

(Continued from page 1)

- Urban tree management program
- Timber management program
- More than 3,000 acres used for hunting
- Extensive fishing program

One example of restoration ecology involves the reduction in pesticide usage on the Base golf course. The golf course, which traditionally accounted for about half of the total Base pesticide usage, now uses only low toxicity pesticides and these only when specifically indicated. The preferred method of pest and weed control involves establishment of “no mow” zones that require no herbicide use and also contribute to improved wildlife habitat. An additional advantage is that such zones also contribute to protection of rare plant species such as the Ocmulgee skullcap.

Restoration activities involving Duck Lake have contributed to improved fish habitats as well as re-

duced weed control requirements. Other restoration sites described as examples of resources and restoration collaboration included Landfills 3 and 4, the NPL site, Storm Water Ditch 006, and the Horse Pasture restoration site.

Dr. Sargent indicated that the collaboration and partnering involving restoration ecology at Robins includes several outside agencies,



Storm Water Ditch 006 has provided a rich habitat for various species of wildlife.

including the Boy Scouts of America, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and GA DNR.

Glossary

- AFB- Air Force Base
- CAP- Corrective Action Plan
- EPA- Environmental Protection Agency
- ERP- Environmental Restoration Program
- GA DNR-Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- GA EPD-Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- GBIA- Greater Base Industrial Area
- JP-4- jet fuel, type 4
- JP-8- jet fuel, type 8
- NFA- no further action
- NPL- National Priorities List
- P2- pollution prevention
- RAB- Restoration Advisory Board
- RCRA- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- RFI- RCRA Facility Investigation
- SWMU- Solid Waste Management Unit
- TCE- Trichloroethylene

For more information regarding the RAB, contact **Ms. Charline Logue, Robins AFB RAB Manager** (478) 926-1197, ext. 128.

Restoration Advisory Board Members

Mr. Steven Coyle, Robins AFB Installation Co-Chair	Dr. Dan Callahan, Warner Robins Community Member	Dr. M.B. Neace, Macon Community Member
Mr. James Harden, Warner Robins Community Co-Chair	Ms. Marianne Golmitz, Warner Robins Community Member	Dr. Brian E. Rood, Macon Community Member
Ms. Liz Wilde U.S. EPA Region 4 Federal Facility, Hazardous Waste Div.	Dr. Joyce Jenkins, Fort Valley Community Member	Ms. Kathy Stege, Macon Community Member
Mr. Brent Rabon GA EPD Hazardous Waste Management	Mr. Steve Johnson, Macon Community Member	Dr. Joseph Swartwout, Fort Valley Community Member
Mr. Kevin Long, Robins AFB Chief, Compliance and Restoration Division	Mr. Broderick Lowe, Warner Robins Community Member	Mr. Don Thompson, Macon Community Member
	Mr. Mike Maffeo, Macon Community Member	



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



A publication of Robins AFB

Volume 5, Issue 3, September 2002

The Robins AFB RAB

Recognizing the importance of public involvement in environmental restoration, Robins Air Force Base established the Restoration Advisory Board in 1994. The mission of the RAB is to encourage community participation in the Air Force Environmental Restoration Program 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 management and disseminate information to the public.

September RAB Meeting

The fall meeting of the RAB was held September 12, 2002, at the Hampton Inn in Warner Robins, Georgia. The theme of this meeting was “Preventing Future Contamination Through Pollution Prevention (P2).” An update of ERP program progress was presented, and three technical briefings were presented. The technical briefings focused on restoration ecology, P2 initiatives, and compliance through P2.

This RAB *Fact Sheet* provides a summary of the information and topics discussed in the meeting. **The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2003.**

Additional copies of RAB information packages available...

Ms. Charline Logue, RAB Manager, announced at the September RAB meeting that additional copies of the RAB meeting materials are now available at each meeting for RAB members who would like to use these items to communicate RAB information to their local communities.

Restoration Ecology Plays An Important Role at Robins AFB

Restoration ecology is defined as restoring contaminated and/or disturbed environmental sites using conservation principles. In a briefing to the RAB, **Dr. Bob Sargent**, Chief of the Environmental Resources Division (EMX), stated that the overall goal of restoration ecology is to maintain a healthy and diverse ecosystem on the installation.



Duck Lake after the restoration program was completed, with improved fish attractors and sculpted bottom contours to prevent aquatic weed growth.

Restoration ecology programs are important to installations such as Robins, in part because of the large and diverse nature of the biological communities that flourish on the Base. To set the stage, Dr. Sargent listed key statistics related to Robins environmental resources:

- More than 2,200 acres of jurisdictional wetlands
- Eight significant natural communities
- Two state-protected plant species
- More than 15,000 trees in urban Base areas

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Pad 8 Waste Reduction Program Generates Success... and Payback

Robins AFB has taken a decisive step toward solving the issue of generation and disposal of one of the highest cost waste streams generated on Base, says **Jim Reese**, P2 Project Engineer in the Pollution Prevention Division (EMP). Using a series of pneumatic vacuum units, aircraft maintenance personnel generate approximately 500 gallons per week of "flight line vacuum waste," a liquid mix of water and petroleum phases. A study recommended that an in-vessel liquid phase separation system be developed and built as a prototype.



Pad 8 phase separation prototype unit during installation near the flight line (left).



Brig. Gen. Lawrence Stevenson is briefed on operation of the prototype unit (right).

The prototype unit was placed in operation in March 2002 and has performed according to specification since that time. From March through August 2002, the unit diverted 1,545 gallons of water from drumming and hazardous waste disposal to the Base industrial wastewater treatment plant for treatment. This diversion alone has resulted in savings of more than \$6,600 in hazardous waste disposal costs. Using projections based on current use, the Base projects a payback in less than five years. A study is now underway focused on eliminating the already small quantities of solvents in the petroleum phase.

Bullet Trap Project Underway

Robins AFB is engaged in a program designed to ensure that future gun range activities do not cause lead contamination due to discharged bullets. According to **Jim Reese**, installations with gun ranges typically have used an earthen berm for capture of bullets after firing. Lead in spent bullets is normally not leachable to a significant degree and, therefore, is of limited current environmental concern. However, EM has determined that installation of a bullet trap at the Robins gun range will prevent any possible future concerns related to lead.

EM has provided funding of \$300,000 for this system. The state-of-the-art bullet trap will include the collector wedges made of specialty steel, cylindrical deceleration chambers, dust collectors to remove any minimal amounts of lead dust, and conveyor systems to transport the spent bullets from the trap to a retrieval area. The unit is presently on order, and installation is expected to occur late in 2002.



A bullet trap similar in concept to the one pictured will be installed at the gun range to enable collection and reclaim of spent shells that contain lead.

The RAB bids goodbye to Community Member Mike Hutchinson. Mr. Hutchinson has relocated out-of-state recently and has resigned his position on the RAB. We wish him well in his future endeavors.



"Compliance through P2" Initiatives Achieving Success through Innovation

Richard Slife, Chief of Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health in the Maintenance Directorate, briefed the RAB on activities and programs of the newly formed Weapon System Compliance through P2 (WS CTP2) group. The activities focus on three areas—coatings, coatings removal, and plating.

Coatings initiatives include zero VOC topcoat research, advanced performance coating studies, and evaluation of UV cure touchup coating. Coatings removal initiatives include evaluation of non-residue dry media blast processes, the use of Flashjet® technology for depainting radomes, and alternative blast processes for plating shop use. Mr. Slife provided details of the "barrier coating" project, which is directed toward evaluation of barrier layers that can preclude the stripping of aircraft surfaces down to the bare metal, thereby reducing the amount of hazardous waste generated and reducing manpower/materials cost.

The plating shop initiatives are directed toward minimizing and controlling multi-media emissions, including hazardous waste, hazardous air emissions, and wastewater. The program includes use of specialized computer software for modeling various scenarios for waste reduction.



C-17 Advanced Performance Coating



Advanced coatings and specialized coatings removal technologies were described in the briefing by Richard Slife. At top a C-17 aircraft is shown at the primer coating stage prior to addition of the advanced performance coating; at bottom the Flashjet coating removal technology is used on a radome.

ERP Program Update: Permit Modification Approved

Kevin Long, Chief of the Compliance and Restoration Division, briefed the RAB on the GA EPD approval of the recently submitted Hazardous Waste Facility Permit modification request. The effective date of the modification is September 12, 2002.



Kevin Long discusses the location of sites included in the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit modification.

Specific items in the permit modification included approval of CAPs for the following:

- SWMU 20— GBIA Groundwater Contamination
- SWMU 40— Machine Shop at Building 140
- SWMU 59— JP-8 Product Line Along Main Controlled Taxiway
- SWMU 60— JP-8 Product Line Near Intersection of Taxiway No. 2 and Taxiway No. 3
- SWMU 62— Third Street Storm Sewer and Outfall

In addition, the permit modification approved NFA decisions for the following:

- SWMU 10A— JP-4 Spill Site A
- SWMU 43— Plastic Shop Baghouses at Building 670 (Former Dry Cleaning Facility)
- SWMU 51— Oil-Water Separator at Building 680
- SWMU 52— Chemical Storage Shed at Building 680
- SWMU 63— Test Firing Range for M61-20mm Guns (Buildings 2041, 2042, and 2043)
- SWMU 69— Building 110— Hangar Aircraft
- AOC 1— Area of Concern Near Taxiway No. 4

Mr. Long expressed appreciation to Mr. Brent Rabon of GA EPD for the continued cooperative working relationship that the Base has had with GA EPD. He indicated that the multiple actions and approvals achieved in this permit modification were a direct result of this cooperation.

Our Web address: www.em.robins.af.mil