Air Force - Cleanup Status and Progress

In FY96, the Air Force continued a dialogue with its stakeholders to achieve consensus on its cleanup program. This dialogue helped lead the shift from an approach based solely on legal requirements and relative risk reduction to one based on completion of the program. The principles of the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee were instrumental in developing this new approach. This new approach, along with the opportunity provided by devolvement of the Defense Environmental Restoration Account and the prospect of stable funding will provide stability to the Air Force's cleanup program. The Air Force allocated to each Major Command (MAJCOM) their share of Air Force funding through FY03 based on "risk-plus" factors. The MAJCOMs then worked with their installations to develop fiscally stable cleanup programs, focused on installing and operating cleanup systems.

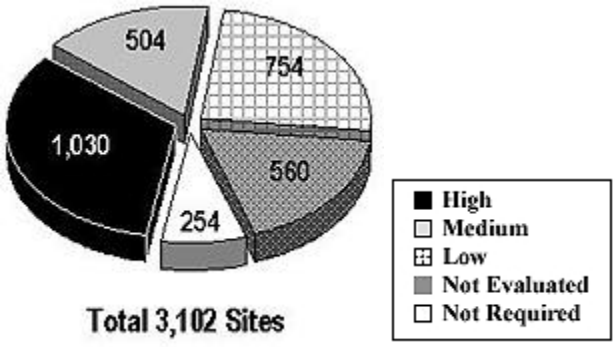
The Air Force has emerged as a national leader in protecting and preserving the lands, airways, and waters used for training and operations. Our innovative programs, which are yielding fantastic results, are inspired by the four pillars of our efforts: conservation of resources, compliance with environmental regulations, prevention of pollution, and restoration of ecosystems. To ensure the greatest measure of success, we're encouraging environmentally-conscious ideals at all levels of leadership. . . the Air Force is committed to keeping the environment clean.

Dr. Sheila E. Widnall Secretary of the Air Force

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

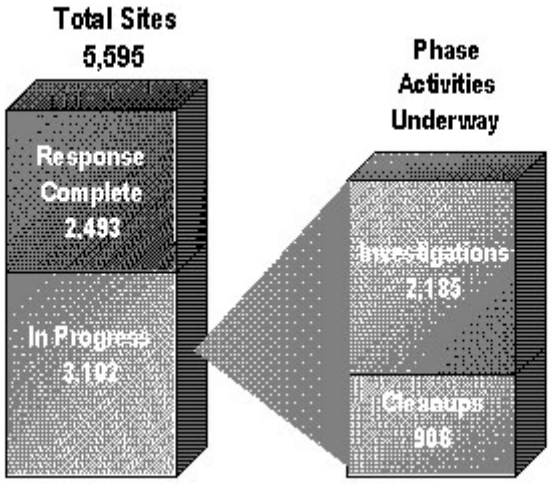
To help achieve this goal, the Air Force developed four management initiatives: (1) the Work In Progress (WIP) Inventory Control Matrix, (2) the Schedule To Complete (STC), (3) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) educational tools, and (4) improved consultation with various regulatory agencies and funding for those agencies.

DERA and BRAC
Sites in Progress Relative Risk



The WIP is an inventory control tool designed to highlight the progress of sites through investigation and cleanup and to help identify bottlenecks in the process. The WIP Inventory Control Matrix identifies the baseline inventory for all Air Force sites. Information identified by site includes current phase in the program, relative risk site evaluation category, and sites where cleanup is being accomplished during the study phase. Knowing how many sites undergo cleanup during the study phase is an important performance indicator because interim remedial actions are often conducted to reduce risk or to prove a technology prior to completing an investigation. The relative risk section of the matrix shows the progress of sites based on relative risk category, with the objective of verifying that high relative risk sites are moving through the process faster than sites with a lower relative risk. Initial findings show that the majority of response complete sites were completed based solely on investigative work, never requiring significant investment in actual cleanup actions. In addition, a significant number of sites require action by the cognizant regulatory agency to complete the site closeout process.

DERA and BRAC Status

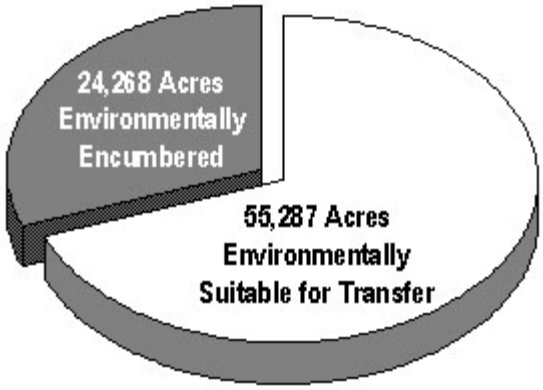


Quarterly reporting of the WIP shows progress and identifies current or potential bottlenecks during the cleanup process. Early detection and elimination of bottlenecks will help the Air Force reduce costs and time associated with site cleanup through changes in policy and methods of program execution. The most apparent bottleneck identified by the first two iterations of the WIP is the significant number of sites the Air Force considers to require no further action but for which the cognizant regulatory agencies have not yet concurred.

The initial STC defined the way the Air Force will meet or exceed all DoD cleanup goals. Most installations will have all cleanup systems in place by FY07. The STC also identified several program improvement opportunities. The most significant opportunity is in technology, where the Air Force has determined that the most important needs are in the modeling and monitoring required to support natural attenuation and site closeout. The Air Force also identified long-term operation of cleanup systems as the most significant program cost driver in the out-years.

Using both the WIP and STC, installation restoration program managers are better able to work with their regulatory counterparts to get concurrence on schedules and priorities and will be better able to complete the program within the projected funding levels. These initiatives allow the Air Force to better manage the change inherent in the restoration program.

Property Available for Transfer



To assist public understanding and enhance RAB input, the Air Force developed videos detailing the cleanup process from initial site characterization to site closeout, highlighting the role the public and other stakeholders play in the process. A well-informed and educated public that is involved in the process is vital to the success of the cleanup program.

The Air Force entered into discussions with the DSMOA executive agent to improve the Cooperative Agreement process. The Air Force's goal is to ensure that state governmental agencies are adequately funded to support cleanup program completion. In addition, the Air Force initiated a three-level process to ensure acceptance by regulatory agencies of the Air Force's cleanup program. This process began in FY96 with installation level consultation. Meetings with state and regional regulatory agency representatives will continue through the spring of 1997. This will be an annual effort to ensure a consistent approach to supporting the Air Force annual budget request.

PROGRAM EXECUTION

The Air Force increased the amount its program spent on cleanup in FY96;
72 percent of program funds were spent on remedial designs and interim or final cleanup actions, while only 17 percent of funds were used for investigations. The Air Force is emphasizing cleanup actions while maintaining an adequate level of funding for investigations. This ensures that only required cleanups are performed, and that cleanups undertaken are effective and efficient.

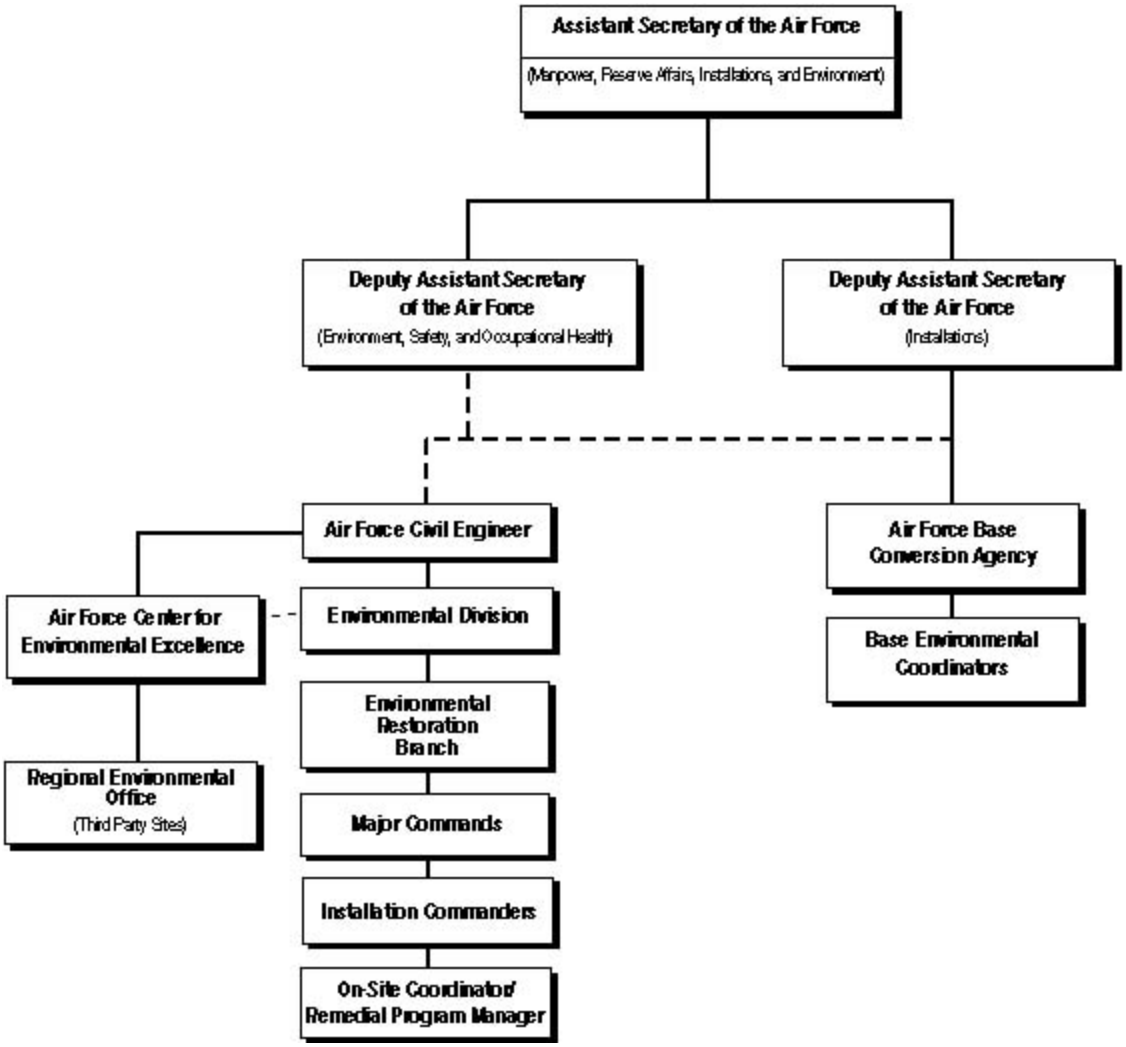
In FY96, the Air Force added 101 new sites to its installation restoration inventory, bringing its total to 5,595 sites. Of those sites, at both active and closing installations, 2,493 have achieved response complete status, and 3,102 sites are in progress.

Investigations are underway at 2,185 of these sites, and cleanup actions are underway at 906. The Air Force also completed remedial actions at 170 sites in FY96.

Twenty-seven Air Force installations were identified in the BRAC 1988, 1991, 1993, and 1995 rounds. The Air Force implemented the President's five-point plan to speed economic recovery at closing installations. Implementation of the Fast-Track Cleanup Program improved communications and accelerated the cleanup process by: (1) establishing BRAC Cleanup Teams at installations;
(2) instituting bottom-up reviews of environmental programs, plans, and schedules; and (3) fostering public involvement and assistance in preparing documents to accelerate property reuse.

Environmental baseline surveys, as well as BRAC cleanup plans, were completed for all BRAC 1988, 1991, and 1993 installations, and such efforts are currently underway at all BRAC 1995 installations. In FY96, cleanup actions were completed at 33 BRAC sites. As a result, 69 percent of the property at BRAC 1988, 1991, and 1993 installations is environmentally suitable for transfer.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE



PROGRAM DIRECTION

The Air Force will continue to apply all available resources to accomplish the goals established by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force in March 1995:

(1) sustain the readiness of the Air Force by creating the basis for a stable environmental restoration budget through the life of the program; (2) be a good neighbor by enhancing and sustaining the Air Force's credibility through effective communication, while seeking opportunities to enhance the local economic benefits of the environmental restoration program; and (3) leverage the Air Force's resources by reducing the total cost of the cleanup program through effective application of scientific, engineering, management, information, and human technologies.

The Air Force uses relative risk site evaluations as a primary factor in sequencing work. Relative risk "plus" factors including legal requirements, stakeholder concerns, program execution, and economic impacts are also considered. The Air Force is dedicated to involving the public in its cleanup program in a manner that allows timely and

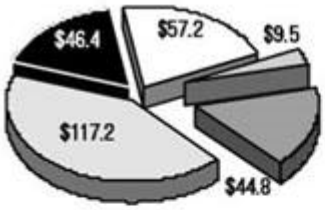
meaningful input from stakeholders in the adoption of risk-based cleanup priorities. Involvement of the public is crucial to establishing trust and credibility throughout the cleanup process. The Air Force periodically surveys communities where little or no sustained community interest was identified to determine whether there is interest in forming a RAB.

The Air Force has formed active partnerships with regulatory agencies, communities, and industry to reduce the costs of cleanup through the effective application of technologies. For example, to improve cooperation between the Air Force and EPA Region 4, regular partnering sessions focus on site remediation and closure, resolution and avoidance of conflicts, legal requirements, and the sharing of responsibility for solutions. The goal of the partnership is to foster harmony and commitment to the cleanup process. The Air Force will share the initiative with other environmental programs (for example, compliance and conservation) and other EPA regions. The structured partnering practiced in Region 4 will be part of a range of options available to Air Force installation restoration program managers.

The Air Force is committed to an open, transparent, visible, and accountable cleanup program. The Air Force's focus is on achieving cleanup program completion. By doing so, the Air Force will sustain the public trust and faith in the United States Air Force. These are the hallmarks of the Air Force cleanup program.

In FY96 the Air Force obligated $365.3 million in environmental restoration funds, approximately 26 percent of the overall FY96 program for DoD.
The Air Force’s environmental restoration funds will increase to $393.6 million in FY97 and then decrease to $378.9 million in FY98, according to current planning estimates.
In FY96, approximately 72 percent of Air Force environmental restoration funds was spent on design work, interim or final cleanup actions, and operations and maintenance. That percentage is planned to remain steady at 71 percent in FY97 and increase to 76 percent in FY98, according to current planning estimates.

FY95 Funds Executed

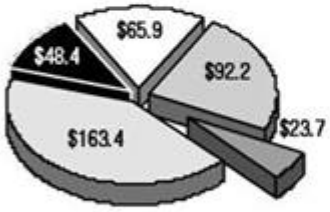


Total $275.1 Million

FY96 DERA Funds Executed

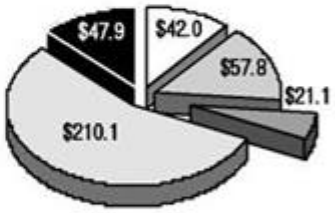
Total $365.3 Million

FY97 ER, Air Force Execution Plannned



Total $393.6 Million

FY98 ER, Air Force Planning Estimate



Total $378.9 Million

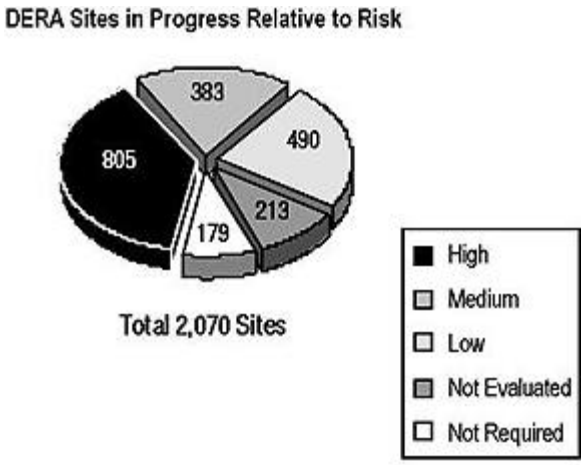
LEGEND

- Management
- Investigatiion

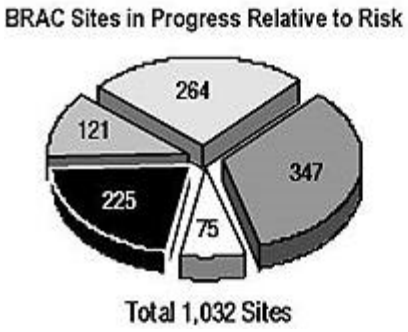
Cleanup Category

- Interim Actions
- Design
- Cleanup

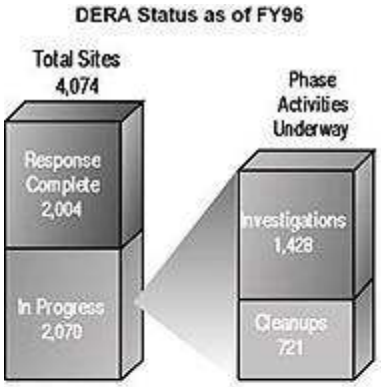
Of the 2,070 sites in progress at operational installations, 805 or about 39 percent, are categorized as high relative risk.

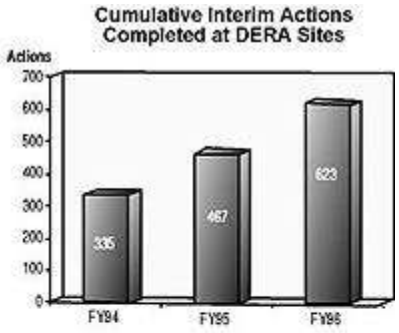


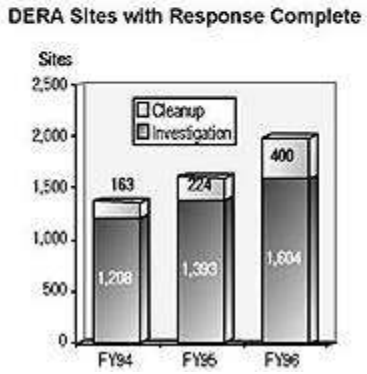
Of the 1,032 sites in progress at closing installations, 225, or about 22 percent, are categorized as high relative risk.



Of the 4,074 sites at Air Force operational installations that are funded by DERA, response is complete at 2,004. At 2,070 remaining sites, investigation, design, or cleanup actions are in progress.
The Air Force completed 156 interim actions in FY96, bringing the total number of interim actions completed at operational installations to 623 at 623 sites.
During FY96, the number of response complete site determinations based on cleanup activities at operational installations increased by 176 sites from FY95. The number of no further action or response complete site determinations based on appropriate investigations and analysis at operational installations increased by 211 sites from FY95.



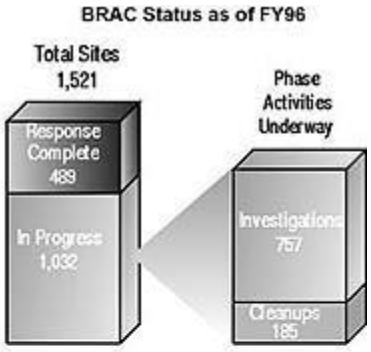


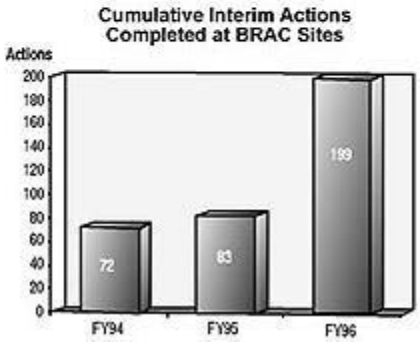


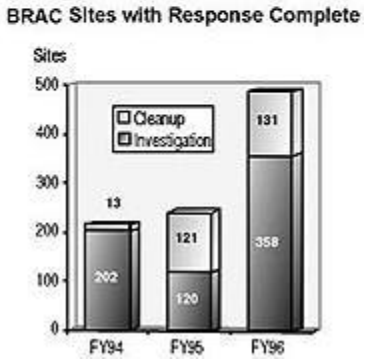
Of the 1,521 sites at Air Force BRAC installations, response is compete at 489. At 1,032 remaining sites, investigation, design, or cleanup actions are in progress.

In FY96, the Air Force completed 116 interim actions, bringing the total number of interim actions completed at BRAC installations to 199 at 199 sites.

During FY96, the number of response complete site determinations based on cleanup activities at BRAC installations increased by 10 sites from FY95. The number of no further action or response complete site determinations based on appropriate investigations and analysis at BRAC installations increased by 238 sites from FY95.


BRAC Status as of FY96
Total Sites
1,521
Response Complete
489
In Progress
1,032
Phase Activities Underway
Investigations
757
Cleanups
185


Cumulative Interim Actions Completed at BRAC Sites
Actions
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
72
83
199
FY94
FY95
FY96


BRAC Sites with Response Complete
Sites
500
400
300
200
100
0
Cleanup
Investigation
13
202
121
120
131
358
FY94
FY95
FY96