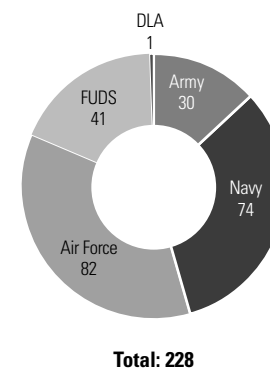


Figure N-3 Total Number of RABs at BRAC Installations by Component

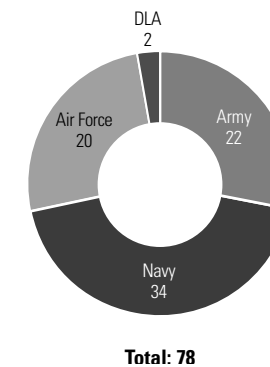


Figure N-4 lists installations with established or adjourned RABs in FY2008. Of the 306 total RABs, one new RAB was established—Culebra Puerto Rico. The Army adjourned three RABs, the Navy adjourned two RABs, and FUDS adjourned seven RABs.

In FY2008, DoD funded the activities of joint RABs, as displayed in Figure N-5.

**Figure N-4** RABs Established, Adjourned, or Dissolved

Established		
Installation Name	FFID	Component
Culebra Puerto Rico	PR29799F414300	FUDS

Adjourned		
Installation Name	FFID	Component
Army Research Laboratory-Watertown	MA121382093900	Army
Cape Simpson DEW	AK09799F251100	FUDS
Elson Lagoon	AK09799F251000	FUDS
Griffin Point DEW	AK09799F249900	FUDS
Icy Cape DEW Station	AK09799F249400	FUDS
Larson AFB	WA09799F331700	FUDS
Naval Support Activity Millington	TN417002260000	Navy
Oakland Army Base	CA921352066100	Army
Peard Bay DEW	AK09799F249500	FUDS
Point Barrow Radio Station	AK09799F291000	FUDS
San Diego Naval Base	CA917002428900	Navy
TS Armed Forces Reserve Center Los Alamitos	CA921180636800	Army

**Figure N-5** Joint RABs by Component

Army	
Primary Installation Name	Shared Installation/Component
Camp Edwards	Air Force

Navy	
Primary Installation Name	Shared Installation/Component
Guam FISC	Guam NAVACTS, Guam NAVFAC, Guam NCTAMS WESTPAC, Guam NSRF, Guam PWC
Lowry AFB	Air Force
Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst	Air Force
Point Barrow NARL	Army, Air Force

Air Force	
Primary Installation Name	Shared Installation/Component
Air Force Plant 4	Carswell AFB, Navy
Air Force Plant 44	Tucson International Airport
Barter Island LRRS	Bullen Point SRRS
Bellows AFS	Marine Corps Base Hawaii-Kaneohe Bay, Navy
Eglin AFB	Hurlburt AFB
Eielson AFB	Chena River, FUDS
Fairchild AFB	Spokane International Airport, Four Lakes Comm Air Guard Station
Galena Airport	Campion AFS, Kalakaket Creek RRS
Hickam POL	Wake Island
Homestead AFB	Homestead ARB
King Salmon Airport	Naknek Recreation Camps I and II
March AFB	March ARB
Massachusetts Military Reservation	Army
Maxwell AFB	Gunter AFB
McGuire AFB	NAES Lakehurst, Navy
North River Radio Relay Station	Unalakleet AFSTA
Patrick AFB	Cape Canaveral AFS
Point Barrow NARL	Point Lonely SRRS, Navy, FUDS
Willow Grove Air Force Reserve	Willow Grove NAS JRB, Willow Grove ARS, Navy

FUDS	
Primary Installation Name	Shared Installation/Component
Brownlow Point DEW	Air Force
Collinson Point DEW	Air Force
Eielson Farm Road AAA Site	Eielson AFB
Kogru DEW (POW B)	Navy
Manning Point DEW	Air Force
Nuvagak Point DEW (BAR A)	Air Force
Unalakleet AFSTA	North River Radio Relay Station

Components spent \$3.4 million on RAB operations in FY2008 compared with \$2.5 million in FY2007, as shown in Figure N-6. Annual expenditure costs wax and wane depending on the community's interests and participation levels.

Funding enables RABs to conduct meetings and participate in activities related to the cleanup process, and provide different types of advice, which afford community members who represent diverse interests to participate in RAB activities. Figure N-7 shows the number of RABs that identify with one or multiple types of membership in FY2008. Figure N-8 shows RAB activities, which helped DoD conduct more timely and cost-effective environmental restoration and identify issues of concern during FY2008. Figure N-9 shows the types of advice that RABs provided to installations during FY2008. RAB membership, activities, and advice remained consistent compared with FY2007.

Figure N-6 RAB Expenditures by Component

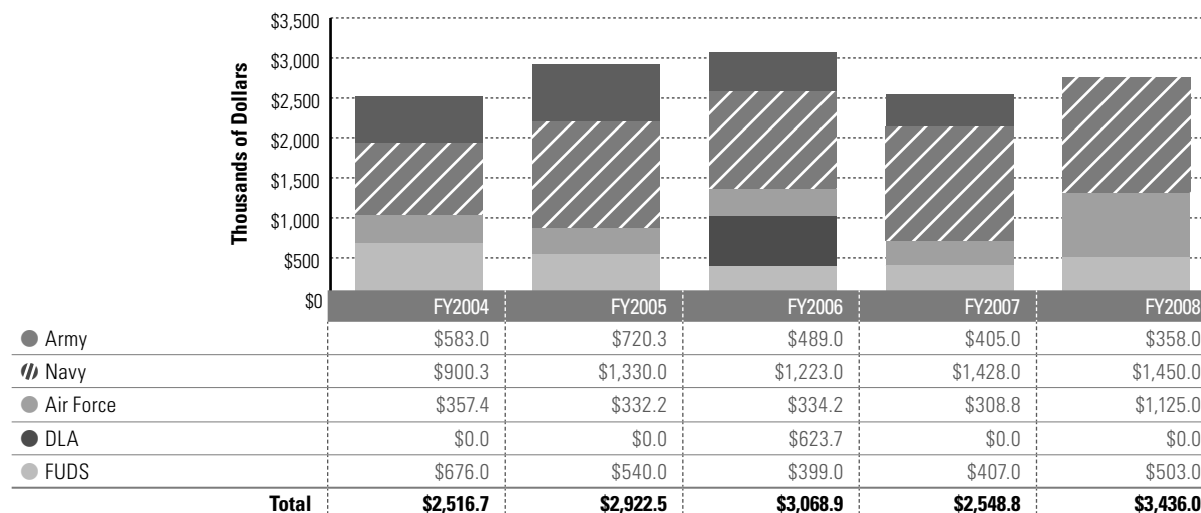


Figure N-7 RAB Community Membership (Participation Per Category)

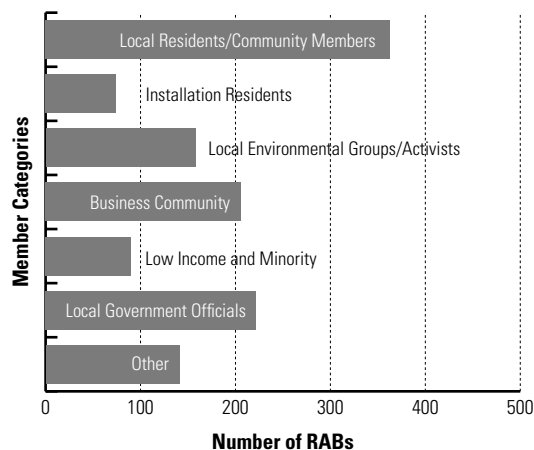


Figure N-8 Primary Activities of RAB Participation (Participation by Category)

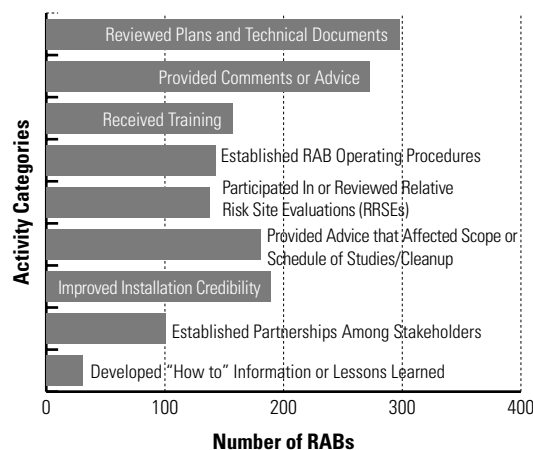
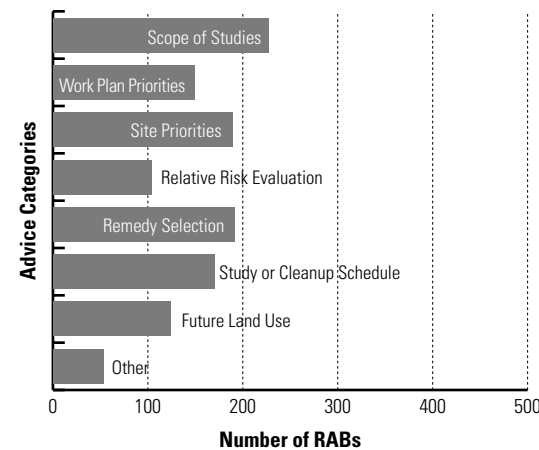


Figure N-9 Advice Provided by RABs (Participation by Category)



During FY2008, the Army, Navy, and FUDS received TAPP grants for five separate RABs, totaling \$102,188.82, as shown in Figure N-10. This reflects a significant increase in the amount of TAPP funding awarded compared to the previous year, which totaled \$50,000. Three more RABs received TAPP funding in FY2008 than in FY2007; which indicates RABs sought more independent technical advice to explain restoration items affecting their respective installations.

**Figure N-10** RABs Awarded TAPP Funding

Army		
Installation Name	FFID	TAPP Amount
Picatinny Arsenal	NJ221382070400	\$24,994.82

Navy		
Installation Name	FFID	TAPP Amount
Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant	NY217002379400	\$24,994

FUDS		
Installation Name	FFID	TAPP Amount
Kinchloe Air Force Base	MI59799F226000	\$24,000
Marion Engineer Depot	OH59799F367500	\$3,300
Plum Brook Ordnance Works	OH59799F364100	\$24,900