



# GEORGE AFB CALIFORNIA

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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 2095

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October 28, 2005  
B-09006-0403-2101

Mr. Jerry Bingham  
Base Conversion Directorate  
AFCEE/BCW  
3300 Sidney Brooks  
Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5112

Subject: GEITA Contract F41624-01-D-8534, TO 210, Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)  
Adjournment Report, Former George AFB, TX (A001)

Deliverable: TO-210.113

Dear Mr. Bingham:

Attached is the subject deliverable, RAB Adjournment Report for the former George AFB. The purpose of this deliverable is to summarize past and present community involvement efforts at the former George AFB, current community interest, rationale for proposing to adjourn the RAB, and finalization of the RAB adjournment. The report will be signed by both the George RAB Installation Co-Chair and Community Co-Chair and placed in the George Information Repository if RAB adjournment is approved at the George Environmental Forum and public meeting on October 20, 2005.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this deliverable, please contact Cheri Kirkpatrick at 210-925-3022 or myself at 210-244-4220.

Sincerely,

Vergel Casunuran  
Associate

BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON

Attachment

Copy to: Booz Allen e-file

**Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Adjournment Report**

**Former George Air Force Base (AFB)  
Victorville, CA**

**October 2005**

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## **I. Purpose and Summary**

This adjournment report provides an overview of the George Air Force Base (AFB) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), documents the rationale for adjournment of the RAB, and outlines the process by which the United States Air Force (USAF) will ensure continued community involvement in restoration activities at the former installation. This document also provides justification for the decision to adjourn the RAB.

## **II. RAB Overview**

The George RAB is an advisory group comprised of government and community stakeholders, which is organized to pursue the following goals:

- Provide a proactive forum for the discussion and exchange of environmental restoration program information between the USAF, regulatory agencies, community members, and other stakeholders.
- Ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to review the progress of environmental restoration activities and participate in a constructive dialogue with the installation's decision makers.

The RAB for the former George AFB was formed in February 1994 with its first meeting held on Wednesday, February 2, 1994. During its tenure, the RAB has given the community the opportunity to provide input on cleanup decisions and provided a mechanism for the USAF to disseminate information regarding the investigation and cleanup of contaminated property.

The George RAB is chaired jointly by a USAF representative and a community member. Until mid-1996, the George RAB met quarterly and was attended by approximately 20 representatives. Due to declining interest and poor meeting attendance by both the public and members, the RAB moved to an annual meeting schedule and renamed itself the George Environmental Forum.

## **III. Background on Adjournment**

In October 1990, a Federal Facility Agreement was signed by the USAF, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Toxic Substances Control), and the California Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. The agreement detailed how the USAF would develop, implement, finance, and monitor cleanup activities at the base in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Contingency Plan. The agreement included schedules of

plan and document development for remediation and for community relations and public notification.

At the Annual Environmental Public Forum on October 20, 2005, the USAF adjourned the George RAB due to inadequate sustained community interest. Chapter 10 of the September 2001 Management Guidance for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) (attached) outlines the regulatory procedures governing RAB adjournment.

The George Installation Restoration Program (IRP) began in 1981 to remove contamination in the soil and groundwater from the use of hazardous materials in operation and upkeep of aircraft, ground support equipment and vehicles. Today, 49 sites require no further action, 15 sites have remediation systems in place, 12 sites require long-term monitoring and maintenance of landfills and five sites require investigation. In addition, four Operable Units (OU) have been identified and two Records of Decision have signed. Through fiscal year 2004, \$92 million was spent on remediating the land at George and the Air Force expects to spend approximately \$25 million in FY05 and beyond.

To date, the USAF has turned over 5,062 acres at George for reuse. Long-term leases account for 40 percent of the transferred land, while deed transfers comprise the other 60 percent. Organizations now using the land include the Southern California Logistics Airport, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, General Electric, the High Desert Power Plant, the City of Adelanto School District, Fort Irwin Transport, Artesia Spa Manufacturer and World of Leisure Billiard Manufacturer. Almost 2,000 jobs have been created as a result of these businesses.

Future USAF environmental activities for George include the continued operation of remedial systems, further pesticide investigation, and optimization of the pump and treat systems to protect the groundwater. The USAF also plans to complete its investigation at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Proficiency Training Area. Finally, the USAF will write a corrective action plan for the sites contained in OU-2. OU-2 contains five IRP sites and one area of concern with jet fuel spill areas and a groundwater plume. The site consists of free product and soil gas above the free product plume.

While operating as an active base, George maintained an active relationship with the surrounding community through various speakers bureau events, base tours for school and community groups, and the biannual air show.

The contamination at George AFB has been well documented by the local media, dating back to 1985 when significant coverage was given to the issue. Although local newspaper editorials chastised base personnel for holding private meetings with local,

state, and federal officials about the investigation and cleanup plan, there was no record of significant public concern. During the interview process for the 1991 Community Relations Plan (CRP), there was prevailing support for the base and how the USAF responded to the environmental problems at the base. Similar supportive statements were made by community members interviewed for the October 1997 and June 2003 CRPs.

Twenty-three individuals were interviewed for the October 1997 and June 2003 CRPs to determine the level and type of community concerns regarding environmental cleanup activities at George. The primary issue of concern was the reuse of George property to create new jobs to replace those lost when the base closed. Reuse plans, responsibility for cleanup, and economic strain at George were the issues of greatest concern.

The second issue of concern was water supply and quality. Interviewees expressed the desire for the community to be able to accommodate growing population trends. A major concern in the region was the continued availability of potable drinking water. The Victorville community receives its drinking water from wells or the Mojave River which flows near the former base. The aquifer below the base flows northeast toward the Mojave River, a major water source for communities north and east of the base. To date, the trichloroethylene (TCE) plume from George has not migrated into drinking water wells or in the Mojave River. Despite the soil and groundwater contamination at George, the drinking water in the community continues to be safe for consumption.

A majority of community members interviewed for the October 1997 CRP expressed that, in general, local residents were not overly concerned with environmental issues. Most agreed that the environmental issues which have received the most public attention centered on endangered species in the area, such as the desert tortoise and Mojave ground squirrel, and on water supply.

During interviews for the October 1997 CRP, community members were informed about the George RAB and its function and asked if they would like to participate. Three indicated they thought the RAB was a good concept and might be interested in participating, if time permitted. When asked about the RAB and its past and future potential as an effective community interface, mixed responses were provided. Some said the RAB received a high level of interest in the beginning because community members (and some contractors) misunderstood its purpose, but once the reuse authority was established, the community lost interest. Several community members thought the RAB still had the potential to be a valuable link to the community, but suggested that meetings be scheduled less frequently or public meetings be held periodically to update the community on the progress of the cleanup.

The USAF conducted a public comment period from September 2, 2005 through October 15, 2005 to allow the public to provide input on the proposed adjournment of the RAB. No comments were received during the public comment period.

#### **IV. Continuing Community Involvement Activities**

The USAF will continue to provide opportunities for community involvement regarding the environmental cleanup program at George by maintaining a toll-free phone number (1-800-655-7200 ext. 109); a USAF point of contact (Mr. Calvin Cox, George Field Office, 18374 Phantom West Avenue, Victorville, CA 92394, 1-760-246-5360); and the Administrative Record online at <https://afrpaar.afarpa.pentagon.af.mil/docsearch/newdocsearchform.asp>. In addition, the USAF will perform other activities as necessary.

The USAF will amend the CRP as the cleanup program progresses and will use it as a roadmap for continued community involvement. Community involvement activities will include keeping a point of contact list of interested stakeholders and providing a USAF point of contact. They may also include conducting future public availability sessions. Every two years, until the final Record of Decision is signed, the USAF will assess interest in reconstituting a RAB during periods of ongoing cleanup, as required by the DERP. An installation may reestablish an adjourned RAB if there is sufficient and sustained community interest and environmental restoration activities are ongoing at the installation.

For more information on USAF activities, please contact the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator (BEC), Mr. Phil Mook, at (916) 643-0830 ext. 209 or the AFRPA Regional Public Affairs Officer, Ms. Linda Geissinger, toll-free at (800) 655-7200 ext. 109.



**V. Recommendation for Adjournment**

As the RAB Community Co-chair, I recommend adjournment of the George RAB.

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Mr. Richard Cole

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Date

**VI. Adjournment**

As the RAB Government Co-Chair, I hereby adjourn the George RAB.

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Mr. Phil Mook

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Date

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**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

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