

RAB Activities

Three hundred thirty-two installations in the United States and its territories are participating in RABs. These advisory boards contribute to DoD's environmental cleanup program in a number of ways. For example, RABs contribute by reviewing cleanup plans and technical documents, providing comments and advice on cleanup issues, and improving community understanding of, and support for, DoD's cleanup program. RABs also are effective in establishing partnerships among interested parties and often develop "how to" information or lessons learned.

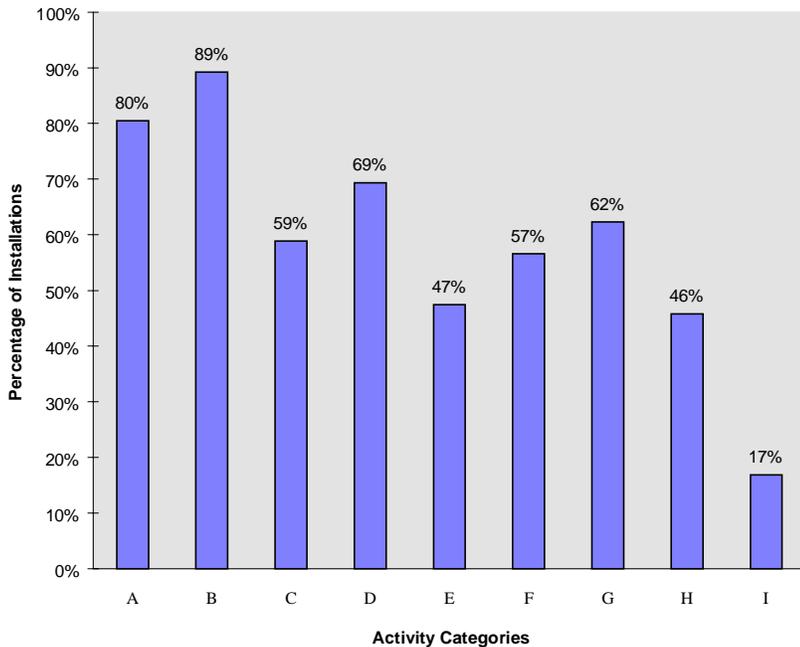
The majority of the installations reporting in FY97 indicated that their RABs participate in reviewing plans and technical documents, as well as providing comments or advice on

cleanup issues. In fact, at 57 percent of reporting installations, RABs provided significant advice that affected the scope or schedule of environmental study or cleanup. This indicates that RABs are developing a stronger understanding of and interest in the cleanup process. As RABs mature, many not only want to review environmental documents, but also want to be involved in planning. Drawing on

| Component | # of RABs | # of Installations |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Army | 58 | 58 |
| Army National Guard | 1 | 1 |
| Navy | 97 | 114 |
| Air Force | 97 | 123 |
| Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) | 4 | 4 |
| Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) | 21 | 32 |
| Total | 278 | 332 |

* Several military installations are in close proximity to each other and share similar environmental issues affecting the same communities. In these cases, joint RABs have been established. Therefore, the number of installations participating is greater than the number of operating RABs. There are 24 joint RABs.

Summary of RAB Activities



- Activity Categories**
- A = Reviewed plans and technical documents
 - B = Provided comments or advice
 - C = Received training
 - D = Established operating procedures
 - E = Participated in or reviewed site relative risk evaluations
 - F = Provided advice that affected scope or schedule of studies/cleanup
 - G = Improved installation credibility
 - H = Established partnerships among interested parties
 - I = Developed "how to" information or lessons learned

Total Number of Installations Reporting

297

*RAB meeting
Nansemond Ordnance Depot, VA*



Participating in Site and Project Prioritization

FUDS Property Nansemond Ordnance Depot Suffolk, Virginia

The newly established RAB at the former Nansemond Ordnance Depot has been making its presence felt almost from its beginning. The former Nansemond Ordnance Depot, a FUDS project, recycled conventional weapons during World Wars I and II. Now the site is being used by several companies, including General Electric Company and Dominion Lands, and by Tidewater Community College.

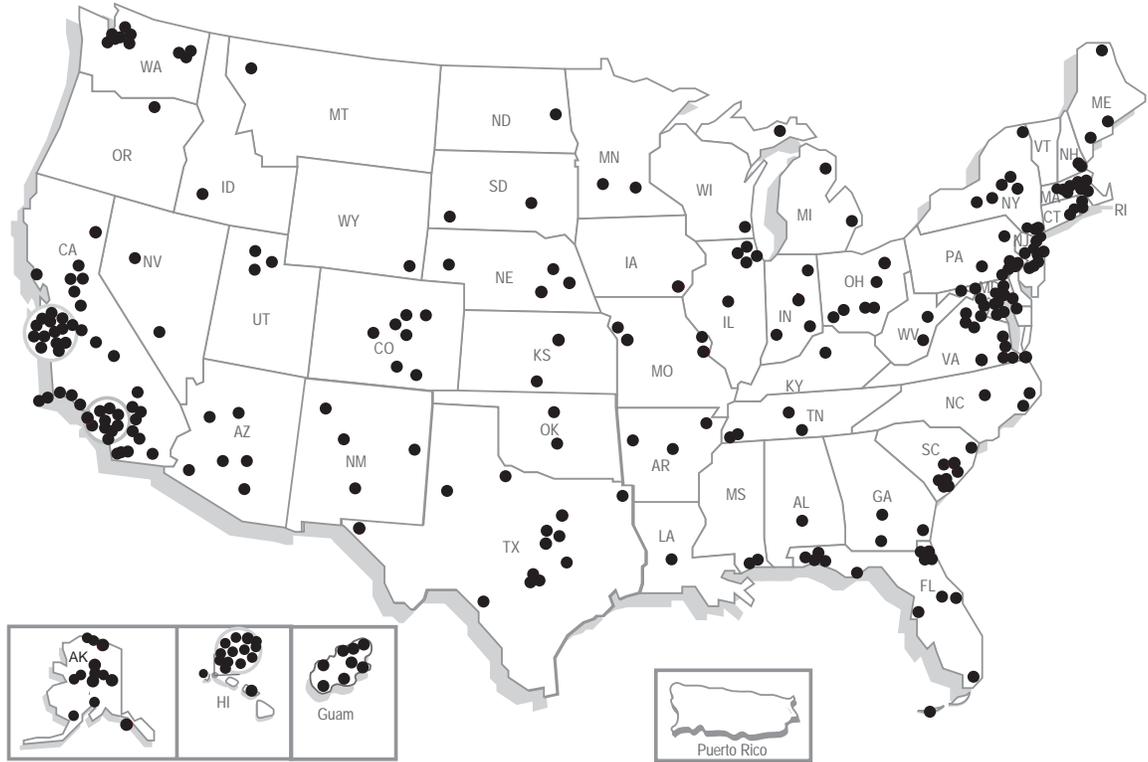
The board was formally established in April 1997 and its 15 community members reflect the community's diverse interests. Upon its creation, the RAB immediately established general operating procedures. Six months later, it sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) requesting that a number of projects receive funding during FY98. As a result of that tangible community interest, the USACE's North Atlantic Division provided funding for additional cleanup work.

"For the government to step up and say we are going to include the community in the planning process is a beautiful thing and is very important," said Marian "Bea" Rogers, Nansemond Ordnance Depot RAB community co-chair. "It is important for the community to be able to provide input on cleanup priorities, timing, and issues which have local impact. This forum allows us to work together to collectively identify ways to minimize impact from the cleanup effort at the former Nansemond Ordnance Depot site on local community development efforts under way."



Project information on Nansemond Ordnance Depot is available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/oew/oefact.sht/factshts/nansod.html>

Locations of Installations Participating in RABs



their experience and knowledge of the community’s perspective, they help make the cleanup program more effective. RABs have affected the scope and schedule of cleanup. They have done so by providing information about past disposal practices, by forming committees to extensively review technical documents and to provide comments and suggestions, and by voicing community concerns.

RAB Input on Cleanup Issues

When making decisions about the cleanup approach at a site, DoD considers the advice of its RABs. For example, at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, the RAB provided input on the prioritization of site cleanups and participated openly and constructively in the discussion of contaminated soil and groundwater issues. As a result of the RAB’s input, the Air Force decided to reorganize and reprioritize its list of sites requiring cleanup. The reorganization ultimately facilitated program planning and accelerated the cleanup program schedule by 2 years. Such advice from RABs is helping DoD conduct environmental cleanup activities in a timely and cost-effective manner.



*RAB meeting
Fort Campbell, KY*



Cleanup Program in Action

Army Installation Fort Campbell, Kentucky

Because Fort Campbell is located on the border of Kentucky and Tennessee, its RAB contains representatives from communities and regulators in both states. The RAB was established in June 1996, and consists of 15 community members, 5 members from the installation, and 4 members representing regulatory agencies. The RAB meets monthly and has an average attendance of 18 members per meeting. “The value of the RAB to our restoration program is highly significant in that our relationship with the various communities, EPA, and the states of Kentucky and Tennessee has become, by way of productive and cooperative regular RAB meetings, a standard means of successfully working out differences and providing solutions to site cleanup problems,” said Dwayne Smith, Fort Campbell’s DoD co-chair.

Fort Campbell’s major cleanup issues are related to 30 oil pits in both states and potential petroleum contamination at Campbell Army Airfield. The installation is considering using a number of technologies to clean up these sites, including hot-spot removal of the contaminated soil and in situ treatment of groundwater using hydrogen peroxide.

Formal educational presentations for the RAB members not only provided information on current restoration activities at the installation, but also presented an historical perspective on past operations that have contributed to current cleanup issues. This training process gave members a broader and fuller understanding of cleanup efforts at the installation in a relatively short time.

The first function the RAB performed was to review a RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) that was under way at the time of the RAB’s formation. The RFA characterized contamination at 12 sites. To review and comment on the draft report, the board was broken down into three committees with each committee looking at four sites. This approach led to an in-depth analysis of the RFA.

RAB comments on the report were very helpful and prompted the installation to more clearly explain the results of the investigation, and to better identify sites where additional investigation was required. The RAB comments were incorporated into the installation’s response to comments, which was provided to the regulatory agencies.

Fort Campbell’s RAB was also involved in reviewing environmental cleanup planning documents called “installation action plans.” Through their input, the RAB members also helped establish priorities for site cleanup.

The RAB at Fort McClellan in Alabama has grown and increased its involvement in the Army's cleanup program. This RAB was established in FY96 and in its first year of operation reported that it had reviewed plans and received training. In FY97, the RAB expanded its contribution by providing comments and advice on cleanup issues.



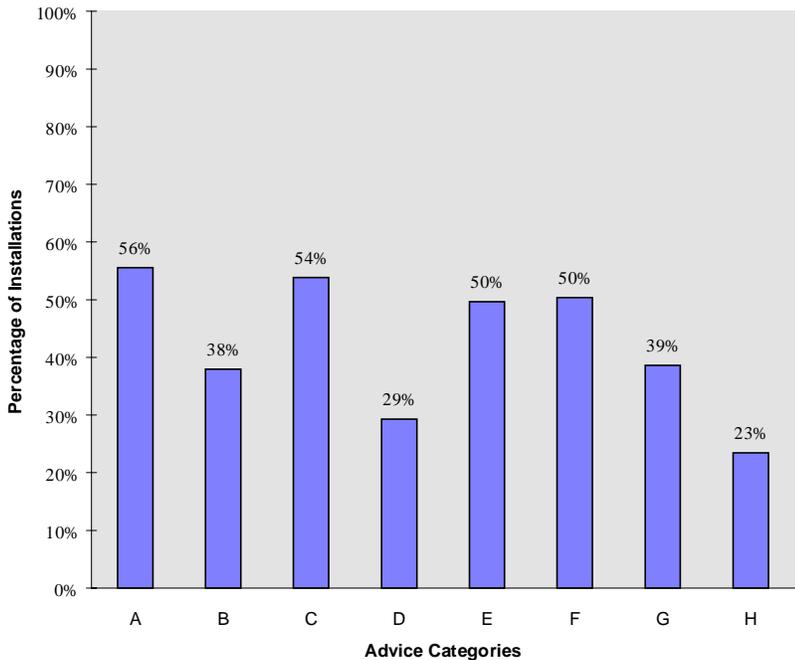
RAB members examine a groundwater monitoring well to obtain better understanding of site investigation techniques at Fort McClellan, AL

The majority of installations reported that their RABs had received training (59 percent), improved installation credibility with the community (62 percent), and established operating procedures (69 percent). Forty-six percent of the installations reported that true partnerships had been established among interested parties. Some RABs (17 percent of reporting installations) were developing "how to" information or lessons learned that could benefit other RABs. The number of RABs establishing operating procedures and participating in or reviewing site relative risk evaluations was slightly higher in FY97 than in FY96. Since developing operating procedures is one of the first tasks performed by new RABs, this slight increase may be associated with the 28 new RABs formed in FY97.

RAB Advice

Advice provided by RAB members is important to the success of DoD's cleanup program. Furthermore, an understanding of the technical aspects of environmental cleanup is critical to a RAB's success. As RABs mature and obtain a greater understanding of the technical aspects of environmental cleanup, the level and the

Summary of RAB Advice



Advice Categories
 A = Scope of studies
 B = Work plan priorities
 C = Site priorities
 D = Relative risk evaluation
 E = Remedy selection
 F = Study or cleanup schedule
 G = Future land use
 H = Other

Total Number of Installations Reporting
290



*RAB meeting place
Weldon Springs Ordnance Works, MO*



Project information on Weldon Springs Ordnance Works is available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.mrk.usace.army.mil/weldon/weldon.html>



Acting as Resource for the Community

FUDS Property Weldon Spring Ordnance Works, Missouri

The 27 community members of the former Weldon Spring Ordnance Works RAB are serious about keeping the community informed of the cleanup efforts at this FUDS project near St. Charles, Missouri.

Weldon Spring Ordnance Works is a former explosives production facility that manufactured trinitrotoluene (TNT) and dinitrotoluene (DNT) for use during World War II. Past chemical disposal practices may have resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. To clean up the site, the USACE and the Army are planning to excavate contaminated soil for on-site incineration while other soil will be stabilized and disposed of in a landfill.

To better understand the technical issues associated with the cleanup, USACE provided RAB members with technical training in areas where the members felt they needed additional information. With a stronger technical understanding, the RAB members are better equipped to provide accurate information to the community. "Information flows freely from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to the RAB," said Ronald Robinson, Weldon Spring RAB community co-chair. "Whenever a technical question comes up that we can't answer, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been very willing to provide that information for us."

Installation cleanup information has been shared with the community through public meetings, open houses, information meetings, focus groups, poster stations, and development of a professional videotape. Fact sheets, project newsletters, and a web site also provide information to the public. "By keeping the community involved and informed in the day-to-day activities, we have gained its trust and respect," said Steven Iverson, USACE project manager and DoD co-chair. Iverson commented that public concern about delays and cost escalations on the project has been nonexistent because of this proactive approach.

In addition to the RAB and the traditional community outreach efforts, a formal partnering agreement was signed among all interested parties. The agreement established a common vision and spelled out the various steps that had to be included to accomplish the five major goals of trust and mutual respect, open communication, safety, cost-effectiveness, and timeliness.

significance of the advice they provide to DoD are expected to increase. Data indicate that the majority of the topics on which RABs provided advice in FY97 relate to the technical aspects of cleanup. These areas include the scope of environmental studies, site prioritization, remedy selection, and the site investigation or cleanup schedule. Installations also have reported that RABs have provided advice on relative risk evaluations and future land use. The data for FY97 indicate a slight increase in RAB advice in these areas compared with FY96. The area in which RAB advice increased the most was the scheduling of studies or cleanups (an increase of 18 percent). Again, this may be a result of RAB growth and RABs' increased role in planning.

Funding Level and Trends

According to data received from installations, DoD spent approximately \$4.9 million on RAB administrative activities during FY97. This is a slight increase over the \$4.5 million spent in FY96. The increase in expenditures can be attributed to increased RAB activity at many installations and the addition of 28 new RABs in FY97. Both require increased administrative support.

Typical installations spent an average of \$19,000 on administrative expenses for RABs in FY97. Examples of these administrative expenses are meeting announcements; preparation of agendas; meeting materials and minutes; production of documents for RAB members; meeting logistics; and facilitators.

RABs generally seem to be performing at a higher level than they have achieved in previous years. As previously mentioned, many RABs participated in program training and have become more familiar with cleanup issues.

These mature RABs are now able to provide more detailed and informative advice on cleanup issues than they could when they were first established. The knowledge that these RABs have acquired also makes them better liaisons with their communities.

Twenty-eight new RABs were established in FY97. Almost all of these RABs received training, established operating procedures, and reviewed plans and technical documents in FY97. Several of the installations with new RABs also reported that the RAB has helped develop partnerships with interested parties and improved installation credibility with the community. A list of these new RABs is provided in the table on page 15.

Installations Without RABs

DoD asked installations that have not established RABs to explain why they do not need a RAB. The primary reason was a lack of outstanding environmental cleanup decisions or issues. These installations have virtually completed the necessary cleanup and no longer have a need for input on those issues. Other reasons for not establishing a RAB included lack of sufficient or sustained community interest, establishment of a TRC instead of a RAB, and location of the installation in a remote area with no community interest.

Number of New RABs Established in FY97: 28

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Army Fort Wainwright, AK Haines Pipeline, AK Sierra Army Depot, CA Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, IA Fort Riley, KS Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, MO Camp Kilmer, NJ USA Bellmore Maintenance Facility, NY Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant, OH Fort Bliss, TX</p> | <p>Navy Annapolis Naval Surface Warfare Center Bay Head Annex, MD Fishers Island Naval Warfare Center, RI Charleston Naval Weapons Station, SC Dallas Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant, TX McGregor Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant, TX</p> |
| <p>Air Force Cape Lisburne Long Range Radar Site, AK Fort Yukon Long Range Radar Site, AK Palmdale Airport, Plant 42, CA Bellows Air Force Station, HI Hickam Air Force Base, HI Hickam Petroleum, Oil, and Lubrication Facility, HI Barnes Municipal Airport, MA</p> | <p>FUDS Gerstle River Expansion Area, AK Weldon Springs Ordnance Works, MO Blaine Naval Ammunition Depot, NE Nebraska Ordnance Plant, NE Fort Totten Engineer School, NY Nansmond Ordnance Depot, VA</p> |

FY97 DoD RAB ACTIVITIES

During FY97, DoD continued activities begun during prior years and initiated a number of new activities in support of the RAB program.

The 1996 National Defense Authorization Act required DoD to develop regulations for RABs. DoD met this requirement by publishing the proposed RAB regulation in the *Federal Register* in August 1996. The regulation describes the establishment, composition, purpose, and funding of RABs and is designed to be consistent with existing DoD and EPA guidance on RABs.

In August 1996, DoD mailed the proposed regulation to more than 500 interested parties in DoD's environmental cleanup effort and requested that the Army, Navy, Air Force, and

DLA forward the regulation to their installations for review. By January 1997, DoD had received comments from local community members, states, EPA, and public interest organizations. DoD analyzed all comments on the draft regulation and incorporated them into the preparation of the draft final regulation. Currently, the draft final regulation is on hold pending resolution of administrative issues.

To increase communication among RABs, DoD developed and maintains a directory of RABs that includes the names and addresses of DoD and community co-chairs. During FY97, DoD began updating its RAB directory to reflect current RAB leadership. This update will help RABs that want to share information and lessons learned with other RABs. The directory can

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 |