Environmental Restoration Program Community Relations Plan

Robins Air Force Base, Georgia

prepared for



US Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District and Air Force Civil Engineer Center

submitted by

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and

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND OFFICE SYMBOLS

ABW	Air Base Wing
ACW	Air Control Wing
AFB	Air Force Base
AFCEC	Air Force Civil Engineer Center
AFMC	Air Force Materiel Command
ALC	Air Logistics Center
AOC	Area of Concern
AP	Advanced Placement
ARB	Air Reserve Base
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
BCE	Before the Common Era
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CEG	Civil Engineer Group
CENTER	Warner Robins Air Logistics Center
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability
	Act
CRP	Community Relations Plan
CMI	Corrective Measures Implementation
CMS	Corrective Measures Study
DoD	Department of Defense
EAB	Environmental Advisory Board
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
ft²	square feet
FY	Fiscal Year
ga doe	Georgia Department of Education
ga epd	Georgia Environmental Protection Division
GSBA	Georgia School Board Association
HRS	Hazard Ranking System
HWMU	Hazardous Waste Management Unit
IRA	Interim Remedial Action
IROD/RAs	Interim Record of Decision/Removal Actions
JSTARS	Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System
LF04	Landfill No. 4
LTM	Long-term Monitoring
MDS/SGPB	Bioenvironmental Engineering Services
MXW	Maintenance Wing
N/A	Not Applicable
NFA	No Further Action
NFRAP	No Further Response Action Planned
NMSI	National Math and Science Initiative
NPL	National Priorities List



O&M	Operations and Maintenance
ORC	Optimized Remediation Contract
OU	Operable Unit
PA	Public Affairs
PA/SI	Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation
PBR	Performance-Based Remediation
PCE	Perchloroethene, also known as Perchloroethylene
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
PP/ROD	Proposed Plan/Record of Decision
RA	Remedial Action
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RD	Remedial Design
RFA/PSA	RCRA Facility Assessment/Potential Source Assessment
RFI	RCRA Facility Investigation
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
RIP	Remedy in Place
ROD	Record of Decision
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
TCE	Trichloroethene, also known as Trichloroethylene
U.S.	United States
USAF	United States Air Force
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WP14	Sludge Lagoon and Waste Pit 14
WR-ALC	Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex



Section 1 Introduction

Recognizing the importance of public involvement in cleanup programs, this Community Relations Plan (CRP) has been developed for Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB or base) to provide information on the two-way communication mechanisms established between the base and the local communities. The plan documents the level of awareness and interest concerning the cleanup process.

The purpose of this CRP is to continue sharing knowledge and encouraging community participation related to the cleanup of environmental contamination at Robins Air Force Base. This CRP reflects the specific interests, priorities, and opinions of individuals from the local communities.



Annual CRP updates keep the community informed as the program progresses. Environmental cleanup activities at Robins AFB are part of a larger Department of Defense (DoD) environmental program entitled the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). ERP activities are primarily governed by two federal laws; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). CERCLA establishes the legal requirements for identifying, investigating, and cleaning up inactive hazardous waste sites. RCRA requires corrective action for releases of hazardous waste or constituents from past or present practices and operations that pose a threat to human health and the environment from any Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) at a storage, treatment, or disposal facility with a RCRA permit. Information concerning the ERP process and the specific cleanup activities at Robins AFB is provided in Section 2.0. Section 2.0 also describes the location, history, and mission of Robins AFB.

This CRP reflects the specific interests, priorities, and opinions of individuals from the local communities. Information was gathered from interviews conducted every two years from 1996 to 2022 throughout local cities including Warner Robins, Centerville, Perry, Byron, Fort Valley, and Macon (interviews were not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Interviewees have included representatives of local municipalities, the business community, as well as members of the Robins AFB Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), rechartered in June 2006 as the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB). These interviews were conducted by a representative of Robins AFB and an independent consultant. A summary of the results of these interviews and profiles of the various communities are presented in Section 3.0. A summary of the EAB and its relationship to the local communities is also provided in Section 3.0.

Section 4.0 identifies the community relations goals and objectives and associated activities that have taken place over the last several years, as well as future objectives to improve two-way communication between Robins AFB and the various area communities. The structure and function of the EAB is described in Section 4.0.

Following these sections, the remainder of this document consists of the following appendices that contain supporting information:

Appendix A Community Relations Contacts

Lists names, addresses, and phone numbers of the central point of contact for the public, key Robins AFB representatives, federal and state agencies, local elected officials, and EAB membership.



Appendix B Public Information Locations



Lists the locations of the information repository and the administrative record that contains documents related to the Robins AFB ERP and lists information on recommended locations for public meetings.

Appendix C EAB Fact Sheets

Presents EAB Update Flyers and Fact Sheets produced in 2022.



EAB Update Flyers (top) and EAB Fact Sheets (bottom) were distributed in 2022. The public's point of contact for questions is the Robins AFB Public Affairs (PA) Office. The contact information for the PA office is provided below:

Public Affairs Office 78 ABW/PA 620 9th Street, Suite 230, Robins AFB, Georgia 31098

Phone: (478) 926-2137



Section 2 Description of Robins AFB and the ERP

The purposes of this section are to describe the location, history, and mission of Robins AFB and to review the nature and extent of environmental issues at the base, including the objectives of Robins AFB's ERP activities and specific details on environmental sites.

2.1 BASE DESCRIPTION

2.1.1 Location

Robins AFB is located in the geographic center of Georgia, adjacent to the city of Warner Robins, within Houston County (see Figure 2-1). The base is 16 miles south of Macon and 100 miles south of Atlanta. Interstate I-75, United States (U.S.) Highways 41 and 341, and state highways 247 and 11 are the primary transportation links to the neighboring communities of Warner Robins and Centerville to the west, Perry to the south, Fort Valley to the southwest, Byron to the northwest, and Macon to the north. The Ocmulgee River borders the base on the east. The base covers approximately 7,000 acres of upper coastal plain, of which 2,200 acres are jurisdictional wetlands. The base also owns two parcels of land in Huber, Georgia (11 acres) and Jeffersonville, Georgia (0.8 acres).

The base consists of approximately 3.4 million square feet (ft^2) of maintenance shops, 1.8 million ft^2 of administrative space, and 5.9 million ft^2 of storage space. The base's runway is the second largest in Georgia, measuring 12,000 feet long by 300 feet wide, with two 1,000-foot overruns.

2.1.2 History

Robins AFB traces its history to June 1941, when Macon city fathers and civic leaders, with the help of U.S. Representative Carl Vinson, influenced the U.S. War Department to construct an Army Air Corps supply and maintenance depot in Houston County. The site was adjacent to the small town of Wellston, which at that time had a population of 47 families. The defense buildup preceding World War II was under way, and the Middle Georgia area was chosen primarily because it had land for an airfield, an abundance of pure water from artesian wells, and an abundant labor pool. These were important points to consider in 1941 when emphasis was on speed of construction.



Robins AFB is located in the

geographic center of Georgia.

First Headquarters Building at Robins AFB, 1942

Ground was broken officially on September 1, 1941, by the first depot commander, Colonel Charles E. "Steve" Thomas, and leading members of the Macon and Middle Georgia business and political communities. Officially dedicated on April 26, 1943, Robins Air Force Base, originally known as Robins Field (named after Brigadier General Augustine Warner Robins), played a key role in winning World War II. Robins AFB has hosted numerous units and organizations and even a major command. The primary function of the base has always been to act as the home of an Army Air Corps, then Air Force, Depot. Originally known as the Georgia Air Depot, it was renamed several times, as follows: the Southeast Air Depot, Wellston Air Depot, Wellston Army Air Depot, Warner Robins Army Air Depot, Warner Robins Air Service Command, and Warner Robins Air Technical Service Command. At the end of World War II, as its function changed and satellite bases were closed, the name changed several additional times. In 1946, the Depot became the Warner Robins Air Materiel Area, and the installation was renamed to Robins AFB in 1948 after the Air Force became a separate service. The Depot designation changed again



in April 1974 when its new world-wide responsibilities led it to be renamed the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center (Center).

The decades following World War II were a time of challenge and change for the base. After World War II, the employee population was reduced. During the Korean War, Robins AFB workers swiftly and heroically retooled and fitted hundreds of mothballed B-29s, which played a key role in saving the Republic of South Korea from Communist aggression. In the 1960s and 1970s, Robins AFB played an important part in the Southeast Asia "Pipeline," which supplied vital materiel to U.S. troops fighting in Vietnam. The changing requirements of a "Jet Age" Air Force added a new dimension to the logistics challenge and led to the development of Robins AFB as an avionics center and a huge, sprawling complex of diverse missions supporting the United States Air Force (USAF) worldwide. That support was called upon once again during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Middle East. C-141 aircraft managed by the Center were the backbone of the airlift to Saudi Arabia. C-130s, also managed by the Center, provided valuable transport capabilities for the allied forces. Workers surged parts needed to keep aircraft flying and accelerated the maintenance and repair of aircraft vital to the war effort. Another Robins AFB responsibility, the F-15 Eagle, proved its superiority during repeated air strikes over the Persian Gulf.

During operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Middle East, aircraft managed by the WR-ALC were the backbone of the airlift to Saudi Arabia. To better achieve an operational sustainment process, Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) leadership decided in 2004 to reorganize the entire Command along more military lines. In this process, the Air Logistic Centers were divided into new unit organizations that changed directorates into wings, divisions into groups, and branches into squadrons. From 2004 to 2012, the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center had two Wings [the 78th Air Base Wing (78ABW) and the 402d Maintenance Wing (402MXW)] and the Aerospace Sustainment Directorate. In 2012, AFMC leadership again reorganized the Command, and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center was redesignated as the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex (WR-ALC), and it became part of the Air Force Sustainment Center based at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma.

The history at Robins AFB also included past waste disposal practices that were standard for the times. These practices sometimes led to unintended environmental contamination. Though these practices have long since been discontinued, the ERP efforts today are targeted at total cleanup from this past contamination. Table 2-1 references the history of base operations at Robins AFB.

2.1.3 Military Mission

The WR-ALC has worldwide management and engineering responsibility for the repair, modification, and overhaul of the F-15 Eagle, C-130 Hercules, C-5 Galaxy, U-2 Dragon Lady, Special Operations aircraft and helicopters, and analytical condition inspection and system support management for the C-17 Globemaster III.

Among its missions, the WR-ALC determines the spare parts, supplies, and equipment needed to support the weapon systems and commodities for which it has management responsibility. The WR-ALC budgets for, purchases, distributes, maintains, and repairs these weapon systems and commodities. The WR-ALC is logistics manager for the F-15 Eagle, C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft, and C-5 Galaxy aircraft; the U-2 Dragon Lady; 11 cargo and utility aircraft; four helicopters; three remotely piloted vehicles; and missiles. The WR-ALC manages more than 200,000 items to support these systems. The WR-ALC performs sustainment repairs and programmed depot maintenance on the AC-130 fixed-wing gunship. Robins AFB is also the exclusive technology repair center for airborne electronics, gyros, and life



The changing requirements of

a "Jet Age" Air Force added a

the development of Robins

AFB as an avionics center and

a huge, sprawling complex of

diverse missions supporting the USAF worldwide.

new dimension to the logistics challenge and led to

support systems for the USAF; it houses one of the largest repair facilities in the world. The WR-ALC has various shops (plating, machining, metal bonding, etc.), which support major workload activities.

Robins AFB is the main U.S. operating base for the E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (J-STARS) aircraft, which gained national attention during the Persian Gulf War for its ability to detect, locate, and track stationary and slow-moving ground targets. During 1996, as part of this mission, the base became home to more than 2,400 additional personnel.

In 1996, the 116th Fighter Wing, formerly located at Dobbins Air Reserve Base (ARB) in Georgia, converted from F-15A/B aircraft to the B-1 Bomber, became the 116th Bomb Wing, and relocated to Robins AFB. This transition involved a construction program of \$110 million and more than 1,100 new personnel. The 116th became the operational unit for the E-8C J-STARS in 2002 when the B-1 bombers were relocated from Robins AFB. The 116th Bomb Wing and the 93rd Air Control Wing (ACW) merged to become the 116th ACW on September 30, 2001. Ten years later, on September 30, 2011, the 116th ACW, which consisted of both guard and active duty personnel, de-blended and its sister unit, the 461st ACW was formed. The two Wings are known today as Team JSTARS. In 2010, the Marine Corps Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 (HMLA-773), formerly located at Naval Air Station Atlanta in Georgia, relocated to Robins AFB. The Marines departed Robins AFB beginning in July 2016 to join the parent unit in New Jersey. Robins AFB provides support to worldwide customers for over 300 airborne electronics systems. This support involves integrated program management, engineering, and software services, as well as hardware repair for radar, infrared, communications, laser, navigation, and electro-optics systems.

Concurrently, Robins AFB is home to 54 mission partners, covering five major commands and three wings. Major units include:

- Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command;
- Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex;
- 78th Air Base Wing;
- 116th Air Control Wing;
- 461st Air Control Wing;
- 5th Combat Communications Group; and
- 638th Supply Chain Management Group.

There are also a number of Defense Logistics Agency and Air Force Life Cycle Management Center activities, as well as a number of smaller units and organizations which are important to the base, Air Force, and DoD.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

The ERP is modeled after CERCLA, passed by Congress in 1980, and SARA, passed in 1986. Both of these laws establish the legal requirements for identifying, investigating, and cleaning up hazardous waste sites. Most ERP sites at Robins AFB are regulated under RCRA. One National Priorities List (NPL) site (consisting of two ERP sites) is regulated under CERCLA. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) guidelines are applied in conducting investigation and remediation work in the ERP, whether under CERCLA/SARA or RCRA. The ERP at Robins AFB is



The center has worldwide management and engineering responsibility for the repair, modification, and overhaul of numerous aircraft and helicopters.



implemented and managed by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC)/CZOE – Robins Installation Support Section.

2.2.1 The ERP Process

Although the fundamental objectives and processes of both the CERCLA and RCRA corrective action programs are essentially the same, there are subtle differences in the processes used to implement the RCRA and CERCLA corrective action requirements. Figure 2-2 defines the primary steps of the ERP process under both of these corrective action programs.

2.2.2 Regulatory Participation in the ERP Process

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) is the state agency involved with the ERP process at Robins AFB and provides regulatory oversight and review for the RCRA sites. Under RCRA, the GA EPD has been delegated authority to manage hazardous waste in the state. As such, the GA EPD has primary regulatory authority for permitting hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities in the state of Georgia and for corrective action at identified SWMUs and Areas of Concern (AOCs) that are located on those facilities. Because the base is a large quantity generator of hazardous waste and has a permit allowing storage of hazardous waste on the facility, a compliance officer has been assigned. The compliance officer is required to annually inspect the facility, manage, and modify the base's RCRA permit; review documents/reports; and interpret regulatory requirements as needed. Other staff members from the GA EPD, such as hydrogeologists and risk assessors, assist the compliance officer as needed.

The Air Force is the lead agency for remedial activities involved with the ERP process focused on cleanup of the CERCLA site at Robins AFB, with concurrence by the US EPA and the GA EPD. In accordance with Section 120 of CERCLA, the Air Force has negotiated a Federal Facility Agreement with the US EPA and the GA EPD to establish a procedural framework and schedule for developing, implementing, and monitoring appropriate response actions at the site in accordance with CERCLA, the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan, and the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Act. The AFCEC/CZOE – Robins Installation Support Section is responsible for remediating the NPL site at the base, and as such has assigned a Restoration Project Manager for this site. The US EPA and the GA EPD have each also assigned a Restoration Project Manager for this site restoration is in compliance with CERCLA and State requirements.

2.2.3 Community Participation under the ERP Process

The DoD believes that the earlier the public is involved in the ERP process, the sooner their concerns can be incorporated into the cleanup process. The public involvement effort is generally composed of the following activities:

- community interviews;
- publication of a CRP;
- quarterly EAB meetings;
- establishment of a public information repository where citizens have access to technical documents and other materials related to the ERP;
- release of public information materials; and
- public meetings.

The community relations program is discussed in Section 4.0 of this CRP. The



The EAB was established to create a forum allowing local communities, Robins AFB, and regulatory agencies to work together with the common goal of sustaining our shared environment. All interested parties are invited to attend quarterly meetings.



community participation process adheres to guidelines established by the US EPA.

Robins AFB recognizes the importance of involving the public in the environmental restoration process. The EAB was established to serve as a forum so that people in the local communities can be involved with Robins AFB and regulatory agencies working toward providing stewardship for our shared environment. Interested parties are invited to attend each meeting. The EAB is described in Section 4.1. Throughout this document, except in historical references where the organization was the RAB, the term EAB is used.

2.3 ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE ERP

2.3.1 Restoration Background

In Fiscal Year (FY) 1982, Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigations (PA/SIs) were completed for 33 sites at Robins AFB. The most significant is the NPL site, consisting of Landfill No. 4 (LF04) and the Sludge Lagoon/Waste Pit 14 (WP14). The site is divided into three operable units (OUs): LF04 and WP14 contaminant source areas (OU1), wetlands (OU2), and groundwater (OU3). Primary contaminants at the site include trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) in soil and groundwater.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) activities were conducted at the NPL site in FY1986 and FY1988. An Interim Record of Decision (IROD) was completed in FY1991 for OU1, in FY1994 for OU2, and in FY1995 for OU3. In FY1993, the installation constructed run-on controls and completed the pilot-scale system for lagoon solidification at OU1. In FY1994, the installation completed Phase I of the Leachate Collection System. In FY1995, a pilot system for the Phase II Leachate Collection System was constructed. In FY1996, the following projects were completed: Full-scale Phase II Leachate Collection System Design, Sludge Lagoon Solidification, OU2 Sediment Containment Design, and Remedial Design (RD) for the Groundwater Treatment Facility for the NPL site. In FY1998, construction was completed on the Groundwater Treatment Facility for OU3 and the Base Industrial Area Site, as well as the OU1 Cover. The final Record of Decision (ROD) for OU1 and OU3 was signed in September 2004. A risk assessment for OU2 was completed in December 2000. In 2003, it was determined that contamination found in OU2 was not attributed to releases from the NPL site. Therefore, remediation in the wetlands is no longer being addressed under CERCLA but was completed in compliance with the RCRA Corrective Action Program. A CERCLA-mandated five-year ROD review, the fifth involving the NPL site, was completed, and the final document was approved in 2021.

Since the ERP was initiated, Robins AFB has identified 86 environmental sites. The Base's aggressive restoration program has resulted in receiving decisions of "No Further Action" (NFA) from the GA EPD on 59 of these sites. Robins AFB environmental cleanup program documents are available to the public to learn more about the restoration site activities and requirements on the Air Force Administrative Record website (see Appendix B for website information).

Robins AFB has achieved unique success among Air Force installations in the aggressive implementation and management of the ERP. Robins AFB achieved Remedy-in-Place (RIP) at all ERP sites seven years ahead of Air Force goals. The base was the first Air Logistics Complex to reach this milestone and has been recognized as having a restoration program that is "one of the best in the Air Force" by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health.

In 2011, Robins AFB awarded a Performance-Based Remediation (or PBR) Contract



for the remaining active restoration sites. The performance-based cleanup contract for Robins AFB had a period of performance of nine years. In 2020, the Air Force awarded an Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) to continue remediation activities at the restoration sites. The ORC is also a performance-based contract.

The legacy environmental sites at Robins AFB are listed on Figure 2-3A. Figure 2-3A also shows the location of these sites and the current status of restoration at each legacy site. Figure 2-3B shows the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) sites that have been identified in recent years by the Air Force. PFAS are man-made chemicals that have unique properties that make them non-reactive and stable. They were commonly used by the Air Force for surface coatings and in aqueous filmforming foam (AFFF) to fight fires. There are no formal clean-up standards yet, but the Air Force has been actively investigating sites that may have PFAS. No PFAS have been identified in drinking water at Robins AFB. At Robins AFB, a Preliminary Assessment was completed in May 2015, which included a records review to identify potential sites. Then in 2017, a Site Inspection was conducted to collect soil and groundwater samples. Based on these results, shallow soil and groundwater PFAS contamination was identified at the 19 sites show on Figure -23B. In August 2022, a contract was awarded to conduct a Remedial Investigation, with the goal of further delineating the vertical and horizontal extent of the PFAS contamination at these sites.

2.3.2 Installation Commitment to Environmental Quality

Since about 1970, national leaders have realized that environmental protection and resource conservation are critical to sustainable national prosperity. Similarly, the DoD realized that protecting the environment, as well as worker health and safety, was essential to remaining a world power. The role of preserving freedom goes hand-in-hand with protecting the world's environment.

Robins AFB and the WR-ALC fulfill a key role in national defense. The Base has structured the restoration program around the Air Force Environmental Mission Statement for Readiness: sustain operational readiness through environmental excellence. This mission statement ensures that proper environmental practices are followed so that aircraft depot maintenance is not interrupted.

The installation is committed to effective stewardship of environmental excellence. The restoration program's responsibilities encompass the four major pillars of the environmental program at Robins AFB: cleanup of environmental sites (*restoration*) [the focus of this document], compliance with all current environmental laws and regulations (*compliance*), ensuring the preservation and protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources associated with the installation (*conservation*), and proactively ensuring a minimum impact on the environment from future base operations by aggressive optimization of processes and material uses (*pollution prevention*). Robins AFB personnel are further ensuring, through an active partnering program, that product directorates on base are working with the environmental staff to make weapons systems more "green" so they are safer and easier to maintain.

The resources allocated by Robins AFB continue to assure that the installation's commitment to environmental quality and stewardship is maintained and enhanced. In 2013 and 2015, Robins AFB was recognized for the strength of the environmental program as the recipient of the Secretary of Defense Environmental Quality Award.



The major milestone of achievement of RIP at all ERP sites was briefed to EAB members, as well as presented at a public conference.



Section 3 Community Overview

3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

This section summarizes the profile of the local area and communities that influence, and are influenced by, Robins AFB. An area location map is shown on Figure 2-1.

3.1.1 Area History

Houston County

Houston (pronounced "Howston") County was named after John Houston, a famous Georgia congressional representative, governor, and judge. Following a treaty with the Creek Indians, the county was first laid out in 1821, with the Ocmulgee River as its eastern boundary, the Flint River on the west, and extending north as far as current-day Macon and south opposite the town of Hartford. The original Houston County encompassed all or parts of the city of Macon and the present-day Bibb, Crawford, Upson, Peach, Macon, and Pulaski Counties. The 1820s saw Houston County's area reduced when Bibb and Crawford Counties were given a large piece of the northern side of Houston's territory, Peach County was given a northwestern portion, and Pulaski County received sections from the south and southeast. In 1837, Macon County was created, taking from Houston a large part of the western territory.

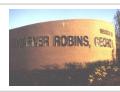
Perry, the county seat, was settled in 1823 and named in honor of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry of the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie fame. Centerville appeared on area maps as early as 1888 and was chartered as a city in 1958. Until World War II, Warner Robins was a tiny community of 47 people known as Wellston. On June 14, 1941, it was selected as the site for an Army Air Corps Depot, and on March 5, 1943, the new community of Warner Robins was officially chartered and incorporated.

Peach County

Peach County was formed in 1923. Fort Valley, the county seat, was incorporated in 1856, but had a post office as early as 1825. Originally known as Fox Valley, a clerical error changed the name to Fort Valley. A newspaper article dated September 1925 boasted that "Fort Valley is the point from which more peaches are shipped annually than any other point on earth." Byron, formerly in Houston County, was incorporated in 1874, named after the English poet of the same name. Byron's early history and growth were closely linked to the historic Byron Rail Depot, which was an important railroad center for both passenger travel and peach shipping.

Bibb County

The Macon-Bibb County area has a long and interesting history. Macon is located on Georgia's Fall Line, where the Piedmont region meets the flat Coastal Plains. This area is also the site of the Ocmulgee Old Fields, which were home to Creek native tribes and their predecessors for as long as 12,000 years before European settlers arrived. Archaeological excavations at the Ocmulgee National Monument indicate the presence of Native American settlements beginning about 8,000 years Before the Common Era (BCE). Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto recorded the first Christian baptism on the "new continent" during his explorations in the area in 1540. His priests baptized two Native Americans in the Ocmulgee River near the funeral and



Gateway to Warner Robins, home of Robins AFB, in Houston County.



temple mounds at Ocmulgee National Monument.

In 1806, after the Creeks ceded their lands east of the Ocmulgee River, Fort Hawkins was built as a trading post and for the protection of settlers moving across the Southeast. Following treaties with the Native Americans in 1821, Bibb County was created in 1822 and Macon, incorporated in 1823, was designated as the county seat. The first college in the world for women, Georgia Female College (now Wesleyan College) was chartered in Macon in 1836. During the Civil War, Macon resisted two attacks by Union troops but was occupied by the Federals in 1865. A Confederate depository was located in Macon, as well as foundries and munitions plants.

3.1.2 Municipal Demographics

Population

Houston County continues to exhibit significant growth, as documented by several state and federal sources, with a 26.3 percent increase in population from 2000 to 2010 (factfinder2.census.gov) and another 19.2 percent increase from 2010 to 2021 (data.census.gov). Both Peach County and Bibb County grew from 2000 to 2010 (17 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively) and again from 2010 to 2021 (2.6 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively). Long-term population projections indicate an increase in Houston County, a decrease in Bibb County, and a slight increase in Peach County over the next four years. Table 3-1 provides more detailed recent population data for the three counties, as well as select cities in the vicinity of the base.

The largest Houston County racial/ethnic groups are White (9.1%), Black (33.8%), and Hispanic (6.9%). The median age in Houston County is 35.6. The largest Peach County racial/ethnic groups are White (51.7%), Black (44.6%), and Hispanic (8.4%). The median age in Peach County is 38. The largest Bibb County racial/ethnic groups are Black (56.6%), White (39.0%), and Hispanic (3.9%). The median age in Bibb County is 36.3. The above ethnicity and age statistics are based on the most currently available data from data.census.gov and worldpopulationsreview.com.

Local Government

Each county is governed by a Board of County Commissioners. Houston and Peach counties have a five-member county commission. Bibb County and the City of Macon have consolidated government with nine county commissioners and a full-time mayor. The city governments of Warner Robins, Perry, and Fort Valley consist of a mayor and six city council members; Warner Robins and Fort Valley have full-time mayors, while Perry has a part-time mayor and a full-time city manager. Centerville is governed by a part-time mayor and four city council members, and Byron has a part-time mayor with five city council members.

Economics

Robins AFB is one of Georgia's largest employers. Statistics from the Economic Impact Statement for FY2021 indicate that the base had an approximated \$5.46 billion impact on Georgia. Robins AFB employs approximately 23,300 personnel, with a net payroll of \$4 billion. Annual contracts awarded by the base in Georgia totaled \$933 million.

The 2021 data from the Georgia LaborMarket Explorer (explorer.gdol. ga.gov) show the ten largest employers (excluding government, except correctional institutions, state and local hospitals, and state colleges and universities) in Houston County, in alphabetical order, were Frito Lay Inc., Graphic Packaging International, Inc., Lowe's Home Centers, Inc., Northrop Grumman, Peachstate Hospitality, LLC, Purdue Farms



Incorporated, Publix Super Markets, Inc., Red Lobster Restaurant, The Kroger Company, and Wal-Mart with the three primary employment sectors in 2021 employing the following percentages of the labor force: services (48.8 percent), goods and manufacturing (11.7 percent), and government (40.4 percent). Peach County's top ten employers of 2021 were, in alphabetical order, Advance Stores Co. Inc., Blue Bird Body Company, Buc-Ees Georgia, LLC, Fort Valley State University, Pyrotechnic Specialties, Inc., Southern Flavor Farms LP, Southern Orchard Management, LLC, The C E White Company, The Medical Center of Peach County, and The Wire Shop, Inc. Services (49.0 percent), goods and manufacturing (32.6 percent), government (18.0 percent) made up the three primary employment sectors with employment percentages shown for 2021. The three primary employment sectors in Bibb County and associated employment percentages in 2021 were services (77.9 percent), goods and manufacturing (10.4 percent), and government (11.4 percent) with the ten largest employers in 2021 being, in alphabetical order, GEICO, Health Services of Central Georgia, Macon State College, Mercer University, Piedmont Macon Medical Center, The Kroger Company, The Medical Center of Central Georgia, Inc., Tractor Supply Company, Wal-Mart, and YKK USA, Inc.

Education

The Houston County School District and its 38 campuses are district accredited by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission. Approximately 30,500 students in grades Pre-K through 12 are served across the county. Our mission is to produce high achievement for all through continuous growth; our vision is to be the standard for world-class education; and our ultimate goal is graduation. District-wide, the 2022 four-year cohort graduation rate was 89.5 percent, 5.4 percentage points higher than the state.

Houston County's students typically outperform the state average on state assessments and also perform well on nationally normed tests. On the 2022 SAT, Houston County's students earned a mean total score of 1,068, higher than the nation by 40 points and above the state by 16 points. The District wins many awards, to include each of the five high schools being named Georgia Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools, with schools represented in four categories: AP STEM, AP Access and Support, AP Humanities, and AP Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Achievement. In addition, six schools were named 2020-2021 Reward Schools by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).

For the 6th consecutive year, the Houston County Board of Education was recognized by the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) as an Exemplary Board. This designation is the highest honor bestowed by GSBA and is given to recognize best practices in school governance and the pursuit of excellence. The District was named by Forbes as the 14th Top Employer in Georgia, and is also home to a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School. Three schools in the District have been recognized by GaDOE as a Military Flagship School for going above and beyond to provide a supportive environment for military students and families.

The Peach County public education system, with an enrollment of approximately 4,000, consists of six schools: one elementary, one middle, and one high school in Fort Valley plus two elementary and one middle school in Byron. Also located in Peach County is Fort Valley State University, a four-year college, with an enrollment of approximately 2,200 students.



The Bibb County public school system consists of 21 elementary schools, six middle schools, six high schools, one virtual school, and four special entity schools, with a total enrollment of approximately 22,000 students. There are also several private schools in the county and two-state approved charter schools. Institutions of higher education include three colleges: Wesleyan College, the first college in the world to grant degrees to women, Mercer University, and the main campus of Middle Georgia State University. Also located in Macon are The Georgia Academy for the Blind and Central Georgia Technical College.

Culture and Recreation

Houston County lays claim to a number of cultural and recreational attractions. The Museum of Aviation, located adjacent to Robins AFB, has four exhibit buildings, 180,000 ft² of exhibits and more than 90 historical aircraft on a 51-acre site, including a World War II B-17 "Flying Fortress", an SR-71 "Blackbird", and an F-15A Eagle that played a key role in Desert Storm. The museum hosted over 266,000 visitors in FY2022. The museum STEM Education Program served approximately 30,000 students in FY2022.

Perry and Warner Robins lie along the Peach Blossom Trail (U.S. Highway 341/41), where peach orchards have traditionally dotted the countryside. Perry is also the location of the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter, a 1,100+ acre site designed for meetings, trade shows, livestock events, horse shows, fairs, concerts, and sporting events. Perry's other claim to fame is its historic Colonial downtown.

Peach County, true to its name, produces the majority of the peaches grown in Georgia and offers several attractions related to peach production. Byron and Fort Valley are also along the Peach Blossom Trail, and a week-long Georgia Peach Festival is held in the county in June. Byron also characterizes itself as a "shopper's paradise" with many antique shops. Fort Valley is home to the Massee Lane Gardens, headquarters of the American Camellia Society. Peach County has four National Historic Register Districts and four National Historic Register sites.

Cultural and recreational attractions in Bibb County include the Museum of Arts and Sciences and Mark Smith Planetarium; Grand Opera House; Macon Little Theater; the Harriet Tubman Museum, which focuses on black history, culture, and art; the Ocmulgee National Monument, which preserves the funeral and temple mounds of ancient Native American peoples; and the Sports Hall of Fame. Macon has more than 6,000 National Register historic buildings in 15 historic districts. The city is also known as the Cherry Blossom Capital of the World for its over 350,000 Yoshino cherry trees; its annual 10-day Cherry Blossom Festival has become one of the top events in the South.

3.1.3 On-Base Community

Robins AFB houses a community that in 2022 included 254 on-base privatized family housing units and six dormitories to accommodate airmen, as well as transient lodging facilities to accommodate active duty members, retirees, and their guests. Residents are supported by most of the services found in a community of this size. The base has more than 240 acres of land for recreation, as well as a medical clinic, daycare, youth center, a library, and bowling alley.

3.1.4 Community Access to ERP Information

One primary avenue for ensuring community access to ERP information related to environmental sites at Robins AFB is the EAB. The Robins AFB EAB is co-chaired by two individuals, one representing Robins AFB and the other representing the local



Warner Robins Welcome Center, located in the former train station



community. Chairing of quarterly EAB meetings alternates between the installation co-chair and the community co-chair.

A representative of Robins AFB serves as the installation co-chair. This individual promotes effective partnering of the Robins AFB on-base community and branch personnel with the local communities and environmental regulatory agencies. This partnership helps to achieve the most effective sharing of information of interest with the communities. The installation co-chair also ensures access to appropriate base personnel to provide briefings on topics of interest and to answer any questions raised by EAB community members.

The community co-chair serves as the lead representative of the local communities on the EAB. This individual brings any questions, suggestions, or special items of interest voiced by local constituents to the EAB membership and serves as the interface with local communities. The community co-chair ensures the effective partnering of the base with the community residents and organizations to exchange information and ideas. This individual also helps to ensure that complete information is disseminated to interested parties.

A second primary avenue for ensuring community access to ERP information related to environmental sites at Robins AFB is the Information Repository. The Air Force has been highly proactive in developing and maintaining an electronic record of final documents related to their environmental cleanup programs. Robins AFB environmental cleanup program documents are available to the public for review on the Air Force Administrative Record website.

3.2 KEY COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND INTERESTS

Community interviews have been conducted every two years since 1996 throughout the cities of Warner Robins, Centerville, and Perry in Houston County, Byron and Fort Valley in Peach County, and Macon in Bibb County (the 2020 interviews were not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic). The most recent interviews were conducted in October 2022. The 2022 interview sessions were conducted by Fred Otto, the Restoration Program Manager and EAB Manager for Robins AFB; and an independent community relations consultant. Interviewees have historically included representatives of local municipalities, citizen groups, the business community, and private citizens. Members of the Robins AFB EAB have also been interviewed. The key comments expressed during these interviews are summarized below.

General Perceptions about Robins AFB

Over the years, almost everyone interviewed has spoken enthusiastically about the role Robins AFB plays as the single largest employer in the area and one of the largest in the state. "Everybody loves the base" was the view expressed by one respondent during a 2008 interview, and this comment has been typical of local comment during the entire interview span. Accolades from interviewees have focused on the high morals, high integrity, and professionalism of Robins AFB employees, and the "awesome knowledge base" available to the community because of the presence of the base in the community. Over the years, the interviewees have noted that the Base has always been a leader in environmental cleanup, and encouraged the Base leadership to continue to maintain a culture of excellence.

During the 2022 interviews, the interviewees were presented with a brief history of the environmental cleanup program at Robins AFB. As part of this discussion, the 2022 Restoration Site Status Map (Figure 2-3A) was compared to the 1998 Restoration Site Status Map (Figure 2-4) to provide a visual image of the significant



progress that the base has made in cleaning up the environmental sites. One interviewee commented that the Base is doing a "great job." The PFAS site map (Figure 2-3B) was also presented while discussing the PFAS investigations that have been conducted to date.

Relationship Between the Base and Local Communities

During the interviews, elected officials and business leaders have spoken highly of the cooperative ways in which local government, commerce, and the base work together. During the 2010 interviews, one of the EAB board members noted that during the May 2010 EAB tour to learn about the base's emergency response capabilities, he was very pleased to see the level of partnership that occurs between the Base and the fire stations and emergency personnel in the surrounding counties.

Several interviewees have complimented the senior base leadership for being so open and accessible and for participating so actively in community affairs. "An A+ relationship!" and "a true spirit of cooperation" is how local officials have characterized the interactions between Robins AFB and local municipalities during recent interviews. During the 2008 interviews, one interviewee noted that it is a "miracle" and a true testament to effective teaming partnerships that the base has been able to come to an agreement on the cleanup strategies on so many sites with both the GA EPD and the US EPA in such a short time period. In 2016, one interviewee commented on how much he "appreciates how open the base is with communication to the public".

A recurring theme in the interviews relates to progress of the base's environmental cleanup. "The base is seen as environmentally friendly," one interviewee asserted. Many interviewees consider the base's approach to cleanup to be so smooth and well-planned that the average citizen has no idea the cleanup is going on. In 2018, an EAB member noted that the community knows that the base has everything under control; people trust the base. The community knows that the cleanup will progress in an expedited manner.

Knowledge of the Robins AFB Environmental Restoration Program

During the span between the first set of interviews in 1996 and the most recent in 2022, interviewees have revealed essentially constant knowledge and interest relative to the cleanup, but a significant increase in public confidence that Robins AFB is doing a good job has been noted during this time period. In fact, several elected officials have commented that the overall lack of interest and concern is reflective of the public's confidence that Robins AFB is a good steward of the environment.



The Robins AFB EAB receives briefings and tours in regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year. Here EAB members watch as a groundwater well is sampled during a tour.

During select interviews, the interviewees have been informed that the environmental program has won several awards in recognition of the outstanding progress, including the 2013 and 2015 Secretary of Defense Environmental Quality Award for excellence in the environmental program. Interviewees responded that these awards were wonderful, and that the base should take great pride in receipt of them. Interviewees have complimented the base leadership for doing such a tremendous job and taking such a proactive approach. Many interviewees have thanked the EAB Manager for taking the time to come out and inform them of the progress that has been made.

Public Knowledge of the Environmental Advisory Board

During early interview sessions, most of the interviewed municipal officials and members of the general public either did not know an EAB existed, or if they did,



were unfamiliar with its purpose or activities.

As part of recent interviews, the interviewees have received information about the methods used by the base to distribute information regarding the cleanup program to the community, including the EAB meetings, Fact Sheets, the EAB public website, this Community Relations Plan, etc. Several elected officials in these interviews were aware of people in their communities who were EAB members, and most of the elected officials said they would like to attend an EAB meeting in the future.

Elected officials have acknowledged receiving the EAB Fact Sheet through EAB members. Several interviewees have complimented the base on the look and content of the materials. Officials have commented that the Fact Sheets are tremendously helpful and extremely useful. Interviewees have expressed ongoing interest in receiving information related to environmental programs at the base.

During the interviews, the interviewees are also informed that the presentations from each EAB meeting, the Fact Sheets, as well as each year's CRP are posted on the EAB website (www.robinseab.org).

Member Opinions about the Environmental Advisory Board

Long-term EAB members have felt, in general, that their expectations about belonging to the EAB had been met and that their longevity with the EAB was due to the personal benefits they gained from their participation. Several EAB members have positively commented on the impact of the Robins EAB Manager in ensuring that topics of current interest are presented, the tours are efficiently conducted, and member questions receive complete answers. Many have attributed their continued presence on the board to their interest in what is going on and what approaches are used to address the cleanup problems at the base, as well as the sense of doing something worthwhile. Some of the expectations other EAB members said had been realized included learning more about the "reality" of base operations and environmental issues, playing a role in communicating to others, and bringing items of interest to the base from the community. One member said he had learned more from his EAB participation than he had given, a sentiment shared by several of the other members that have been interviewed.



EAB meetings provide a forum for members, Environmental Management Branch staff, visitors, and briefers to discuss items of interest.

EAB members interviewed have had consistently high praise for how the EAB meetings are conducted and the support provided by the EAB staff. Members have commented that the EAB staff is very inviting and encouraging, presentations are very good, the handouts are helpful, and the meetings are very informative. Many members have commented on the success of the tours, which showcase the restoration activities. As one member described in the 2016 interviews, "they help me connect the dots between the briefings and the actual field activities". During the 2012 interviews, an EAB member commented that "I like what I am presented and the depth at which it is presented." Members have noted that they appreciate the willingness of the base to be open to communication and their honesty in "discussing where they are making progress and where they are not." One EAB member stated that the EAB staff had "never not filled a request [for information] I have had." New EAB members have said they were delightfully surprised that when they asked a question or requested additional information, the designated topic would appear on the next meeting's agenda and that any information promised would be delivered. Members have noted their appreciation of the comment form provided at each meeting to ask guestions or provides comments and/or suggestions.

Interviews of EAB members have also yielded compliments for good agendas and



concise presentations. Stated one member, "The presenters stay on time, are always knowledgeable, and all questions are answered." Another member said he "push[es] away from the table satisfied, with just enough information presented." Also appreciated by a new EAB member was the fact that the individuals who make presentations at the meetings come up afterwards to talk to the members. In that same vein, one interviewee liked the fact that the Air Force consultants are at every meeting and interact with the EAB members. Many EAB members over the years have attributed the smooth running of the EAB to the EAB Managers, who members have described as "responsive", "very versatile," with "keen flexibility" with good public relations and technical skills. During the 2012 interviews, one interviewee stated "I have never seen a community meetings that is better managed." Regarding the post EAB documentation, one EAB member commented that they are "inclusive, concise, and an excellent record of the meeting events."

Throughout the interviews, members have continued to lament the difficulty in getting more public participation and community interest both in the Base's cleanup and in EAB activities. Most members have expressed the common observation that when they share information with friends, neighbors, relatives, or co-workers (as most of them say they do), people are usually mildly interested, but generally do not ask follow-up questions or show any inclination to get involved.

EAB members interviewed did cite several ways in which they share the cleanup information they learn with various audiences, including students and organizations. Several members discussed their efforts in sharing information with the professional, environmental, and civic organizations to which they belong.

Level of Public Environmental Awareness

Interviewees over the years have expressed differing opinions on the level of local environmental awareness. Some citizens had low knowledge of local environmental problems, while others said environmental awareness was higher than average. Elected officials in Macon and Fort Valley believe that the presence of Superfund sites in their communities has heightened the level of local environmental interest.

The current sentiment is that local environmental knowledge is adequate, but that real interest is generated only when a particular issue has potential to affect an individual or one's neighbors. One interviewee in 2022 stated that the public interest is relatively low because the base is doing such a good job managing their environmental program and being transparent about any potential concerns.

Considerations in Communicating ERP Environmental Information

Two major local newspapers are used as key mechanisms for dissemination of environmental information and widespread communications vehicles for the local communities. The *Houston Home Journal* serves as the primary local printed medium, followed by the *Telegraph*. The *Houston Home Journal* serves as the legal organ of Houston County, Georgia, serving Robins AFB, Warner Robins, Centerville, Perry and surrounding areas. The Robins AFB website (www.robins.af.mil) also provides a resource for official information, base happenings, and community news.

Related to other forms of communication, interviewees have indicated that local broadcast news media, including broadcast television, cable channels, and radio, are effective outlets for transmitting news. In particular, several interviewees have noted that brief presentations by Robins AFB officials to local organizations (e.g., the 21st Century Partnership) may be an effective means for disseminating information regarding the cleanup program to the local community.



Section 4 Community Relations Objectives and Recommended Activities

This section briefly discusses previous community relations activities related to the Robins AFB ERP, summarizes the objectives of this CRP based on the community interviews, and outlines recommended community relations activities.

4.1 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

Based on the successes of the base's existing community relations programs and recommendations in previous CRPs, the following community relations activities occur:

• EAB meetings:



EAB meetings are chaired by the community-co-chair and the installation co-chair. The mission of the EAB is to encourage community participation in the full range of environmental matters at Robins AFB, including the Air Force's ERP cleanup process, and to allow community members and other stakeholders to have meaningful dialog with Robins AFB officials. The EAB specifically serves to support Robins AFB and disseminate information to the public. The EAB is made up of representatives of regulatory agencies, local community members, and Robins AFB members.

EAB meetings are held quarterly (note that select meetings were not held in 2020 through 2022 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic). Prior to each EAB meeting, a public notice is run in local print media to announce and publicize the event. The meetings are attended by members, Robins AFB personnel, regulatory agency representatives, and members of the local community, as well as contractors, briefers, and others with an interest in the environment. Frequently, distinguished guests attend; these may include command personnel from the base and local elected officials. EAB meetings are open to the public.

EAB meetings are chaired by the Installation Co-chair and the Community Co-chair. Meetings normally open with a welcoming statement and announcements. Various briefings are presented by base personnel and others, supported with graphics and storyboards as appropriate. The topics presented are timely and of great interest to the membership and the general public. Generally, one meeting each year is conducted as a tour of environmental sites and facilities of interest at the base. Minutes documenting the activities of each meeting are prepared and submitted to the EAB members.



Fact Sheets:

A four page, color Fact Sheet is prepared after each EAB meeting to present technical and related information briefed at the EAB meeting in an easily understandable written format. In lieu of the Fact Sheets during COVID-19, EAB members were provided EAB Update Flyers.

EAB Website:

An EAB website has been developed to enable communication of information related to the ERP and EAB through electronic means. The EAB website can be accessed at:

www.robinseab.org

Public Comment Periods:

All required public comment periods are scheduled and publicized.

4.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

Community participation is an important aspect of a site or installation cleanup. The Robins AFB ERP community relations program seeks to continue to facilitate communication that has existed between Robins AFB and local citizens for many years. The overall objective of the CRP is to increase direct communication with individual citizens who are interested in the Robins AFB ERP.

Specific objectives of the community relations program are as follows:

Objective #1:

Encourage community participation and facilitate two-way communication between surrounding communities and Robins AFB ERP officials. Written materials emphasize the various avenues through which community members can easily receive information, have questions answered, or convey comments. Technical information is provided to community members to increase the public's understanding of the ERP cleanup process. Information documents are archived and made available to the public through the Air Force Administrative Record (see Appendix B for website information).

Objective #2:

<u>Educate community members about the ERP.</u> Through quarterly EAB meetings, the public is educated on the ERP process. Fact Sheets are published and distributed throughout the community following each meeting, and the EAB website is updated regularly.



Objective #3:

Provide clear and accurate information about the location and boundaries of each <u>ERP site</u>. Several ERP sites are close to areas that can be readily observed by military and/or civilian workers (see Figures 2-3A and 2-3B). Because of this fact, written and graphic materials define each site location and its specific boundaries.

Objective #4:

<u>Provide the community with clear, accurate, and timely information about activities</u> <u>associated with the cleanup.</u> If necessary, Robins AFB attempts to inform local citizens, officials, military housing representatives, and military/civilian workers of the schedule for conducting field investigations, removal actions, and other activities that involve the mobilization of workers and equipment. The advance notice ensures that people are not surprised by the presence of field personnel. It also helps the base anticipate increases in public interest that may occur when on-site activities begin.

Objective #5:

<u>Provide citizens with explanations of sampling and test results.</u> Results of sample analyses associated with the cleanup of environmental sites are made available to the EAB members and are recorded in reports made available to the public through the Air Force Administrative Record.

Objective #6:

<u>Provide information on potential impacts on human health or the environment.</u> Robins AFB informs community members of public health issues. Bioenvironmental Engineering Services (78 MDS/SGPB at Robins AFB) communicates information on health risks to the community.

Objective #7:

<u>Coordinate with Robins AFB Public Affairs to facilitate communication</u>. Providing a central contact office that represents Robins AFB allows concerned citizens and officials to have access to government officials for site inquiries and concerns. It also allows the government officials to address promptly any community concerns when they arise. Direct communication enhances opportunities for community participation in the ERP process.

Objective #8:

<u>Maintain communication with local officials.</u> Members of local government are valuable contacts for citizens in surrounding communities. Citizens are more familiar with local officials and may tend to contact them before they contact Robins AFB representatives. Cooperation and ongoing personal contact between local officials and Robins AFB is necessary to ensure a harmonious working relationship and a reliable and constructive flow of information.

Objective #9:

<u>Maintain communication with on-base housing management.</u> The Robins AFB housing management office is a valuable contact for military families living on base. Family members may naturally tend to ask questions or pose concerns to these housing managers before they contact Robins AFB representatives. Cooperation between the housing managers and Robins AFB environmental and PA staffs may be necessary in certain situations to ensure a harmonious working relationship and a reliable and constructive flow of information.



Objective #10:

<u>Develop communication avenues with interested citizens not currently receiving ERP</u> <u>information</u>. Quarterly Fact Sheets sent to local elected officials provide the name and telephone number of the EAB Manager, the names of the EAB members, and the address of the EAB website.

Objective #11:

<u>Maintain consistency with Robins AFB PA Publication Guidelines.</u> Publications developed related to specific activities contained in this CRP will be consistent with Robins AFB PA publication guidance.

The following section presents the specific activities recommended to meet these objectives.

4.3 RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

This section describes the recommended community relations activities related to the Robins AFB ERP. These activities are divided into three categories: (1) General ERP Activities; (2) CERCLA Site Activities; and (3) RCRA Site Activities. The General ERP Activities are applicable to the entire program, regardless of whether a specific site is governed by CERCLA or RCRA. However, a distinction is made for certain activities, since CERCLA and RCRA each have different public communication requirements. The timing of the different CERCLA and RCRA activities will be tied to the appropriate technical milestones applicable to the two laws.

The activities outlined are designed to address the communities' interests summarized in Section 3.0 and to meet the community relations objectives discussed in Section 4.2. Following each activity are the specific objectives that each activity meets.

4.3.1 General ERP Activities

1. Designate a central contact person(s) at Robins AFB.

The Robins AFB PA Office serves as the central contact person for the public. PA is responsible for coordinating accurate, consistent, and timely responses to questions from citizens, civic leaders, and local officials throughout the ERP process and for conveying community concerns to the EAB. If new restoration information or an unexpected environmental incident with the potential to affect the local community were to occur on the base, PA would be notified. PA would ensure timely public notification using methods deemed appropriate to the situation to inform those on the base and in the community who may be impacted. Contact information for PA can be found in Section 1 and in Appendix A. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1 and #7.)

2. Update the ERP information repository.

The Air Force Administration Record contains both CERCLA and RCRA program documentation for the ERP. The repository enables community members to have



Representatives from the Judge Advocate office often attend EAB meetings and are available to answer questions from the public.



access to information regarding ERP activities and to stay informed of findings at the individual sites. It contains documents that were used to form the basis of the remedy selections made at the NPL site and is the official legal record of environmental investigative and remedial activities at the site. Appendix B provides the website address. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6.)

3. Maintain list of individuals and organizations interested in receiving information about the ERP at Robins AFB.

Robins AFB maintains a list (see Appendix A) of mayors and others interested in ERP activities. Anyone who wishes to be added to the list should contact PA (see Appendix A). (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1, #4, #8, #9, and #10.)

4. Channel information on ERP activities through the EAB and increase the visibility of the EAB.

Robins AFB has a very active EAB, including members from surrounding communities. The quarterly EAB meetings are held off base to ensure participation by elected officials and community members. The date, time, and location of each EAB meeting is published in *Houston Home Journal* and the *Telegraph* newspapers prior to the meeting. After each meeting, a Fact Sheet is developed and distributed that contains an overview of the issues presented and discussed during the quarterly meeting. The public is welcome to contact the EAB Manager for questions and comments concerning the EAB. The contact information for the EAB Manager is identified on the Fact Sheets. In addition, an EAB website has been developed to channel information on ERP activities to the communities through electronic means. The web address for the EAB website is provided on the quarterly Fact Sheets. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1, #2, and #10.)

5. Provide information about site boundaries and their relationship to family housing and on-base schools.

The locations for the environmental sites at Robins AFB are identified on Figure 2-3. Additionally, site boundaries are provided, as applicable, in documents available in Air Force Administration Record. EAB meetings are held on a quarterly basis and provide detailed information on the environmental sites on Robins AFB. These meetings are open to the public. Public notices are published in the local newspapers to allow community members an opportunity to attend the quarterly EAB meetings. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #3, #4, and #9.)



6. Send news releases and/or public notices to local media outlets.

Local media are made aware of environmental issues ongoing at Robins AFB. To ensure that the local communities receive timely notification of upcoming EAB meetings, public notices are published in the local media in advance of the meetings. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1, #2, #4, #5, and #11.)

7. Develop articles for local newspapers.

The Robins AFB PA Office reviews and approves branch-drafted ERP articles for publication in local newspapers. The articles inform military personnel, their families, and civilian workers about the technical progress of the ERP, upcoming fieldwork, public meetings, and public comment periods. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1, #2, #4, #5, #9, and #11.)

8. Develop and distribute updated Fact Sheets or newsletters that contain information on ERP sites.

Robins AFB publishes and distributes quarterly Fact Sheets to report on progress being made at the various ERP sites. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #2, #4, #5, #6, #8, #9, and #10.)

9. Place ERP materials and announcements on the Environmental Advisory Board website.

The website is accessible to the public at www.robinseab.org. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1, #2, #3, #4, #6, and #10.)

10. Summarize findings and announce availability of ERP Public Health Assessment.

In April 1998, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conducted a Public Health Assessment, which reviewed the ERP from the health perspective of the surrounding community. The Final Public Health Assessment Report was briefed to EAB members. (Meets Community Objectives #2 and #6.)

11. Revise this CRP.

This CRP is updated annually. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1 and #11.)



The Robins AFB EAB website provides information briefed at recent EAB meetings and related information in an attractive format and in language understandable by the general non-technical public. www.robinseab.org



4.3.2 CERCLA Site Activities

There are specific public activities that are either required by law or encouraged by the US EPA protocol for CERCLA sites. These apply to the CERCLA NPL site and related OUs. OU1 is the landfill and sludge lagoon source areas. OU2 is the wetlands and surface water downgradient of OU1, and OU3 is the groundwater.

A ROD has already been prepared for OU1 and OU3. A fourth five-year ROD review, including a public comment period, was completed and the final report issued in 2016. Since the contamination at OU2 was not attributed to the NPL site, OU2 was addressed under the RCRA program, and NFA status for the site was granted in September 2006.

The following activity will occur after the remedial action (RA) is complete for OU1 and OU3.

1. Provide public comment opportunities for a proposed deletion of the CERCLA site from the NPL.

Once the RA has been completed and the US EPA has placed a Notice of Intent to Delete in the Federal Register, the agency will announce a 30-day public comment period. The US EPA will respond to any significant comments submitted during the comment period before the agency carries out its final deletion. Once the deletion is finalized, a notice to that effect will be placed in the information repository. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1, #2, #4, #6, #8, #9, and #10.)

4.3.3 RCRA Site Activities

RCRA communication requirements were formerly not as stringent or as extensive as those under CERCLA. However, in December 1995, the US EPA issued a final rule expanding its public participation requirements. These requirements are listed under Parts 124 and 270 in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations and apply to facilities undergoing Part B permitting or permit modifications under Subtitle C. Facilities such as Robins AFB that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste must apply for and receive a permit allowing them to manage this waste. Such permits spell out the conditions and requirements the facility must meet for a specific period of time. The permit may be modified to include new conditions or requirements, or to change existing conditions or requirements.

Following are key activities for the Robins AFB RCRA sites.

1. Provide opportunities for the public to comment on Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) and/or RCRA permit modifications and develop a Public Participation Package for public review.

Upon regulatory approval of a CAP or a NFA status resulting in a permit modification, the GA EPD will prepare and submit a Public Participation Package to the information repository for public review. The Public Participation Package contains a Statement of Basis concerning each proposed action. As part of the process, the GA EPD announces a 45-day public comment period. The public participation information is



also provided to persons on the GA EPD mailing list prior to the public comment period. During this time, interested community members may submit oral or written comments to the GA EPD. The public notice is published in the *Houston Home Journal* and announced on a local radio station. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1, #2, #4, #6, #8, #9, and #10.)

2. Hold public meetings.

A public meeting can be held during the CAP/permit modification public comment period, if the GA EPD feels there is sufficient community interest or cause for such a meeting. Appendix B lists the suggested locations for public meetings. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #1, #2, #4, #8, #9, and #10.)

3. Announce the closure of a RCRA ERP site.

A RCRA ERP site is officially closed when an NFA decision is made by the GA EPD. Procedures for announcement of site closure action are contained in Activity 1 above. (Meets Community Relations Objectives #2, #4, #8, #9, and #10.) TABLES

Table 2-1History of Base Operations at Robins Air Force Base

Period Types of Operations		Hazardous Substance Activities		
Pre-1941	Farmland, Swamp/Lowland	None		
1941-1943	Base Construction	Construction		
1943-1945	Flight Training Center	Landfills, Airplane/Automotive Fuel		
	Logistics	Storage, Hangars, Machine Shops,		
	- B-17, B-26, and B-29 Bombers	Wastewater Treatment Facility, Fire		
	- C-46, C-47, C-54, and C-60 Cargo	Protection Training Areas		
	Aircraft			
	- A-20 and A-26 Attack Aircraft			
	- Piston Engine Spark Plugs			
1945-1956	Logistics	Landfills, Fuel and Oil Storage,		
	- B-29 Bombers	Low Level Radioactive Disposal,		
	- C-119, C-130, and Other Cargo Aircraft	Wastewater Treatment Facility,		
	- Piston Engine Spark Plugs	Fire Protection Training Areas, Hangars,		
		Machine Shop, Paint, and Depaint		
1956-1961	Logistics	Landfills, Fuel and Oil Storage, Wastewater		
	- C-124, C-130, and C-133 Cargo Aircraft	Treatment Facility, Fire Protection Training		
	- Piston Engine Spark Plugs	Areas, Hangars, Machine Shop, Paint, and		
		Depaint		
1961-1968	Operations	Landfills, Fuel and Oil Storage, Wastewater		
	- B-52 Bombers	Treatment Facility, Fire Protection Training		
	Logistics	Areas, Hangars, Machine Shop, Paint, and		
	- C-7, C-123, C-130, and C-141 Cargo	Depaint		
10(0,1002	Aircraft			
1968-1983	Operations	Weapons Storage Area,		
	- B-52 Bombers	Landfills, Fuel and Oil Storage, Wastewater		
	Logistics - AC-130 Special Operations Aircraft	Treatment Facility, Fire Protection Training Areas, Hangars, Machine Shop, Paint, and		
	 C-130 and C-141 Cargo Aircraft F-15 Fighters 	Depaint		
	 Avionics, Electronics, Communications, 			
	Radar, and Electronic Countermeasures			
1983-1995	Operations	Fuel and Oil Storage, Wastewater		
1705 1775	- B-52 Bombers	Treatment Facility, Fire Protection Training		
	- KC-135 Refuel Aircraft	Areas, Hangars, Machine Shop,		
	Logistics	Maintenance Facilities, Paint, and Depaint		
	- AC-130 Special Operations Aircraft	-,,		
	- C-130 and C-141 Cargo Aircraft			
	- F-15 Fighters			
	- Avionics, Electronics, Communications,			
	Radar, and Electronic Countermeasures			

1995-2021	Operations	Fuel and Oil Storage, Wastewater
	- KC-135 Refuel Aircraft	Treatment Facility, Fire Protection Training
	- Joint STARS	Areas, Hangars, Machine Shop,
	- Marine Corps Light Attack Helicopters	Maintenance Facilities, Paint, and Depaint
	(Left Robins AFB in 2016)	
	Logistics	
	 AC-130 Special Ops Aircraft 	
	- C-5, C-17, C-130, C-141 (Taken Out of	
	Service in 2006) Cargo Aircraft	
	- F-15 Fighters	
	- Avionics, Electronics, Communications,	
	Radar, and Electronic Countermeasures	
	- U-2 Reconnaissance Aircraft	
	- Helicopters	

	2010 Census	2021 Estimate	2020 Rank	% Change 2010-2021	2025 Projected*	Projected % Change 2010-2025
Bibb County	155,547	156,762	16	0.8%	154,949	-0.4%
Houston County	139,900	166,829	14	19.2%	166,553	19.1%
City of Warner Robins	66,588	81,446		22.3%		
City of Perry	13,839	22,029		59.2%		
Centerville	7,148	8,243		15.3%		
Peach County	27,695	28,417	67	2.6%	28,695	3.6%
Byron	4,512	5,839		29.4%		
City of Fort Valley	9,815	8,863		-9.7%		

Table 3-1Select Middle Georgia Population Information

Notes: "Rank" indicates relative population among Georgia's 159 counties. *Projected by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (data.census.gov) and State of Georgia (www.opb.georgia.gov)

FIGURES

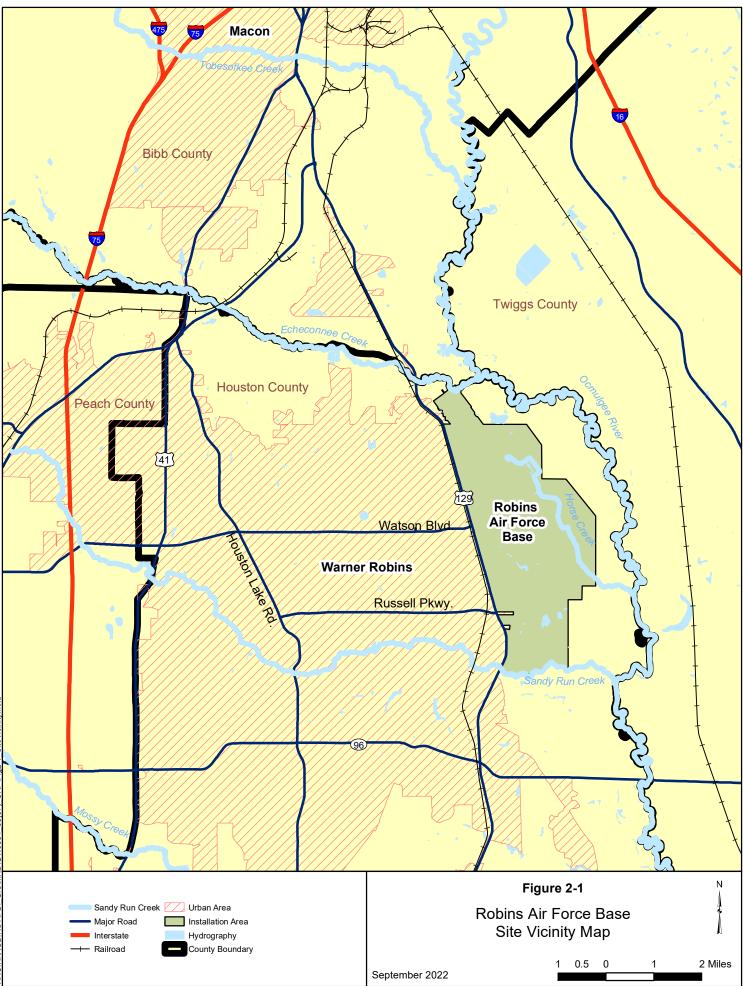
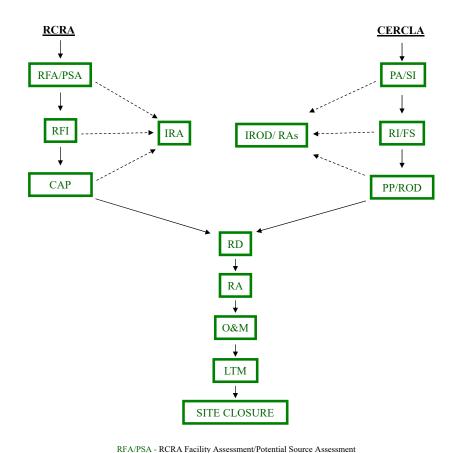


Figure 2-2 Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Process



RF1 - RCRA Facility Investigation CAP - Corrective Action Plan IRA - Interim Remedial Action PA/S1 - Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection RI/FS - Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study PP/ROD - Proposed Plan/Record of Decision IROD/RAs - Interim Record of Decision ROD/RAs - Interim Record of Decision RD - Remedial Design RA - Remedial Action 0&M - Operations and Maintenance LTM - Long-term Monitoring

RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act)

RCRA Facility Assessment/Potential Source Assessment: A study conducted to identify individual sites, SWMUs, that could pose a hazard to public health or the environment. If no hazard exists, the SWMU is categorized as "No Further Response Action Planned" (NFRAP).

RCRA Facility Investigation: An investigative phase to fully delineate the contamination at the site. The information that is gathered in this step is used to develop a cleanup strategy.

Corrective Action Plan: The CAP presents the selected cleanup alternative that will provide adequate remediation to meet the regulatory requirements. CAPs integrate the Corrective Measures Study (CMS) and Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) steps of the traditional RCRA corrective action process together. Once the CMS is complete, the CAP outlines the available data, the results of the CMS, and presents the proposed CMI. The CAP is submitted for formal regulatory review.

Interim Remedial Actions: Cleanup measures that are directed to address an imminent threat to public health or control contaminant releases to the environment. These may be initiated at anytime during the process and do not necessarily bring the site to close out.

CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act)

Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection: A study to identify sites that may pose hazards to public health or the environment. Sites are scored using a Hazard Ranking System (HRS) based on the amount/toxicity of the contamination and the potential for migration/human exposure. If a site receives a sufficiently high score, it is proposed for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL).

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study: An investigative phase to fully delineate the contamination at the site (RI) and an evaluation of potential cleanup strategies (FS).

Proposed Plan/Record of Decision: The PP describes the proposed cleanup method in a formal document that is released for public comment. After public comments are reviewed and an agreement is reached with appropriate regulatory authorities, the ROD is a record of the legal decision for site cleanup.

Interim Record of Decision/Removal Actions: Cleanup measures that are directed to address an imminent threat to public health or control contaminant releases to the environment. These may be initiated at anytime during the process and do not necessarily bring the site to close out. If an IROD is used, the process includes a formal regulatory review.

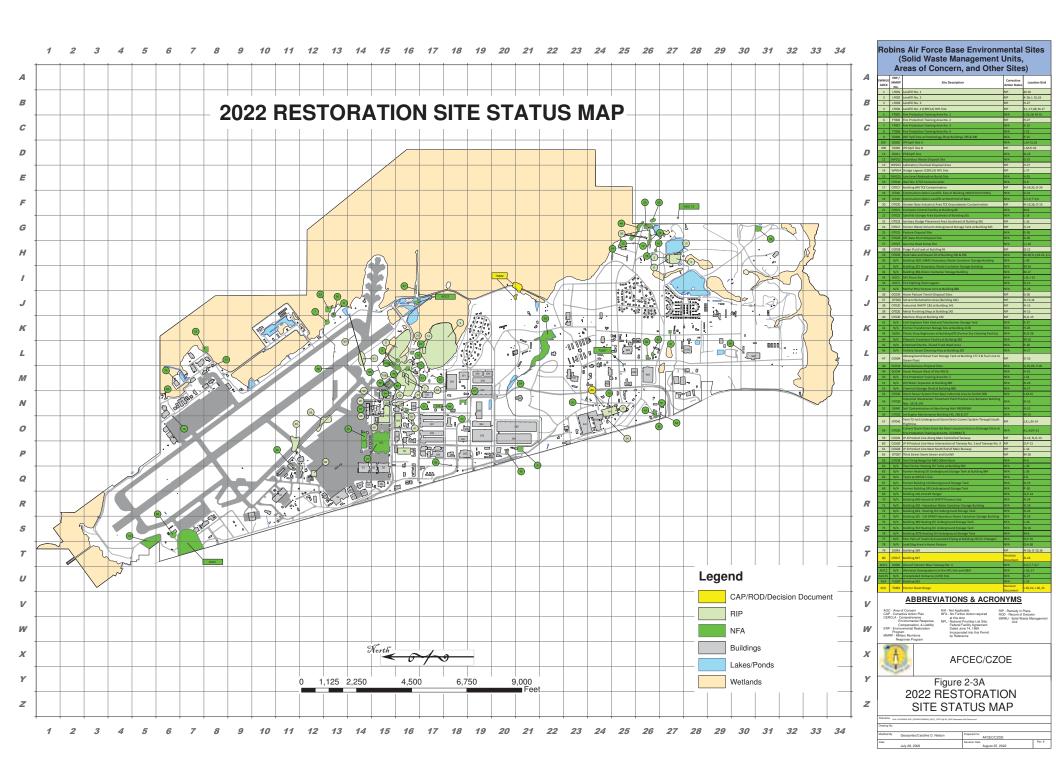
Remedial Design: A detailed engineering design for the cleanup technology outlined in the CAP or ROD.

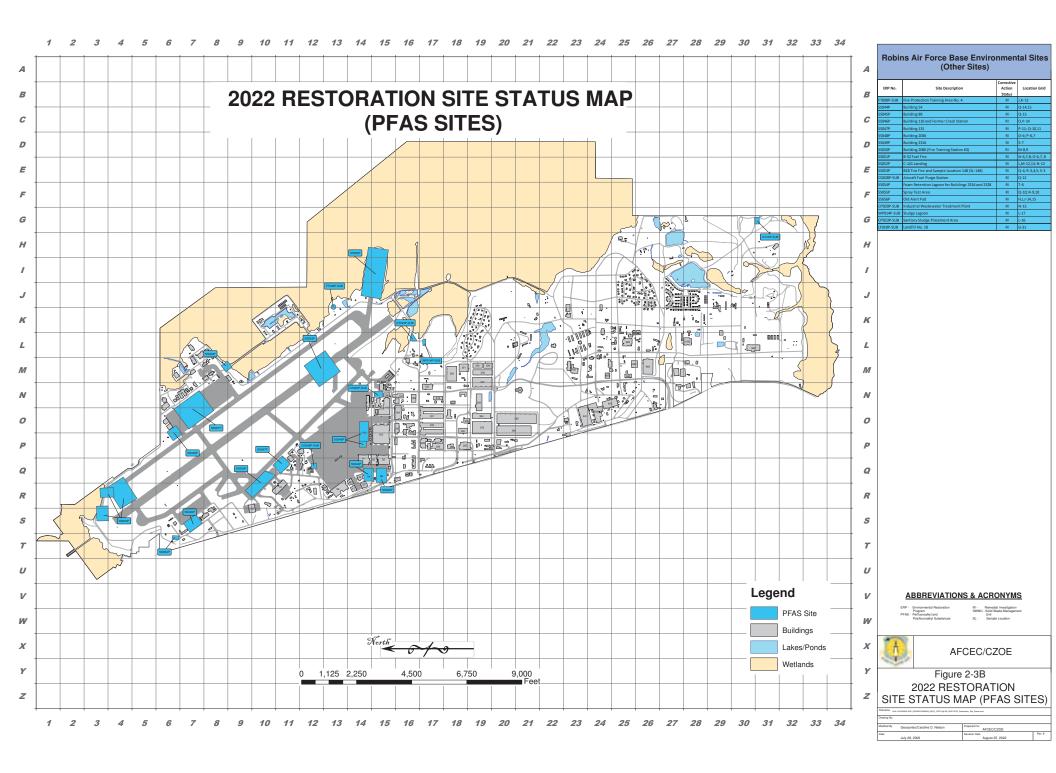
Remedial Action: The implementation phase of the corrective action including construction and installation.

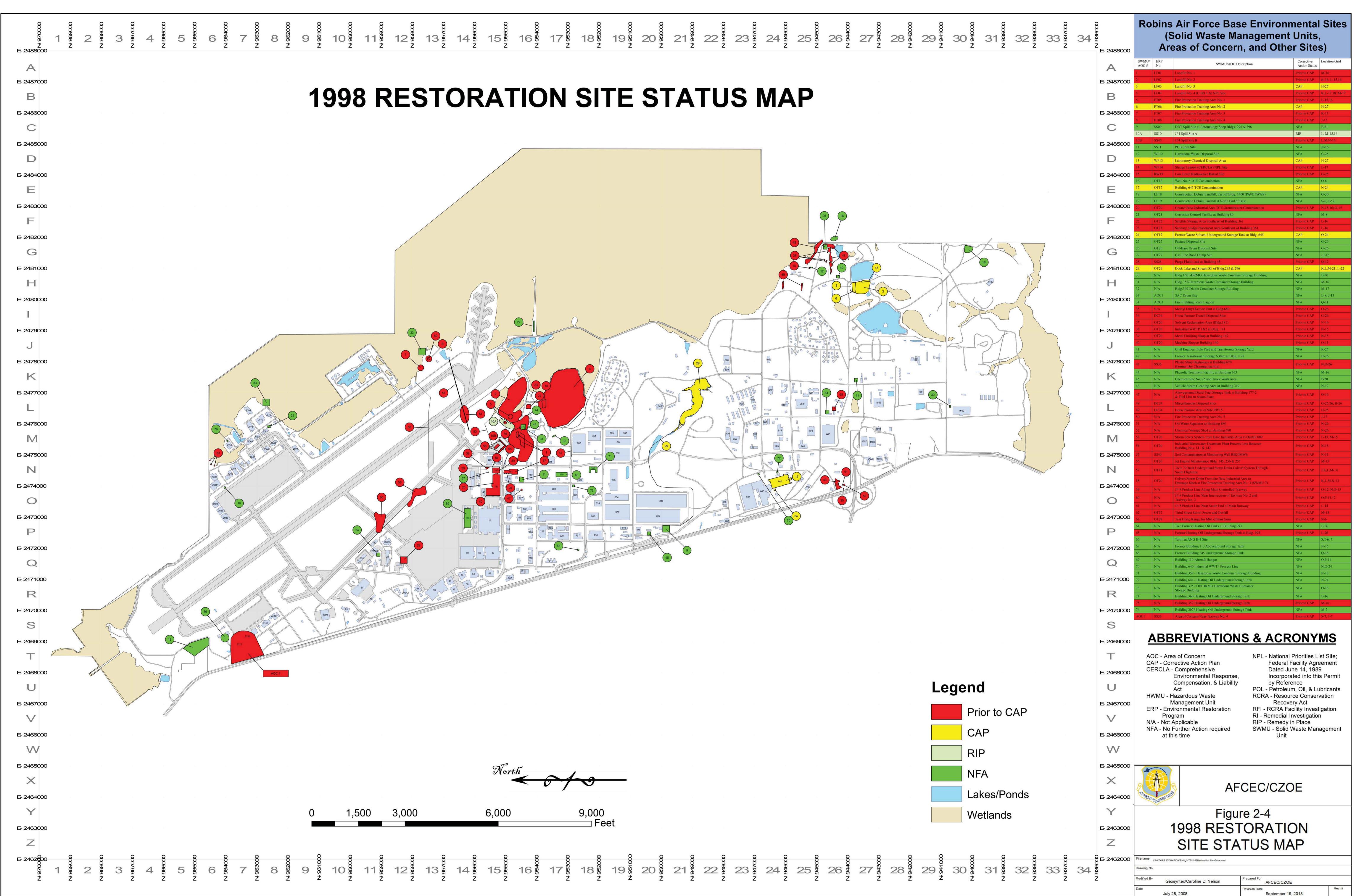
Operations and Maintenance: O&M of the approved corrective action to reduce the contaminant levels to meet required regulatory levels.

Long-term Monitoring: Testing conducted to assure that the corrective action is removing contaminants and to evaluate when contaminant levels have stabilized below the required regulatory levels. Even after the corrective action is complete, LTM may continue to ensure that contaminant levels remain below the regulatory limits.

Site Closure: Site is considered closed when no further response is required to protect human health and the environment.







APPENDIX A

COMMUNITY RELATIONS CONTACTS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS CONTACTS

CENTRAL POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE PUBLIC

(478) 926-2137

Public Affairs Office 78 ABW/PA 620 9th Street, Suite 230 Robins AFB, Georgia 31098

ROBINS AFB ERP PERSONNEL

Ms. Shannie (Shan) Williams Chief, Environmental Management 775 Macon Street, Bldg. 1555 Robins AFB, Georgia 31098-2201

Mr. Fred Otto Restoration Program Manager and EAB Manager AFCEC/CZOE – Robins Installation Support Section 380 Robins Parkway, Building 359 Robins AFB, Georgia 31098-2201 (478) 327-7439 shannie.williams@us.af.mil

(478) 327-9272 ernest.otto@us.af.mil

OTHER ROBINS AFB PERSONNEL

Mr. Robert Sharples Chief, Capital Asset Management 500 Warner Robins St. Robins AFB, Georgia 31098 (478) 327-7867 robert.sharples@us.af.mil

FEDERAL AGENCIES

United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)

Mr. Craig Benedikt US EPA, Region 4 Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center 11th Floor, Restoration and Sustainability Branch 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303 (404) 562-8555 Benedikt.Craig@epa.gov

STATE AGENCIES

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Jim Ashworth Georgia Environmental Protection Division Department of Natural Resources Hazardous Waste Management Division Floyd Towers East, Suite 1054 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Atlanta, Georgia 30334 (404) 657-8680 jim.ashworth@dnr.state.ga.us

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Lester Miller, Mayor Macon-Bibb County 700 Poplar Street, Suite 200 Macon, Georgia 31201	(478) 751-7400
Randall Walker, Mayor City of Perry P.O. Box 2030 Perry, Georgia 31069	(478) 988-2700
LaRhonda Patrick, Mayor City of Warner Robins P.O. Box 8629 Warner Robins, Georgia 31093	(478) 302-5515
Jeffery Lundy, Mayor City of Fort Valley 204 West Church Street Fort Valley, Georgia 31030	(478) 825-8567

ROBINS AFB ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Linda Smyth Community Co-Chair 108 Kentucky Downs Way Macon, Georgia 31210-7500

Ms. Shannie (Shan) Williams Chief, Environmental Management Installation Co-Chair 775 Macon Street, Bldg. 1555 Robins AFB, Georgia 31098-2201

Mr. Craig Benedikt US EPA, Region 4 Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center 11th Floor, Restoration and Sustainability Branch 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. Jim Ashworth Georgia Environmental Protection Division Department of Natural Resources Hazardous Waste Management Division Floyd Towers East, Suite 1054 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Ms. Tiffany Bowen Keep Warner Robins Beautiful 202 North Davis Drive P.O. Box 8629 Warner Robins, Georgia 31095

Mr. Lawrence Collins P.O. Box 250 Byron, Georgia 31008

Mr. James Harden 112 Sandy Valley Drive Warner Robins, Georgia 31088

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(478) 951-1854 jsh2308@cox.net Mr. Stephen Johnson Walter F. George School of Law Mercer University 1021 Georgia Avenue Macon, Georgia 31207-0003

Mr. Mike Maffeo 4688 Savage Hills Drive Macon, Georgia 31210

Dr. Clarence E. Riley, Jr. 200 Ridgeland Dr. Warner Robins, Georgia 31093

Dr. Brian E. Rood 1679 Twin Pines Drive Macon, Georgia 31211

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(478) 305-0822 brianerood@gmail.com

(478) 327-9272 ernest.otto@us.af.mil

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC INFORMATION LOCATIONS

Information Repository/Administrative Record/Other Information Locations

The information repository and administrative record contain work plans, technical reports, and other relevant information associated with the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The information repository and administrative records for the Robins AFB ERP have been set up at the following locations:

Air Force Administrative Record Website: https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/

AFCEC/CZOE – Robins Installation Support Section 380 Robins Parkway, Building 359 Robins AFB, Georgia 31098-2201 (478) 327-92752 Contact: Mr. Fred Otto

Public Meeting Locations

The following locations could be used for public meetings or information open houses:

Museum of Aviation Highway 247 P. O. Box 2469 Warner Robins, Georgia 31088 (478) 222-7537 Contact: Ms. Teresa Davis (Special Events Manager)

Homer J. Walker Civic Center 702 Watson Blvd. Warner Robins, Georgia 31093 (478) 302-5594 Contact: Ms. Keviera Ezell

Homer J. Walker Municipal Complex Warner Robins City Hall 700 Watson Blvd. Warner Robins, Georgia 31093 (478) 302-5515 Contact: Ms. Felcia Wright

Centerville City Hall 300 East Church Street Centerville, Georgia 31028 (478) 953-4734 Contact: Ms. Tess Chambers **APPENDIX C**

EAB UPDATE FLYERS AND FACT SHEETS



Robins Air Force Base (AFB) Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) Updates



OPTIMIZED REMEDIATION CONTRACT – UPDATE

Bhate Zapata LLC (BZJV) and Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) continue their efforts on the Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) for Robins AFB. Highlights of select ongoing activities are provided below.

General Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Activity Updates

- Landfill No. 3 (LF003) Fence Reconstruction: BZJV reconstructed the decorative split rail fence along the east side of the LF003 landfill. The original fence was installed in the 1990's and had been knocked down over the past several years. BZJV used the existing materials to reconstruct the fence.
- Landfill No. 4 (LF004) Diversion Ditch Clearing: BZJV cleared and grubbed the diversion ditch along the southwest boundary of the LF004 landfill. The project involved mechanical clearing of vegetation and the application of pesticide (Garlon 4), with Base approval, to reduce regrowth along the 800-foot long ditch area.



LF003 Fence



LF004 Diversion Ditch - Before (Left); After (Right)



LF004 Culvert Area - Before (Left); After (Right)

- The annual basewide sampling event is scheduled for March 2022. A total of 654 wells across the Base will be gauged for water levels and/or sampled per the regulatory and government approved Basewide Unified Federal Policy – Quality Assurance Project Plan (UFP-QAPP). The range of analyses includes volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds/petroleum aromatic hydrocarbons (SVOCs/PAHs), metals, and monitored natural attenuation (MNA) parameters. The data will be validated after receipt from the laboratories and used to assist remedial progress evaluation for each site. The data will also be reported in annual progress reports.

For more information regarding the EAB, please contact Ms. Laurel Cordell, Robins AFB EAB Manager, at (478) 327-9275 or laurel.cordell@us.af.mil or visit http://www.robinseab.org



Robins AFB EAB Updates (Cont'd...)



Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 36

SWMU 36 is located in the southeast portion of Robins AFB. Groundwater impacts are attributed to historical waste disposal practices, such as trench disposal and burn pits. The primary groundwater contaminants of concern (COCs) include chlorinated ethenes and chlorinated benzenes. The ORC performance objective for SWMU 36 includes advanced site characterization (ASC), remedy evaluation and recommendation, and a Decision Document (DD) amendment, as applicable. This site has be designated as having an incomplete conceptual site model (CSM) and is generally expected to require longer than 30 years to achieve closure under the current remedial approach.

To further characterize and refine source areas and contaminant transport pathways for the CSM, Geosyntec is currently performing a Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) that will provide a basis for evaluating future remedial action objectives and strategies. A UFP-QAPP for the work was approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD). The initial SSI field efforts were conducted between November 2021 and January 2022. To date, these efforts have included high resolution site characterization using membrane interface probe (MIP) and hydraulic profiling tool (HPT) technologies and borings using direct push technology (DPT) and hollow-stem augers for collection of depth-discrete soil and groundwater samples. The data will be evaluated to select locations for additional groundwater monitoring wells. Geosyntec will prepare an SSI Report to summarize the work from the field activities.

FIFTH FIVE-YEAR REVIEW NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL) SITE – FINALIZED

The fifth Five-Year Review of the remedies selected for the Base's only NPL site was finalized in October 2021. The NPL site consists of LF004 and the Sludge Lagoon Waste Pit 14 (WP-14). The purpose of the Five-Year Review was to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of remedial progress at the site and determine if the selected remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment. The regulatory agencies concurred that the selected remedies for the site are protective in both the short- and long-term. A recommendation was included in the Five-Year Review Report to better define the northern edge of the groundwater plume to enable a more accurate estimate of when groundwater levels will achieve cleanup goals. The additional groundwater investigation will not affect the protectiveness of the remedy.

EAB TRANSITIONS

As a reminder, the EAB has positions available for new members. If you are aware of potential candidates who may be interested, please reach out to Ms. Laurel Cordell, EAB Manager (contact information below).

EAB MEETINGS

The next EAB meeting is tentatively scheduled to be in-person on Thursday, 5 May 2022.

For more information regarding the EAB, please contact Ms. Laurel Cordell, Robins AFB EAB Manager, at (478) 327-9275 or laurel.cordell@us.af.mil or visit http://www.robinseab.org



Robins Air Force Base Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)





Volume 15, Issue 1, May 2022

The Robins AFB EAB

Recognizing the importance of public involvement in environmental matters. Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB or Base) has established the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB). The mission of the EAB is to encourage participation of surrounding communities in the Base's environmental programs and allow community members and other stakeholders to have meaningful dialog with Base officials. Specifically, the EAB serves to promote community awareness and obtain constructive community review, comment, and input on current and proposed actions associated with environmental programs at Robins AFB. The EAB supports the Air Force environmental mission of sustaining readiness, being a good neighbor, protecting human health and the environment for the Base and community, and making smart business decisions.

<u>Inside this issue...</u>

Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) Overview page 2

May 2022 EAB Meeting

The spring EAB meeting was held on Thursday, May 5, 2022. The topics briefed included: "EAB Transitions", "Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) Overview", and "TS882 (Former Skeet Range) - Update on Progress".

This *Fact Sheet* provides a summary of the information and topics discussed during the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 4, 2022.

EAB Transitions

The Robins AFB EAB reconvened in May 2022, with the first in person meeting since February 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic, EAB members Penrose Wolf and Debra Jones retired, and Ms. Laurel Cordell, EAB Manager, moved on to a new position at Robins AFB. During the meeting, each person was recognized for their service. The current EAB team is presented in the callout box below. New members are welcome, and interested parties will be asked to complete a Community Interest Application Form.

At the August 2022 EAB meeting, an election will be held for the Community Co-Chair. Elections are held every three years.

EAB Team

- Community Co-Chair Linda Smyth
- Installation Co-Chair Shan Williams
- Community Members
 - Tiffany Bowen (Centerville)
 - Lawrence Collins (Byron)
 - Jim Harden (Warner Robins)
 - John Harley (Centerville)
 - Steve Johnson (Macon)
 - Mike Maffeo (Macon)
 - Clarence Riley (Warner Robins)
 - Brian Rood (Macon)
- EAB Manager Fred Otto
- Regulatory Participation
 - Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) - Jim Ashworth
 - United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Craig Benedikt

OPTIMIZED REMEDIATION CONTRACT (ORC) OVERVIEW

The ORC is a 7-year performance-based contract that was awarded in September 2020 and includes remediation activities at 19 sites at Robins AFB. The ORC is a follow-on contract to the Performance-Based Remediation (PBR) contract, and the contract has been "optimized" by incorporating lessons learned from the PBR, including involving the regulators in developing the path forward for each restoration site. Facilitation of the EAB is a part of the ORC.

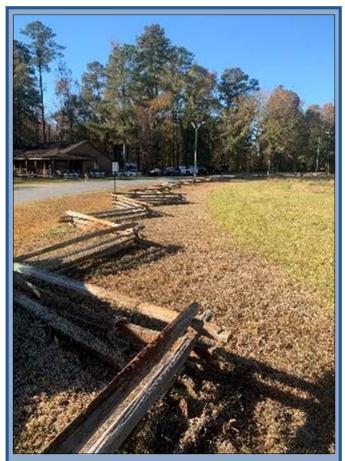
The ORC project team includes regulators from GA EPD and USEPA; representatives from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (i.e., the contracting agency); representatives from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC), the Air Force customer; and representatives from the Bhate/ZAPATA LLC (BZJV), the prime contract holder. Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) is a key subcontractor on the contract.

Each ORC site includes performance objectives (POs), which are metrics the contractor must meet to get paid for the activities conducted. The POs for the Robins AFB ORC are bulleted below along with the sites that have each respective PO. Additional information related to the types of POs and path forward at the various sites will be discussed at future EAB meetings.

- Long-Term Monitoring (LTM)
 - Landfill No. 1
 - Landfill No. 2
 - OT023 (Solid Waste Management Unit [SWMU] 23)
 - Building 169 (SS043)
 - SWMUs 37, 38, 39, and 40
- Remedial Action Operation (RA-O)
 - Landfill No. 3
 - Landfill No. 4
- Update Corrective Action Plan (CAP)
 - CG501 (SWMU 59)
 - CG502 (SWMU 60)
 - CG504 (SWMU 47)
- Achieve Response Complete (RC)
 - TS882 (Former Skeet Range)
 - Building 647 (SWMU 80)

- Achieve Remediation Levels (RLs)
 - CG028 (SWMU 28)
 - OT037 (SWMU 62)
- Achieve Site Closure (SC)
 - CG503 (SWMU 61)
- Alternative Objective (AO)
 - DC034 (SWMU 36) (Horse Pasture)
 - OT017 (SWMU 17)
 - OT020 (SWMU 20)
 - OT041 (SWMU 57)
 - SS040 (SWMU 10B)

Since September 2020, the BZJV team has completed numerous Work Plans for future work, operations and maintenance activities, multiple basewide groundwater sampling events, site investigations, etc. Many of these activities were summarized in EAB flyers that were provided to the team on a quarterly basis.



Operations and Maintenance Activities at Landfill No. 3

TS-882 (FORMER SKEET RANGE) - UPDATE ON PROGRESS

TS882 was a 29.4 acre Skeet Range partially located on what is now the Base golf course; the range operated from 1942 to 1953. The site was identified during an aerial photograph review, and the site finding was corroborated with the Base archeologist, who had encountered clay pigeon debris during archaeological digs conducted between 1998 and 2004.

Site investigations beginning in 2008 identified concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and lead that exceeded risk-based screening levels in soil. The Remedial Investigation report concluded that a Feasibility Study (FS) was needed to identify remedial alternatives for site cleanup.

The FS evaluated four potential remedial alterna-

tives, and the selected path forward, which was documented in a Proposed Plan and Decision Document included: excavation, disposal, backfilling, and site restoration for a PAH-impacted area on the golf course; and land use controls (LUC) and signage and monitored natural recovery (MNR) for the lead-impacted area in the downgradient wetlands.

Under the ORC, the PO is to achieve regulatory approval confirming that the selected remedial alternative has been completed. To initiate these activities, the BZJV prepared Remedial Design/ Remedial Action (RD/RA) work plan documents.

The RD/RA Work Plan for the PAH-impacted area was approved by GA EPD in January 2022. Exca-(Continued on page 4)



Excavation and Stockpiling Activities at TS882

TS-882 (FORMER SKEET RANGE) - UPDATE ON PROGRESS (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 3)

vation activities began in February 2022.

During these activities, artifacts with historical significance have been identified. An archeologist is on-site during all excavation activities for oversight. Findings are being recorded, and the artifacts will be given to the Base conservation team at the conclusion of the project.

The path forward includes completing the excavation activities and site restoration. For the leadimpacted area, the LUCs will be implemented, and the MNR study will be conducted.



Archeological Findings during TS882 Excavation Activities

For more information regarding the EAB, please contact **Mr. Fred Otto, Robins AFB EAB Manager,** at (478) 327-9272 or visit http://www.robinseab.org

Environmental Advisory Board Members

Ms. Shan Williams, Robins AFB Installation Co-Chair	Mayor Lawrence Collins, Byron Community Member	Dr. Clarence Riley, Warner Robins Community Member
Dr. Linda Smyth, Macon Community Co-Chair	Mr. James Harden, Warner Robins Community Member	Dr. Brian E. Rood, Macon Community Member
Mr. Craig Benedikt, US EPA Region 4 Superfund Division	Mayor John Harley, Centerville Community Member	
Mr. Jim Ashworth GA EPD Hazardous Waste Management	Mr. Stephen Johnson, Macon Community Member	
Ms. Tiffany Bowen, Warner Robins Community Member	Mr. Mike Maffeo, Macon Community Member	

Page 4

<u>Acronyms</u>

Air Force Base

A ED

AFB	Air Force Base
AFCEC	Air Force Civil Engineer Center
AO	Alternate Objective
BZJV	Bhate/ZAPATA LLC
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
EAB	Environmental Advisory Board
FS	Feasibility Study
GA EPD	Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Geosyntec	Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.
LTM	Long-Term Monitoring
LUC	Land Use Control
MNR	Monitored Natural Recovery
ORC	Optimized Remediation Contract
РАН	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PBR	Performance-Based Remediation
РО	Performance Objective
RA-O	Remedial Action – Operation
RC	Response Complete
RD/RA	Remedial Design/Remedial Action
RL	Remediation Level
SC	Site Closure
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency



Robins Air Force Base Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)





Volume 15, Issue 2, August 2022

The Robins AFB EAB

Recognizing the importance of public involvement in environmental matters. Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB or Base) has established the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB). The mission of the EAB is to encourage participation of surrounding communities in the Base's environmental programs and allow community members and other stakeholders to have meaningful dialog with Base officials. Specifically, the EAB serves to promote community awareness and obtain constructive community review, comment, and input on current and proposed actions associated with environmental programs at Robins AFB. The EAB supports the Air Force environmental mission of sustaining readiness, being a good neighbor, protecting human health and the environment for the Base and community, and making smart business decisions.

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August 2022 EAB Meeting

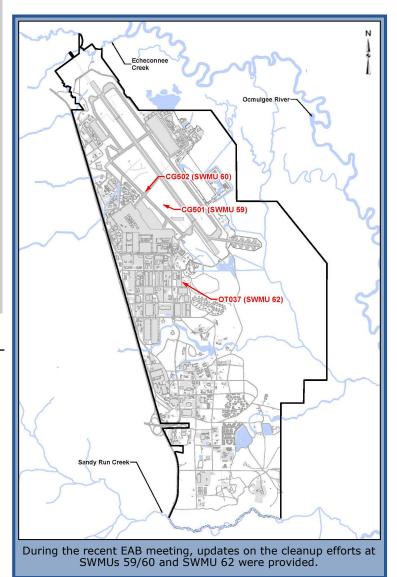
The summer EAB meeting was held on Thursday, August 4, 2022. The topics briefed included: "Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) 59 and 60 (CG501 and CG502) - Update on Progress" and "SWMU 62 (OT037) - Update on Progress."

This *Fact Sheet* provides a summary of the information and topics discussed during the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2022.

UPDATES ON PROGRESS AT SELECT RESTORATION SITES

At the recent EAB meeting, **Dr. Kip Gray** of Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) and **Ms. Elizabeth Rhine** of Bhate Environmental Associates, Inc. (Bhate) briefed on the status of the cleanup efforts at select restoration sites covered under the Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC). Specifically, the sites discussed during the meeting included: (i) SWMUs 59 and 60 (CG501 and CG502); and (ii) SWMU 62 (OT037). The status of each site is presented in this Fact Sheet.



SWMUs 59 and 60

SWMUs 59 and 60 are fuel release sites located along the flightline, which were identified in 1995; no evidence of ongoing leaks have been identified. The current remedial system includes: (i) vertical and horizonal biosparge wells; and (ii) in-situ submerged oxygen curtains (iSOC[®]). Both the biosparge wells and iSOC[®] wells are designed to add oxygen to the subsurface to enhance natural degradation of the subsurface contaminants. Both technologies have been effective within their zone of influence.

Site investigations have been conducted in recent years to refine the conceptual site model (CSM). These site investigations identified residual light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) beneath the taxiway near active and inactive pipelines outside the zone of influence of the current remedial system. The residual LNAPL is generally located below the water table. The LNAPL appears immobile and non-recoverable and is acting as an ongoing source contributing to the downgradient groundwater plume.



As such, a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Addendum was prepared by Geosyntec to expand the biosparge system at both sites with a total of four horizontal directional drilled (HDD) biosparge wells (two at each site) and eight vertical biosparge wells at each site. The CAP Addendum was approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) in October 2021.

Geosyntec prepared a Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) Work Plan to detail the design of the expanded system, which is under review by GA EPD. The path forward includes construction of the system, which is tentatively scheduled to begin in the first half of 2023, pending RD/RA Work Plan approval and subcontractor availability.

SWMU 62

SWMU 62 is primarily a chlorinated ethene [largely tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE)] and carbon tetrachloride (CT) groundwater plume that was originally identified in 1999. The source of the plume was initially thought to be associated with a 48-inch storm sewer outfall (i.e., the Third Street outfall), although testing has not confirmed the source as the sewer. The original remedy for the site included a groundwater extraction system.

Under the Performance-Based Remediation (PBR) contract, the groundwater extraction system was shut down, and an in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) remedy using potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) was implemented. Injections occurred in May 2013, October 2016, and February 2017. Decreases in groundwater contaminant concentrations were observed following the injection event. However, over time, groundwater contaminant concentrations have increased.

Under the ORC, the performance objective is to achieve Remediation Levels (RLs) by the end of the contract (i.e., September 2027). To meet this goal, Bhate is proposing an optimized remedy consisting of injections of Modified Fenton's Reagent (MFR), which is a different type of ISCO remedy. Prior to finalizing the design for the injection program, Bhate conducted a data gap investigation to refine the current plume extent using groundwater data from temporary monitoring wells.

HDD Installation at SWMU 59 in 2012.

EAB TRANSITIONS

At the August EAB meeting, **Dr. Linda Smyth** was re-elected to serve as the Community Co-chair for a three-year term. She has been active on the Board since 2004.

Dr. Smyth is a retired Associate Professor, who served as the Vice President for University Advancement at Fort Valley State University (FVSU) and as Executive Director of the FVSU Foundation for more than a decade.

She has been an active leader in several state, regional, and community organizations. She previously served as Chair of the Middle Georgia Clean Cities Coalition, Georgia Entomology Council, and Macon Arts Alliance, President of the Central GA Mercedes Club, and as Treasurer of Central Georgia Cares. She is Secretary Emeritus of the Macon Charter Academy and Historian of the Ocmulgee Porsche Club.



Dr. Linda Smyth was re-elected as the Community Co-Chair at the August 2022 EAB Meeting.

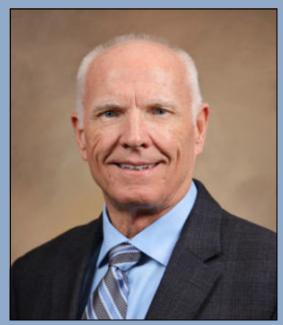
Also at the August EAB meeting, EAB community members approved the appointment of Dr. Richard Mines to the Board. Dr. Mines earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Virginia Military Institute, master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Virginia, and Ph.D. in civil engineering from Virginia Tech. He is an Emeritus Professor from Mercer University, specializing in environmental engineering with a focus on water and wastewater treatment.

During his career, Dr. Mines also spent approximately 7 years in the consulting industry. He is a registered Professional Engineer. In 2022, he was awarded the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers, Engineer of the Year award.

Dr. Mines is the author of two textbooks, *Introduction to Environmental Engineering* published by Pearson and *Environmental Engineering: Principles and Practice* published by Wiley, and he has published 94 refereed publications and proceedings, 20 other publications and reports, and made 63 presentations. He is also a member of multiple professional organizations

He is also a single engine land private pilot, a certified scuba diver, and an avid athlete, including completing 56 marathons in 25 states.

Dr. Mines and his wife, Beth, have two children: Andrew and Daniel. They are members of Martha Bowman Memorial United Methodist Church and are active in the Francis Asbury Sunday School.



Dr. Richard Mines was appointed to the Board at the August 2022 EAB Meeting.

UPDATES ON PROGRESS AT SELECT (CONTINUED...) RESTORATION SITES

(Continued from page 2)

Bhate also evaluated various types of oxidants for the optimized remedy. It is noted that permanganate has the lowest oxidation potential, while the hydroxyl radical used in MFR has the highest potential; however, permanganate is easier to manage in the field so it is commonly used; the hydroxyl radical has to be created in the field. MFR is a higher concentration (i.e., 10 to 12 percent) hydrogen peroxide mixed with a chelated iron catalyst under a neutral pH.

The oxidant will desorb the contaminant from the soil into the aqueous phase and subsequently treat the dissolved phase concentrations. The reaction also generates superoxide anions (a reductant) that will treat the carbon tetrachloride, which cannot be oxidized.

The preliminary path forward for the site includes multiple injections on a grid pattern, first targeting areas where concentrations are greater than 25 micrograms per liter ($\mu g/L$).

Bhate is currently preparing a CAP Addendum and RD/RA Work Plan for Government and Regulatory approval.



Drilling at SWMU 62.

Acronyms

AFB	Air Force Base
Bhate	Bhate Environmental Associates, Inc.
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CT	Carbon Tetrachloride
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
EAB	Environmental Advisory Board
FVSU	Fort Valley State University
GA EPD	Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Geosyntec	Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilled
ISCO	In-Situ Chemical Oxidation
iSOC®	In-Situ Submerged Oxygen Curtain
KMnO ₄	Potassium Permanganate
LNAPL	Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid
MFR	Modified Fenton's Reagent
ORC	Optimized Remediation Contract
PBR	Performance Based Remediation
PCE	Tetrachloroethene
RD/RA	Remedial Design/Remedial Action
RL	Remediation Level
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
TCE	Trichloroethene
µg/L	micrograms per liter

For more information regarding the EAB, please contact Mr. Fred Otto, Robins AFB EAB Manager, at (478) 327-9272 or visit http://www.robinseab.org

Environmental Advisory Board Members

Ms. Shan Williams, Robins AFB Installation Co-Chair	Mayor Lawrence Collins, Byron Community Member	Dr. Clarence Riley, Warner Robins Community Member
Dr. Linda Smyth, Macon Community Co-Chair	Mr. James Harden, Warner Robins Community Member	Dr. Brian E. Rood, Macon Community Member
Mr. Craig Benedikt, US EPA Region 4 Superfund Division	Mayor John Harley, Centerville Community Member	
Mr. Jim Ashworth GA EPD Hazardous Waste Management	Mr. Stephen Johnson, Macon Community Member	
Ms. Tiffany Bowen, Warner Robins Community Member	Mr. Mike Maffeo, Macon Community Member	

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