



YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER

For more information call Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs
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U.S. Army seeks volunteers for Yakima Training Center Restoration Advisory Board

YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER, Wash. – The U.S. Army announced the establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) to improve public participation by involving the community in the environmental restoration of the Yakima Training Center (YTC), in Yakima, Washington. The Army recognizes the importance of stakeholder participation in the Defense Environmental Restoration program.

The RAB will include community members who reflect the diverse interest of the local community. RAB members will be asked to review and comment on plans and technical documents relating to the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities at the Yakima Training Center. RAB members will have the opportunity to provide comments that may accelerate the restoration. Members will also be expected to serve as a volunteer liaison between the community and YTC Installation Restoration Program staff and be available to meet with community members and/or groups. Community RAB members will receive no compensation for their service. RAB meetings will be open to the public.

YTC is an active U.S. Army sub-installation of Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The YTC installation occupies 327,231 acres in the foothills of Mount Rainier and Mount Adams and is bounded by the Columbia River on the east and the Yakima River on the West. The vast majority of the YTC acreage is dedicated training land. Previous environmental investigations have identified impacts on soil and groundwater resulting from historical activities at six sites located within the cantonment area at YTC. Contaminants associated with these sites include chlorinated solvents (volatile organic compounds [VOCs]), petroleum products such as oil and lubricants, and munitions and explosives of concern (MEC). Current investigations have indicated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have historically been released into groundwater due to fire training activities on YTC. To date, the PFAS releases have caused 38 off-installation drinking water wells to exceed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion.

The initial meeting to form the RAB will be held at the Selah Civic Center on November 10, 2022, at 6 p.m. Community interest forms can be obtained by contacting: Mark Mettler, YTC Installation Restoration Program manager at mark.a.mettler2.civ@army.mil.

Media questions may be directed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs at (253) 967-0148 or by email at joseph.i.piek.civ@army.mil.

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