serve as a mailing list when new information relevant to RABs becomes available.

The RAB directory is posted on the World Wide Web at: ***http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/rab/intro.html***

With some RABs completing their work, DoD recognized the need to develop a RAB adjournment policy and process. RABs have adjourned at one Army, two Navy, and two Air Force installations because cleanup activities were already well under way or completed or because there was not sufficient and sustained interest in continuing RAB meetings. In each case in which a RAB was adjourned, it was at the request of the community members.

Interim RAB Adjournment Policy

During FY97, DoD drafted a policy that will promote consistent RAB adjournment decisions and procedures. According to this interim policy, an installation may consider adjourning its RAB in consultation with the community if one or more of the following situations arise:

- The installation has completed its environmental cleanup program
- All remedies are in place and operating properly and successfully
- There is no longer sufficient or sustained community interest in the RAB

DoD retains the authority to decide on RAB adjournment but will gather input from the community as a whole before a decision is made. When a RAB is adjourned, the community should be informed and RAB information should be retained in the cleanup program's records.

Number of RABs Adjourned: 5

Army
Cameron Station, VA

Air Force
Bergstrom Air Force Base, TX
Newark Air Force Base, OH

Navy
Driver Navy Radio Transmission Facility, VA
Sabana Seca Naval Security Group Activity, PR

FY97 TAPP Activities

Through the TAPP program, DoD can provide RABs with resources, such as a technical advisor, to help interpret scientific and engineering data. TAPP is a new tool that will enable RAB community members to more fully understand an installation's cleanup issues.

Before it could take effect, the TAPP program had to be formally established through the publication of a final regulation. Further, DoD employees needed to be equipped to administer TAPP and to promote TAPP to all interested RABs. DoD made significant progress toward full implementation of the TAPP program during FY97.

To more effectively address the important issues associated with TAPP, DoD convened an interservice, interagency working group focused on developing a TAPP training curriculum and resolving associated issues. The TAPP Working Group met throughout 1996 and 1997 and includes representatives from each Component and from EPA.

On December 27, 1996, after an extensive comment process, DoD published a proposed TAPP regulation that described who may apply for TAPP, project eligibility, procedures, and funding. DoD mailed a copy of the proposed regulation to the more than 500 interested parties and installations in the field who would be responsible for the implementing TAPP assistance.

TAPP Qualifications and Eligibility

Who qualifies for TAPP?

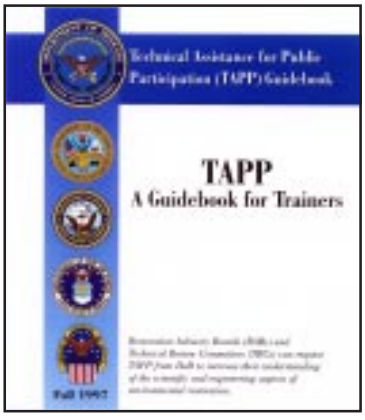
- Community members of RABs and TRCs

What are eligible TAPP projects?

- Review of restoration documents
- Review of proposed remedial technologies
- Interpretation of health and environmental effects
- Participation in relative risk evaluations
- Certain types of technical training

DoD received and analyzed a number of comments on the proposed TAPP regulation and considered the results of this analysis during the preparation of the final regulation. The final regulation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 2, 1998, and is now available on DoD's Environmental Cleanup home page at http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/envrab.html.

To prepare DoD Components to implement the TAPP program during FY98, the TAPP Working Group, under the leadership of the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security (ODUSD(ES)), developed a train-the-trainer



The TAPP process is as follows:

1. Community members of RAB/TRC agree on project.
2. Community members complete the TAPP program application.
3. The application is submitted to the DoD co-chair., forwarded to the Installation Commander for review and approval, and sent to the DoD contract office to initiate a purchase order.
4. DoD contract office identifies qualified assistance providers.
5. A technical assistance provider is selected, awarded a contract, and provides needed assistance to the RAB/TRC.
6. Close out report is prepared by the installation.

TAPP Training

curriculum and sponsored four training sessions in late 1997. The training was adapted to the needs of installation commanders, contracting officers, local residents, and other key members of the RAB community. More than 110 DoD employees completed the training and became qualified as TAPP trainers. These trainers will ensure that the TAPP program is publicized and implemented effectively by educating installation representatives and community RAB members.

Additional Resources Available on the World Wide Web

To increase accessibility of TAPP information to the public, DoD enhanced the TAPP-related information on the World Wide Web during FY97. Several documents discussed in this section, such as the proposed RAB regulation and the RAB Directory, also are provided on DoD's Environmental Cleanup home page. Several DoD installations have independently established World Wide Web pages providing information on their cleanup programs and community involvement activities. The following are home page addresses for a few installations and FUDS properties discussed in this report:

- USACE Weldon Springs Ordnance Works, MO
  http://www.mrk.usace.army.mil/weldon/weldon.html
- NAS Whidbey Island, WA
  http://www.naswi.navy.mil/
- NAS North Island, CA
  http://www.nasni.navy.mil/

Information on DoD RAB policy, status, and tools is available on DoD's Environmental Cleanup home page at:
http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/envrab.html

NAS North Island, Pilot TAPP Project

In March 1997, NAS North Island in California embarked on a pilot TAPP project by offering its RAB the opportunity to receive independent technical assistance, using the draft TAPP regulation as a guide.

Since the inception of NAS North Island's RAB in June 1994, the RAB's members have requested independent technical analysis of the Navy's Installation Restoration Program plans and proposals. NAS North Island is not on the National Priorities List; therefore, community members cannot receive support from the EPA Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program. In March 1996, the NAS North Island RAB did receive technical assistance through EPA's Technical Outreach Services for Communities

(TOSC) program. TOSC resources were limited, however, and NAS North Island's RAB wanted more comprehensive assistance covering a variety of cleanup issues.

Upon receiving the offer to participate in the pilot, NAS North Island RAB members formed a RAB Technical Assistance Committee (RABTAC) to refine understanding of technical assistance needs and to develop statements of work. After several follow-on meetings between the NAS North Island DoD co-chair, the RABTAC, and other Navy cleanup team members, Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command awarded four technical assistance contracts in September 1997. Simplified acquisition procedures were used to award the four contracts to small businesses and the cumulative contract award value was $22,423. Contract deliverables include a written report and a presentation to RAB members during a regularly scheduled RAB meeting. The entire process, including selection of the technical assistance provider, was a team effort between the Navy and RABTAC members.

NAS North Island's technical assistance contracts cover four distinct topics, including independent review and analysis of the following:

- An air toxics health risk assessment conducted for a soil vapor extraction cleanup project
- A current investigation and cleanup project documentation for a former chemical waste disposal area near San Diego Bay
- Current studies and Navy recommendations for shoreline sediments
- Slag contamination along an area of NAS North Island's shoreline.

In its assessment of potential assistance providers, the RABTAC evaluated the candidates' experience in communicating with and understanding community members. This allowed community members to play an advisory role in the selection of their assistance provider.

The pilot TAPP project was pursued as an innovative management initiative under NAS North Island's Navy Environmental Leadership Program charter. The project's focus was on demonstrating leadership and improving community acceptance and approval of NAS North Island's environmental cleanup activities. Information on the effectiveness of the pilot TAPP project is expected to be available in late 1997.

Arno Bernardo, NAS North Island's DoD co-chair, stated, "Through the pilot TAPP, we've worked closely with community members toward a better understanding of the restoration process… already, we believe our effort has fostered teamwork and trust with the community

Community Visitation Day at NAS North Island, CA

and RAB members." Another participant, Dottie Marron, NAS North Island's RAB community co-chair said, "The TAPP process is great and extremely beneficial to all parties."

The NAS North Island pilot TAPP initiative also was of value to other RABs that expect to pursue TAPP projects in 1998. NAS North Island and Southwest Division representatives provided lessons-learned presentations to more than 110 Army, Navy, Air Force, and DLA personnel at four separate TAPP training workshops. The transfer of lessons learned to other DoD components will help pave the way for efficient incorporation of the TAPP process into DoD's environmental cleanup programs.

Pilot TAPP Project: Lessons Learned

The lessons learned during the NAS North Island pilot TAPP program include the following:

- Installations should establish a team consisting of the DoD RAB co-chair, contracting office, and community members
- TAPP can be effective in increasing trust between RABs and the installation and can provide additional confidence in the overall cleanup program
- Assistance can be obtained in a reasonable amount of time

DoD Component Accomplishments

The following provides a summary of FY97 RAB-related accomplishments of selected DoD Components.

FUDS

By hosting five RAB workshops and developing a video during FY97, the USACE continued its efforts to ensure that the public is an active participant in its environmental cleanup program. The USACE manages the FUDS program for DoD and wanted to increase the opportunities for community members to become part of the cleanup team.

In FY97, USACE intensified its efforts to establish more RABs at FUDS projects where there is sufficient and sustained community interest in cleanup efforts. Six new RABs were established at locations where cleanup is planned.

Many FUDS projects are in remote locations where there is not a great deal of community interest in the cleanup program. In these cases, USACE gauges community interest biannually and takes appropriate steps if there is interest in establishing a RAB.

USACE also developed a workshop to train FUDS program, project, and technical managers, as well as public affairs specialists, on the latest guidance concerning RABs and the unique challenges of establishing RABs at FUDS projects. The training was conducted at five locations throughout the country during FY97. During the workshop, participants were given the latest guidance, information on how to successfully establish RABs, and tips on how to better involve public affairs specialists in environmental matters. Trainees also discussed success stories and lessons learned and participated in two group exercises on running RAB meetings.

Update: Former Badlands Bombing Range

In FY97, the USACE and several other federal agencies continued to clean up the former Badlands Bombing Range, located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, home of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. The range area, which spans approximately 350,000 acres, was used for training exercises during World War II. The Badlands Bombing Range RAB was formed in 1995 to involve the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council in cleanup plans that might impact tribal members.

The Badlands Bombing Range RAB plays an integral role in fostering communication among the many parties involved in the cleanup and keeps the federal agencies informed of tribal concerns. During FY97, the RAB subcommittees worked to educate the public on the hazards associated with buried ordnance. Communicating such hazards to tribal members is an ongoing task for tribal leaders because it is not uncommon for residents to discover ordnance and handle it without knowing that it may be dangerous. The RAB subcommittees also have pursued the real estate and legal processes necessary for returning the land, in its entirety, to the Oglala Sioux.

One initiative pursued during FY97 was a 5-week technology demonstration conducted on a number of sites thought to contain unexploded ordnance. Suspected sites were surveyed with an ordnance detection device, and results were used by USACE to remediate portions of the surveyed lands. The project was a success and helped to demonstrate the ordnance detection, location, and classification capabilities of the ordnance detection device called the Multisensor Towed Array Detection System.

Emma Featherman-Sam, Director of the Badlands Bombing Range Project Office and RAB community co-chair, said, "Through the RAB process, the Ogala Sioux Tribe, the DoD, EPA, Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the state of South Dakota are striving to educate tribal landowners on the results of investigations and restoration options for the 341,725 acre FUDS property on the Pine Ridge Reservation. This partnership paved the way for the first memorandum of agreement and cooperative agreement between a tribal nation and DoD."

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>
> **Emma Featherman-Sam,**
> **RAB community co-chair**
> **Former Badlands Bombing Range, SD**

In addition to conducting the RAB workshops, USACE developed a video entitled "Understanding the Formerly Used Defense Sites Cleanup Program." The video explains the FUDS program from its inception to today's challenges and provides information on how the community can get involved. Viewers learn how the FUDS program differs from the program at operating installations and base realignment and closure sites. The video provides an overview of how USACE executes its responsibilities at FUDS projects. It was distributed to all USACE districts and state regulatory agencies and was made available to installation RABs as a training tool. The video also is being used to educate potential RAB members, the general public, regulators, and congressional staff members.

Army

The Army has made a commitment to giving communities affected by Army cleanup activities the opportunity to offer input into the cleanup process through RABs. During FY97, the Army worked diligently to increase the number of RABs, thus strengthening overall public participation efforts. Ten new RABs were established, bringing the Army's total number of active RABs to 59. These RABs continue to reflect the diversity of the community, ensuring that there is a broad spectrum of individual and group representation and that interested parties have a voice in the Army's environmental cleanup decision-making process.

Throughout FY97, the Army benefited from RAB input, most significantly from recommendations on remedy selection at specific sites. For example, at the Army Research Laboratory in Watertown, Massachusetts, the RAB and the BRAC cleanup team provided input on the selection of a remedy for contaminated soil. Based on these recommendations, the proposed remedy was revised, and as a result, cleanup and transfer of the property took place 1 year earlier than anticipated.

In many cases, RABs also have been instrumental in communicating information about cleanup decisions to the community and in eliciting the community's input. For instance, the RAB at the Presidio of San Francisco in California, routinely provides information about Army cleanup activities to neighborhood associations and solicits their input.

During FY97, several Army installations sponsored workshops with interested parties to review restoration planning documents called "installation action plans." These documents list the sites of concern, indicate which ones will be addressed first, and lay out a plan for cleanup. Installations and regulatory agencies typically work together to update the plans as new information emerges and changes in priorities and funding occur. RAB community co-chairs participated in a few of these workshops for the first time in FY97.

One enthusiastic RAB community co-chair described this opportunity, stating, "This meeting gave me the opportunity to give candid advice based on my sense of the community's interests and perceptions... I was gratified that they took my advice seriously on several points that I know are in the public interest."

Navy

During FY97, the Department of the Navy continued its strong support for community involvement in environmental cleanup programs. Five new RABs were formed during the year, allowing communities to take a more active role in installation cleanup. "Our role as RAB members is to advise and be a link with the community," said a RAB member at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland. "I've attended meetings where [community] suggestions were made and adopted, which led to solutions to serious problems."

Training continues to be an important component in the success of the Navy's RABs. The Navy provides orientation training to its RAB members on the environmental cleanup process and, where appropriate, supplements that with training in specialized areas such as groundwater remediation, landfill capping, and emerging cleanup technologies. In addition, the Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC) has provided training on Human Health Risk Assessments in response to RAB requests for more in-depth information about this important screening tool.

> "Our role as RAB members is to advise and be a link with the community. I've attended meetings where [community] suggestions were made and adopted, which led to solutions to serious problems."
>
> ***RAB community member***
> ***NAS Patuxent River, MD***

In FY97, NEHC provided training to RABs at eight Navy installations, including NAS Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, California; NAS Oceana, Virginia; Naval Surface Warfare Command White Oak, Maryland, Commanding Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; NAS North Island, California; Naval Surface Warfare Command Indian Head, Maryland; and NAS Patuxent River, Maryland. An introduction to toxicology and risk assessments was provided at these installations. In addition, poster stations and technical assistance in interpreting and explaining specific chemicals of concern were provided at Camp Lejeune, NAS Alameda, and Fridley Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant. At NAS South Weymouth, NEHC addressed perceived higher cancer rates in communities surrounding the installation.

The TAPP program was another major focus area for the Navy in FY97. As noted previously, the Navy conducted the first DoD pilot of this program at NAS North Island. The NAS North Island TAPP pilot is being used as a model by DoD in the further development of and training for the TAPP program.

Air Force

In FY97, the Air Force continued to support existing RABs while establishing seven new ones. In addition, individuals from the Air Force's major commands, the Air Force Center of Environmental Excellence and the Air Force Institute of Technology, attended DoD TAPP training. These individuals will communicate with each Air Force installation that has an established RAB or TRC to determine RAB interest in technical assistance. The Air Force

will then concentrate TAPP training at those installations with interested RABs or TRCs. In addition, TAPP information has been integrated into basic training for cleanup project managers. The major commands and installations will develop a training schedule based on interest expressed by the RABs and TRCs.

The Air Force also focused on evaluating the need for community involvement during and after site closeout. The Air Force established an interagency work group, headed by the Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA), to develop a process for completing environmental cleanup at closing or realigning installations.

The work group determined that it is important for RABs to consider early in their development how they will operate throughout every phase of the cleanup. This well-considered and active involvement may extend beyond the final cleanup solution.

This continuing involvement is important because community concerns often do not cease when the last remedial action is put in place, especially when the remedy involves a cleanup system that continues to operate. Communities may be concerned about potential environmental health risks, safety, the environment, and the aesthetics of surrounding landscape during and after cleanup. The community may wish to remain involved after remedies are in place as DoD ensures that:

- Selected remedies protect human health and the environment
- Remedial actions are in place and operating properly and successfully
- Contaminants are not migrating off site or off base property
- Remedies continue to be effective over the years
- DoD's departure does not diminish its commitment to environmental stewardship or translate into abandonment

The Air Force remains committed to community involvement throughout the environmental cleanup process, including site closeout. The AFBCA efforts will be a model for establishing community-based criteria for completing environmental cleanup at closing installations.

DLA

During FY97, the DLA continued to rely on RABs to support its environmental cleanup efforts. The effective relationships that DLA has forged with its RABs are exemplified by the efforts of the RAB at Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) in Pennsylvania.

Established in 1996, DSCP's RAB has provided a forum for discussion and exchange of information among representatives of the local community, government, environmental regulators, and installation personnel. Since the RAB's inception, regularly-held RAB meetings have helped establish higher levels of understanding and trust among these parties. Communication strategies used by the RAB include the following:

- So that all RAB members have an opportunity to view cleanup activity at installation areas of concern, videotapes are made documenting the activity and made available for viewing. This effort has

enhanced the members' and regulatory officials' understanding of remediation at DSCP.

- A community advisory group, composed of RAB members, neighboring environmental and community groups, and local university professors/advisors, has been established to discuss the Human Health Risk Assessment studies being conducted at the affected areas. In this way, concerned parties can provide direct input into the final risk assessment and obtain first- hand information to relay to the affected communities.

- RAB meetings, which, in the past, would often become bogged down in discussions of general environmental issues, are now focused on cleanup concerns specific to DSCP's Installation Restoration Program. Poster sessions, handouts, and technical experts are also used to enhance discussions.

- DSCP not only actively seeks the input of community RAB members on environmental issues, but also welcomes all RAB members at social and official functions held at the installation.

DSCP's RAB has enhanced the local community's understanding and support of the installation's cleanup program. Providing a forum in which all interested parties can voice their concerns and opinions enables each party to be a part of an ongoing process rather than passive recipients of a final decision.

Future Directions

DoD is looking forward to a successful fiscal year as its RAB program continues to mature. Several new activities are expected to dominate DoD's efforts in FY98. Some of these activities began in FY97 and resulted from program changes suggested by participants. The activities are expected to increase the overall effectiveness of the program.

Implementation of TAPP

As mentioned previously, the final TAPP regulation was published on February 2, 1998. DoD is expecting the TAPP program to play a large role in its FY98 activities. To increase awareness of the TAPP program, DoD plans to conduct additional, installation-level TAPP training courses. The 110-plus TAPP trainers who participated in the TAPP train-the-trainer courses in 1997 will be central to this effort. DoD will also consider the development of TAPP guidelines, as needed, and development of a TAPP Resource Book to provide further guidance to the installations and their communities. The benefits of this program will be numerous because TAPP is expected to significantly increase the effectiveness of RABs and thus, of the overall cleanup program.

RAB Adjournment Policy

Another area of focus will be the continued development of the RAB adjournment policy. DoD firmly believes that community involvement is needed throughout the cleanup process. However, as many installations approach cleanup and base closure, and their RABs fulfill their objectives, many of the RABs may wish to adjourn. The RAB adjournment policy will provide consistent adjournment guidelines.

Program Operation

As they mature, RABs are increasing their communication with neighboring RABs, becoming more involved in technical cleanup

discussions, developing stronger partnerships with other interested parties, and providing insight and lessons learned. As new trends and issues arise, DoD will continue to assess the changing needs of those involved and will develop new policies and modify programs as needed.

DoD strongly believes that the long-term success of its environmental cleanup program depends on effectively sharing information by involving the community early in the restoration decision-making process. Therefore, DoD is committed to carrying out the initiatives described in this report and to enhancing its community involvement efforts.