



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Albuquerque
District

Former Walker AFB

Update

Volume 1 • January 2001

Formerly Used Defense Site Program

Site History

The Former Walker Air Force Base is located just south of Roswell approximately 6 miles from the city center. In 1942, the Department of Defense acquired 5,072 acres for a basic training school called the Roswell Army Air Field. In 1949, the site was transferred to the Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC), and redesignated as Walker Air Force Base. It was one of the largest SAC bases in the world in terms of the number of aircraft and permanent facilities and structures.

In 1967, Walker Air Force Base was deactivated and declared excess. Over 4,710 acres were deeded to the City of Roswell and that land was renamed the Roswell Industrial Air Center (RIAC). In 1968, other tracts were deeded to the U.S. Department of Labor; Eastern New Mexico University; the State of New Mexico, who operates a substance abuse rehab facility in the former hospital; the Federal Aviation Administration; and the Roswell Independent School District. The Department of Labor's Job Corps Center was opened in 1979. That year the former base housing was turned over for private ownership. In addition to an industrial complex, RIAC is home to the Roswell Municipal Airport, Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico Highway Department, the National Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, a residential area, and several other businesses.

Project Highlights Since 1998

April 1998: The newly appointed project manager, David Gregory, met with all community residents affected by groundwater contamination. Residents openly voiced concerns that the Corps was not doing an adequate job in restoring the contaminated aquifer.

August 1998: A Corps contractor, CEC, conducted interviews with 28 community members including landowners, city and county representatives, elected officials, business owners and the media.

July/August 1998: The Corps and CEC established the Restoration Advisory Board for the cleanup project.

Oct 1998: The first RAB meeting was held.

Nov 1998: The Corps began a 5-year pilot abatement for TCE in the shallow groundwater, including quarterly sampling.

May 1999: The Corps completed the first pumping test near Earl Cummings Loop. Results indicate that a more aggressive cleanup effort may be needed.

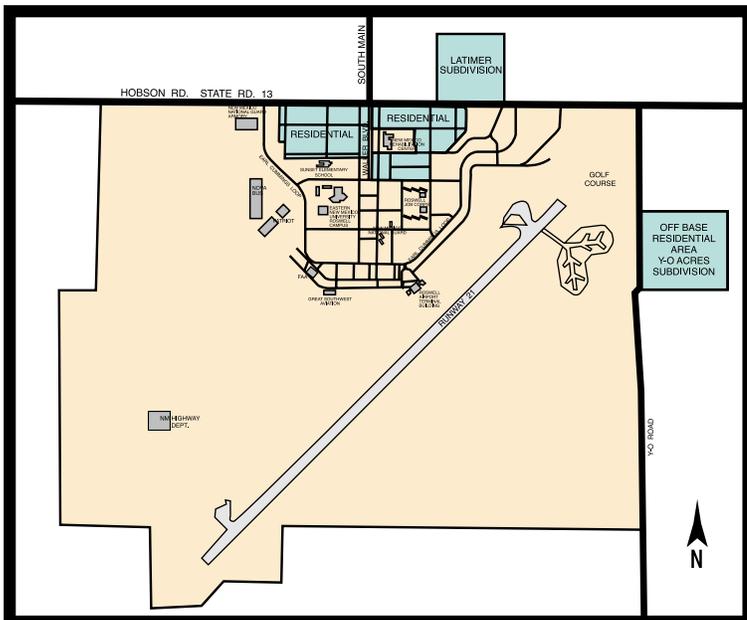
July 1999: The Corps expanded the water use agreement with 14 affected landowners. The agreement increased each landowner's portion to account for current needs and future land use plans.

Nov 1999: Analytical results of the first year's quarterly sampling showed a steady reduction in TCE levels in groundwater wells on RIAC and in the Y-O acres community.

April 2000: The Corps expanded the search for appropriate innovative technologies to accelerate cleanup rate such as insitu chemical oxidation and enhanced bioremediation.

Oct 2000: The Corps initiated a second pumping test near eastern boundary to determine if accelerated cleanup is feasible.

Dec 2000: Kay Havenor, the RAB community co-chair attends DoD environmental Cleanup Stakeholders Forum in St. Louis, MO.



What Is A RAB?

A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is a communications forum enabling the public to provide input on cleanup efforts. A RAB is comprised of a diverse array of stakeholders including representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, DEQ, landowners, local government, and citizens who reflect the diverse interests of the local community. All RAB meetings are open to the public. For more information about the Former Walker Air Force Base RAB, or if you are interested in becoming a RAB member, please call Sandra Chaloux, RAB support contractor, at (800) 232-7074.

2001 RAB Meeting Schedule

RAB meetings are held quarterly on the third Thursday, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. They are held at the National Guard DeBremond Training Site at 69 Gail Harris Street, Building #524, room 112. This location is one block north of West Mathis and one block south of the abandoned church.

The meeting dates for 2001 are as follows:

January 18, 2001
April 19, 2001
July 19, 2001
October 18, 2001

Information Repository

All studies and reports related to the work being done at the Former Walker Air Force Base are available for public review at the Information Repository:

ENMU - Roswell
Learning Resource Center
Group Study Room
52 University Boulevard
Roswell, NM 88202

Hours are:

8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays
2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays

Project Contacts

For more information about this project, please contact any of the following people:

David Gregory
USACE, Albuquerque District
Phone: (505) 342-3478
Email: david.r.gregory@usace.army.mil

Kay Havenor
RAB Community Co-Chair, Local Geologist
Phone: (505) 622-0283
Email: kay.havenor@georesources.com

Sandra Chaloux
CEC, Inc. - RAB Support Contractor
Phone: (800) 232-7074
Email: s.chaloux@ce-com.com

Current RAB Members

Kathleen Aisling USEPA, Region 6
Richard Cervantes ENMU, Roswell
Ronald Courts City of Roswell
Tom Day Nova Bus, Inc.
Eva Gomez Citizen
David Gregory USACE, Albuquerque District
Steve Harris Chaves County
Kay Havenor ... Local Geologist, Community Co-Chair
Ken Hirst ... National Guard, DeBremond Training Site
Kerry Hunter Citizen
Julie Jacobs NM Environment Department
LeRoy Lang NM Farm Bureau
Ethel Logan Citizen, Y-O Acres
Eloy Ortega Chaves County Commissioner
Raymond Prescott Citizen
Mary Kay Samples Citizen, Latimer Subdivision
Dick Smith Citizen

Formerly Used Defense Sites

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the executing agency for the Department of Defense and is responsible for cleaning up properties that were formerly owned, leased, possessed, or operated by the Department of Defense. These properties are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).

The Albuquerque District of the Corps has been addressing the Former Walker Air Force Base under the FUDS program. Environmental cleanup procedures at FUDS follow federal and state regulatory guidelines.

The Corps In Action

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the agent, on behalf of DOD, for environmental restoration of former



Department of Defense facilities such as Walker AFB. The Corps is committed to ensuring that all hazards related to past DOD occupation and operation of this facility are investigated and cleaned up where appropriate. The Corps recognizes that when environmental concerns affect a community's well-being, every effort must be made to reduce or eliminate health threats. The Corps pledges to continue investigation and remediation efforts at the Former Walker Air Force Base until the site is restored.



USACE Albuquerque District installs monitoring wells at RIAC.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Albuquerque District
4101 Jefferson Plaza, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

