



CLOSED CASTNER RANGE UPDATE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

Army Environmental Command (AEC) is overseeing the work being conducted under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) at the Closed Castner Range. This update is intended to keep stakeholders and the general public informed of the status of the MMRP project for this site. Closed Castner Range is presently in the Remedial Investigation phase (RI). AEC is working on obtaining approval for the Explosives Site Plan (ESP) in order to proceed with the next phase of the MMRP.

Fort Bliss Restoration Advisory Board (RAB): Fort Bliss is located in both Texas and New Mexico and environmental restoration projects are of interest to its neighbors in both states. For this reason, Fort Bliss encourages community involvement in the environmental restoration process through a RAB.



Fig 1 .A RAB includes input from the community, Interested parties and regulators.

Since 1994, RABs have been established in over 300 military installations, including Fort Bliss to discuss potential environmental restoration issues. RABs provide a collaborative forum for the community, government agencies, tribes, and installation decision makers to identify the most efficient and productive means to restore the environment (RAB Handbook DOD March 2007). Fort Bliss' RAB meets approximately once every year or as needed depending on restoration activity load. It is comprised of community members who are interested in the restoration work and/or may be affected by restoration projects. It also includes community representatives, environmental agencies, and Fort Bliss representatives.

Fort Bliss RAB meetings are held at locations accessible to the public such as schools or public offices. In addition, RAB meetings are conducted in Otero and Dona Ana Counties in New Mexico, which are the counties adjacent to Fort Bliss.

Fort Bliss RAB allows people interested in site restoration projects to exchange information with environmental agencies, the community and the Fort Bliss Installation through periodic public meetings.



Fig 2 . Fort Bliss public meeting.

It provides the El Paso and southern New Mexico communities with the opportunity to participate in restoration decisions through discussions with decision makers.

The next Fort Bliss RAB meeting has been tentatively scheduled on February 17, 2016 in Chaparral, New Mexico. It will discuss the following current restoration projects: Biggs Army Air Field (BAAF) Open Burning/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Site I RI, BAAF OB Site II Site Inspection (SI), Far East Dump Site RCRA Facility Investigation/Corrective Measures Study, Snake Pit Preliminary Assessment, Lower Beaumont Parcel Study Affected Property Assessment Report, Oro Grande Rubble Landfill #14 Design/Corrective Measure Implementation, Former Maneuver Area "A" Feasibility Study and the Closed Castner Range RI. We encourage all interested members of the public to attend.

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