Robins Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Fact Sheet

Volume 17, Issue 2, September 2024

The Robins AFB RAB

Recognizing the importance of public involvement in environmental matters, Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB or Base) has established the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The mission of the RAB is to encourage participation of surrounding communities in the Base's environmental restoration program and allow community members and other stakeholders to have meaningful dialog with Base officials. Specifically, the RAB serves to promote community awareness and obtain constructive community review, comment, and input on current and proposed actions associated with the environmental restoration program at Robins AFB. The RAB 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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September 2024 RAB Meeting

The fall RAB meeting was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024.

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

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

SSI at SWMU 57 (OT041)

At the fall RAB meeting, **Dr. Kip Gray** of Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) briefed: "SSI at SWMU 57 (OT041)". SWMU 57 is an Alternative Objective (AO) site under the Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) for Robins AFB. SSIs are being conducted at AO sites to update the CSM.

SWMU 57 is located in the northern portion of Robins AFB and is associated with contamination identified during a 1995 flightline environmental investigation along a

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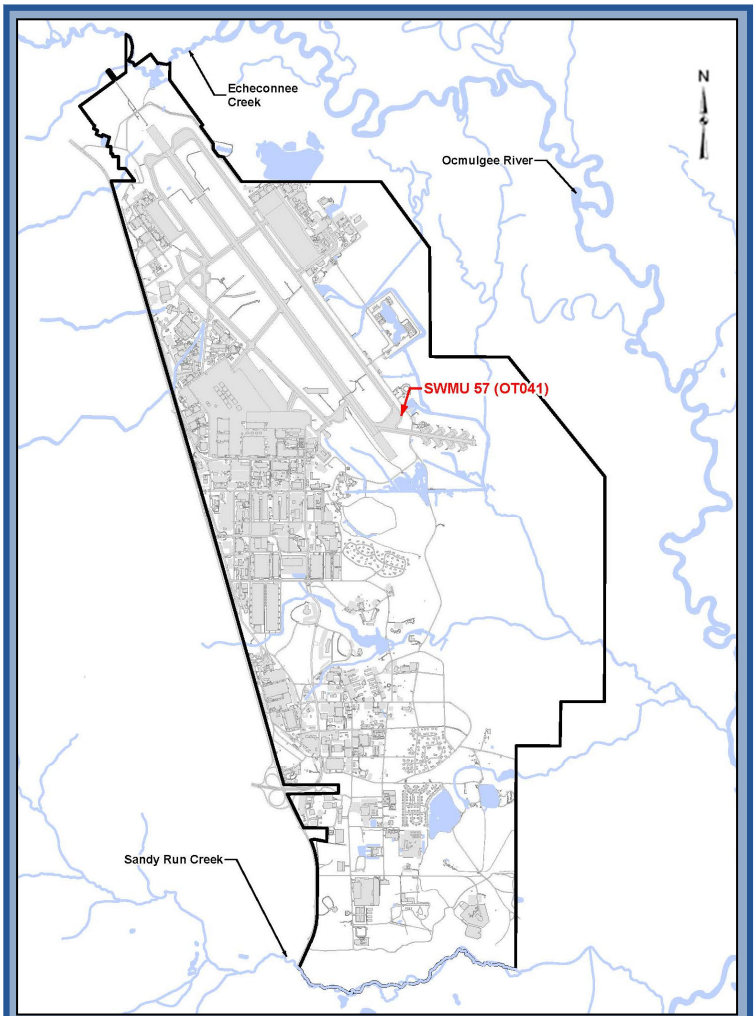

During the recent RAB meeting, the findings of the Phase I SSI activities at SWMU 57 were presented.

SSI at SWMU 57 (OT041) (Continued...)

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culvert system. Additional contamination was identified at the site in 2014 south of the culvert system. The primary contaminants of concern (COCs) are benzene and chlorobenzene. The initial remedy for SWMU 57 was groundwater extraction. Under the Performance-Based Remediation (PBR) contract, the remedy was updated and transitioned to biosparge with two horizontal wells.

The SSI approach generally consists of conducting activities to identify the source of contamination, investigating the distribution of contamination in a peat/clay layer at the site and evaluating if the contamination is present under the taxiway at the site, and identifying conditions that might stimulate/hinder degradation of site contaminants.

Phase I SSI field activities consisted of conducting membrane interface (MIP) borings with the hydraulic profiling tool (HPT) to qualitatively assess areas of contamination and subsurface geology and subsequently collecting discrete soil and groundwater samples to provide quantitative data.

The data collected from the MIP and HPT reflect that the areas with the highest levels of contamination are generally located south of the culvert system. Significant contamination was not identified under the taxiway.

The HPT data generally indicate that the highest levels of contamination are located in the low permeability peat/clay layer that underlies the site. Levels of contamination decrease rapidly with depth in the sandy aquifer underlying the peat/clay layer.

Concentration plume maps with soil and groundwater sample results data show that the qualitative data yielded similar observations to the MIP data.

Key findings from the SSI include:

- COCs in groundwater and soil are collocated, and the highest concentrations are in the peat/clay layer.

- The was no indication that non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) is present at the site.

The path forward for the Phase II SSI activities includes installation of additional monitoring wells. Passive flux meters (PFMs) will be installed in select monitoring wells to evaluate flux from the peat/clay. Additionally, samples are being collected for Compound Specific Isotope Analysis (CSIA) for source identification and natural attenuation evaluation.

Contoured MIP photoionization detector (PID) data from the SSI at SWMU 57.

Progress Update: Remedial Investigation of PFAS

At the fall RAB, **Mr. James Griffin** with Sustainment and Restoration Services (SRS) provided an update on the PFAS RI. PFAS are a group of man made chemicals found in many industrial and consumer products (e.g., nonstick cookware, waterproof fabric, food packaging, etc.) and Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), which is used to put out fires. The compounds are excellent surfactants, as they repel both water and oil. PFAS compounds are persistent in the environment.

Status of PFAS RI (as of September 2024):
- Green shaded = Direct Push Technology (DPT) complete
- Green with hatching = DPT in progress
- Red outlined = DPT not started

It was noted that the six active drinking water wells on Robins AFB were tested in 2016, 2020, and 2023, and the results were below detection levels. Based on these results, the drinking water at the Base has not been impacted. Drinking water at Robins AFB is obtained from the Bluffton aquifer, which is more than 100 feet below ground surface (ft bgs).

At Robins AFB, a Preliminary Assessment (PA) with record searches and interviews was conducted in 2015. This was followed by a Site Investigation (SI) with soil and groundwater sampling in 2017. Based on detections of PFAS during the SI, a Remedial Investigation (RI) is being conducted at 19 Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) sites to delineate the nature and extent of PFAS contamination at Robins AFB and update the conceptual site model (CSM).

The PFAS RI investigation areas at Robins AFB are generally related to crash/fire response sites, fire department training activities, releases from fire suppression systems in aircraft hangers, disposal sites, and the industrial wastewater treatment plant. The RI includes soil, groundwater, surface water, and/or sediment sampling at these areas, as appropriate.

As of the timing of the RAB meeting, over 470 borings have been completed with more than 1,500 soil and groundwater samples collected from these borings. Additionally, approximately 80 existing monitoring wells have been sampled, and surface water and sediment sampling has been completed at 15 locations.

Upcoming work includes vertical aquifer sampling, installation and sampling of additional monitoring wells, additional surface and sediment sampling, and porewater sampling with lysimeters.

The contract for the RI was awarded in August 2022. Field work commenced in September 2023 and will continue through August 2025.

Development of Community Involvement Plan (CIP)

Robins AFB is currently in the process of developing a CIP. Installations with environmental restoration programs are required to have a community involvement program, which should be documented in a CIP. Robins AFB currently has a Community Relations Plan (CRP), which will be transformed into a CIP.

A CIP outlines the methods to engage the community in the restoration process. It includes community strategies, public participation activities, and feedback mechanisms.

The CIP document will include an introduction, background information for Robins AFB, the current status of the restoration sites, information about the community, and an overview of the community engagement program. Key components of the community engagement program are expected to include the CIP itself, the semi-annual RAB meetings, community interviews, and the RAB website.

The CIP will be briefed to the RAB when it is complete.

RAB meetings will continue to be a key component of the community involvement program.

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

Acronyms

AFB	Air Force Base
AO	Alternate Objective
CEJST	Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
COC	Contaminant of Concern
CRP	Community Relations Plan
CSIA	Compound Specific Isotope Analysis
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
DPT	Direct Push Technology
EJ	Environmental Justice
EJSCREEN	Environmental Justice Screening Tool
ER	Environmental Restoration Program
ft bgs	feet below ground surface
Geosyntec	Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.
HPT	Hydraulic Profiling Tool
MIP	Membrane Interface Probe
NAPL	Non-aqueous phase liquid
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
ORC	Optimized Remediation Contract
PA	Preliminary Assessment
PBR	Performance-Based Remediation
PFAS	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
PFM	Passive Flux Meter
PID	Photoionization Detector
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RI	Remedial Investigation
SRS	Sustainment and Restoration Services
SI	Site Investigation
SSI	Supplemental Site Investigation
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

Restoration Advisory Board Members

Mr. Heyward Singleton, **Robins AFB** Installation Co-Chair	**Mr. Lawrence Collins,** **Byron** Community Member	**Dr. Richard Mines,** **Macon** Community Member
Dr. Linda Smyth, **Macon** Community Co-Chair	**Mr. James Harden,** **Warner Robins** Community Member	**Dr. Clarence Riley,** **Warner Robins** Community Member
Mr. Craig Benedikt, **US EPA Region 4** Superfund Division	**Mayor John Harley,** **Centerville** Community Member	**Dr. Brian E. Rood,** **Macon** 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	