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liaison, and reporting); Bioenvironmental Engineering (personal protective equipment selection); Civil Engineering (Fire Department and Spill Response Team); Security Police (site control); and Public Affairs (awareness).

The base relies upon extensive training and awareness programs, including oil spill training and readiness exercises, to assure that base personnel recognize the importance of prevention first and foremost, followed by timely and proper response in the event of a release.

In recent months, the term environmental emergency release has come to signify more than just oil or chemical spills. Since the events of September 11, 2001, responses to potential incidents involving suspicious packages have assumed greater attention.

The base recently has acquired state-of-the-art equipment for support of the spill response program. Included in these acquisitions are a 30-foot trailer for equipment transport, a chemical agent monitor, a mass decontamination solution applicator, and a quick-set-up shelter for decontamination activities.

Steven Coyle, Installation Co-Chair, praised the base's spill prevention and preparedness programs. He commented that the base has mutual support agreements with local municipalities to ensure that resources can be deployed wherever and whenever needed to provide proper spill response.



Among the recent acquisitions in the spill response program are (from upper left) a decon solution mass applicator, a chemical monitor, and a trailer for transporting equipment to sites.

Visit us on the web at
www.em.robins.af.mil

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Fact Sheet

Robins Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board

A publication of Robins AFB

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The Robins AFB RAB

Recognizing the importance of public involvement in environmental restoration, Robins Air Force Base (AFB) established the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) in 1994. The mission of Robins AFB's RAB is to encourage community participation in the Air Force Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) cleanup process and allow community members and other stakeholders to have meaningful dialog with base officials. The RAB includes members from the community, regulatory agencies, and the base, and holds four public forums per year. The RAB serves to advise Robins AFB and disseminate information to the public.

January RAB Meeting Held

The RAB held the winter meeting on January 10, 2002, at the Hampton Inn in Warner Robins, Georgia. The theme of this meeting was "worker protection." Briefings were presented on three topics, including current status of Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) activities, spill prevention and response programs at Robins AFB, and worker protection during restoration activities.

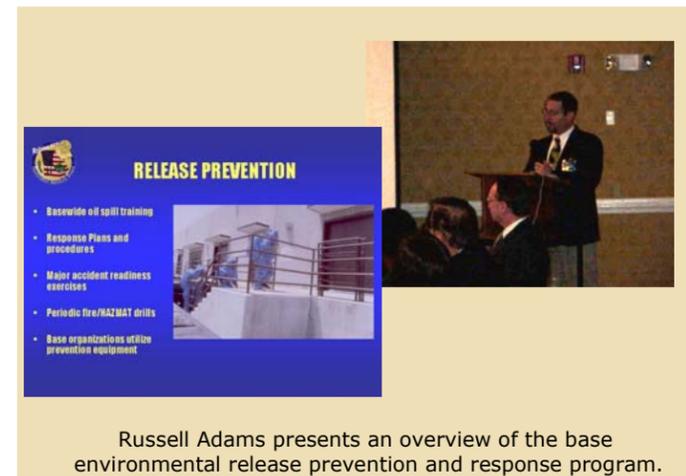
The RAB *Fact Sheet* provides a summary of the information and topics discussed in the last meeting. The next meeting will be held on **March 14, 2002, at the Hampton Inn, 4000 Watson Boulevard, Warner Robins.**

A reminder...

The information repository for public documents related to the Robins AFB Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) is located at the Nola Brantley Library, 721 Watson Boulevard, Warner Robins.

Spill Prevention and Response Programs at Robins AFB

Prevention of environmental releases or spills and the proper response to spills that do occur are important efforts of the Environmental Management Directorate. A briefing by **Russell Adams**, Emergency Response Manager in the Pollution Prevention Division (EMP), highlighted the current Robins capabilities and resources. The briefing also described the successful base response to several spill incidents.



Russell Adams presents an overview of the base environmental release prevention and response program.

Mr. Adams began his briefing with a summary of the regulations that specify the required type and extent of spill prevention and response efforts. Federal regulations describe policies for chemical storage, training, response procedures, and reporting. The base has implemented numerous plans and procedures to ensure full compliance with pertinent regulations.

Various individuals and organizations at Robins have distinct roles and responsibilities in the event of a spill. The key entities with responsibilities and their major roles include: Air Base Wing Commander (on-scene commander); Environmental Management (advisors,

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Summary Update on ERP Sites Becomes Regular Feature of RAB Meetings

Kevin Long, Chief of the Compliance and Restoration Division (EMQ), announced that, as part of future RAB meetings, Environmental Management (EM) will provide a summary update of key activities and accomplishments related to ERP activities around the base.

Mr. Long provided updates on five restoration-related activities. He indicated that these topics and

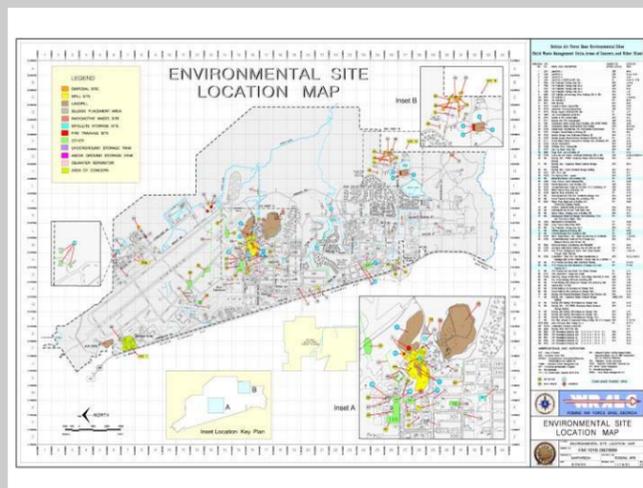


Kevin Long briefs the January 10 RAB meeting on five projects with ongoing activity at ERP sites around the base.

- The base has received a revision to a Memorandum of Agreement from Bradley Plywood (owner of property adjoining the Horse Pasture Site) to enable the installation of additional monitoring wells for delineation of the plume. Mr. Long indicated that the property owner is working very well with Robins AFB on this effort.
- Gun Range site lead excavation and removal work has been completed, and the base has received a tentative NFA from GA EPD. In order to remove this site from the base hazardous waste permit, a permit modification activity is underway, with the public notice period being from 14 February until 14 April 2002.
- The Phase 3 Groundwater Treatment Plant Expansion project is proceeding, with the 13 additional extraction well installation completed and the pipeline work underway.

major activities have been briefed during past RAB meetings. The activities updated are the following:

- Robins AFB has received a “No Further Action” (NFA) from Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) at the Taxiway 4 Site; the contamination originated at an industrial facility (now closed) off Robins AFB property.
- Decommissioning of Water Supply Well No. 7 has been completed, with the grouting of the well. This well had exhibited the potential for contamination from groundwater plumes originating at the AAFES gasoline station and Building 645 facilities.



Locations of the five summary update sites were shown on the ERP site map.

Worker Protection in Restoration Projects Described; Equipment Demonstrated

Worker protection during performance of restoration projects was the topic of a briefing by **Dr. Jack Peng**, a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) of **GeoSyntec Consultants**. He began his description with a summary of regulations that cover the worker protection issue. These include the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and Hazard Communications regulations, both regulations under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Health and Safety Plans (HASPs) were described in detail, and an example HASP currently in use for an active project (the Horse Pasture project) was shown to RAB members.

Dr. Peng discussed the three work zones associated with any restoration site, and described the activities that occur within each zone. The exclusion, or “hot,” zone comprises the area in which site excavation or other material disturbance is occurring. The contamination reduction, or “warm,” zone, includes the areas in which decontamination of site workers or equipment occurs. The clean, or “cold,” zone encompasses the uncontaminated zone outside the warm zone.

Using actual pieces of equipment brought from active sites, Dr. Peng described and demonstrated several items of air monitoring equipment used at restoration

sites for detecting general organic vapors, flammable vapors, and specific organic chemicals in vapors.

Personal protective equipment, or PPE, was described and examples of Level A and Level B suits were shown. The remaining two protective levels, Levels C and D, both with less stringent protective requirements, were described as well.



Air monitoring equipment demonstrated included a general organic vapor detector, a specific compound colorimetric detector, and a flammable vapor monitor.



Level A PPE is shown in this photo from a training exercise on base conducted to instruct personnel in proper response to a leaking drum incident.



Dr. Jack Peng, CIH, shows examples of Level A and Level B PPE to the audience at the January 10 RAB meeting.

The use of respirators was demonstrated as part of the meeting. The respiratory fit test was described. The qualitative fit test involves the use of irritant smoke or banana oil verification of respirator fit. The quantitative fit test utilizes instrument-based pulmonary testing. Robins AFB specifies and uses the quantitative fit test for all restoration projects.

The briefing concluded with a summary of health and safety costs. Dr. Peng stated that these costs can range from a low of approximately five percent of total restoration project budget (for a small site with simple requirements) to 60 percent (for a large site with specialized health and safety requirements).