

***Restoration Advisory Board
Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range (FLBGR)
12 November 2008
FINAL MEETING MINUTES***

The 12 November 2008 meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was held at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 East Quincy Avenue, Aurora, CO 80016. The scheduled start time was 6:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Jerry Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

ATTENDANCE

The following RAB members were present:

- Joe Freund, Citizen
- Bob Hastings, Citizen
- Jerry Hodgson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (USACE), Co-Chair
- Karan Holmes, Department of the Navy
- Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County
- Pete Pagano, Community Member
- Lynn Robbio Wagner, Tri-County Department of Health

Other attendees:

- Cathy Atkins, Army Western Regional Environmental Office (WREO)
- Lance Barber, Wings over the Rockies Museum
- Mike Cormier, Sky Research Inc. (Sky)
- Morey Engle, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)
- Steve Gehring, Shaw
- Randy Hawbaker, Cherry Creek School District
- Laura Kazzaz, Shaw
- Larry Liebrecht, Colorado Aviation Historical Society
- Rick Mueller, City of Aurora, Parks
- Meggan Pickner, Sky
- David Rathke, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region VIII
- Rick St. Amand, Shaw
- Warren Smith, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Chris Sundeen, Shaw
- Elaine Tate, Shaw
- Len Wallace, Colorado Aviation Historical Society

GENERAL RAB ITEMS

Mr. Hodgson, USACE, asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the minutes from the 20 August 2008 RAB meeting. As there were no comments, the minutes from the August RAB meeting were approved. Mr. Hodgson proposed that in the future Shaw post draft meeting minutes on the flbgr.org website to facilitate review by RAB members. The motion was approved.

NAVY/DRI

Navy Update

Ms. Karan Holmes, Department of the Navy, presented information on upcoming activities associated with the Navy/DRI site. After several years of inaction at the Navy/DRI site, the Department of the Navy has decided to implement a non-Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA). The project will include a radiological verification survey, limited vegetation removal, surface munitions clearance, and an intrusive map-and-dig munitions clearance. A draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) will be issued in December 2008, with the final EE/CA issued in March 2009 following a proposed public comment period of mid-February to mid-March. A draft Action Memo will be issued in February 2009. Mobilization is planned for June 2009 with completion of the field work and demobilization in December 2009. The After Action Report is scheduled to be issued during the first part of 2010. At that time, the U.S. Navy will have finished all efforts at the Navy/DRI site.

FORMER LOWRY TRAINING ANNEX (FLTA)

Air Force Update

(presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Hodgson reported that munitions response activities are considered complete at the FLTA, based on data collected to date. Remaining activities include post-removal verification (PRV), final USACE Quality Assurance (QA) activities, and construction support for the State Land Board (SLB) removal of non munitions-related debris in the southwest portion of the site.

The purpose of the PRV is to verify the effectiveness of the munitions response effort. Geophysical mapping of approximately nine percent of the East Extension Area was performed to search for any anomalies that may have been missed during the previous munitions response work. The resulting anomalies were investigated and the PRV findings are currently being evaluated. Once the evaluation of the findings is complete, a PRV report will be generated summarizing methods and findings.

Final USACE QA activities are ongoing, which includes final review and acceptance of existing geophysical data and data processing procedures and some limited additional field work. The additional field work includes partial digital geophysical mapping (DGM) within 6 site grids and the investigation of select anomalies within 24 site grids. The USACE is awaiting additional funding from the U.S. Air Force to finish QA activities, which should be complete during the first quarter of 2009. Final reporting for the FLTA should be completed in late 2008/early 2009. In response to a question by Mr. David Rathke (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Mr. Hodgson stated that final reporting would include a formal closeout report.

FORMER LOWRY BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE (FLBGR)

Project Status and Field Work Update

(presentation posted on the web)

Mr. Hodgson presented a briefing on the current project status of FLBGR activities. His presentation included a summary of activities completed to date, ongoing activities, and planned future efforts. The areas listed highest in priority are the Jeep/Demo Range (JDR) and the Rocket Range. Currently, there are five munitions response teams in the field at FLBGR: one team at the Rocket Range, one team in the Mortar Range, one team at Bombing Target 2 (BT2), and two teams at Bombing Target 3 (BT3). Geophysical field crews have demobilized for the year. To date, the project has had 3,219 days without lost time due to injury.

Bombing Target 2 (BT2)

Since the last RAB meeting, 25 "map-and-dig" and 6 "mag-and-dig" grids have been completed, and one demolition shot was performed BT2. To date, 536 live munitions items have been found within BT2. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that munitions debris in the center section of BT2 will likely be very dense and that some of the grids will take as long as one month to clear.

Bombing Target 3 (BT3)

Since the last RAB meeting, 60 “map-and-dig” grids have been completed, and one demolition shot was performed at BT3. Currently, there are 51 “map-and-dig” grids and 89 “mag-and-dig” grids remaining. To date, five live munitions items have been found within BT2. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that, unlike most of the other sites, munitions response activities at BT3 began within grids along the outside borders of the range rather than within the target center area.

Bombing Target 4 (BT4)

No grids have been completed and no demolition shots have been performed since the last RAB meeting at BT4. Currently, there are 86 “map-and-dig” grids and 20 “mag-and-dig” grids remaining. Munitions response activities will resume at BT4 next spring. Based on findings at grids already completed at BT4, the target appears to be larger than initial estimates. The area also contains a concrete target structure that will most likely have to be removed.

Bombing Target 6 (BT6)

Munitions response activities at BT6 are essentially complete. Since the last RAB meeting, one “map-and-dig” grid has been completed. A final site evaluation currently being performed by the USACE, with support from Shaw Environmental Inc. and Sky Research Inc., will be completed this winter.

Mortar Range

No grids have been completed and no demolition shots have been performed at the Mortar Range since the last RAB meeting. Currently, there are three “map-and-dig” grids and two “mag-and-dig” grids remaining. To date, 12 live munitions items have been found within the Mortar Range.

No Name Area of Interest (AOI)

Since the last RAB meeting, the site boundaries for the AOI have been adjusted. An additional 8 grids have been added to the northwest and 35 grids added to the south. Since the last RAB meeting, 34 “map-and-dig” and 5 “mag-and-dig” grids have been completed, and one demolition shot was performed. Currently, four “map-and-dig” grids remain in the southern part of the range and six “mag-and-dig” grids remain in the northern portion of the AOI. To date, 60 live munitions items have been found within the No Name AOI; however, this number is misleading since none of the items were High Explosive (HE) items but rather mostly flash bulb type items used with aerial photography.

Rocket Range

Since the last RAB meeting, two “map-and-dig” and one “mag-and-dig” grids have been completed and no demolition shots were performed at the Rocket Range. Currently, only 14 “mag-and-dig” grids remain. To date, 124 live munitions items have been found within Rocket Range.

Other Areas of Interest AOI

Two additional AOI areas have been identified during Wide Area Assessment and munitions response efforts, which are probably affiliated with historical bombing training activities. The Circle of Bricks Area, which consists of 58 acres located along the western edge of the Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range (AGGR), has a circle of bricks target center, as well as outlying bomb craters. Surface sweep and digital geophysical mapping (DGM) activities were performed over the 63 grid area. The second area, the Miscellaneous Target Area, consists of a 59 acre area located between BT3 and the Rocket Range. This AOI has been identified as an area with a high density of HE fragments and is possibly an unidentified bombing target. Surface sweep and DGM activities have been performed here as well. Anomaly reacquisition and digging of anomalies are planned for both areas in 2009.

Bombing Target 7 (BT7)

Munitions response activities at BT7 are essentially complete. Currently, PRV is being performed at BT7. As part of the PRV, geophysical mapping was repeated over 25 percent of the site. All resulting anomalies have subsequently been investigated and the resulting findings are currently being evaluated. Once the evaluation of the PRV findings is complete, a PRV report will be generated to summarize the methods and findings of the PRV.

General

Presently, the entire FLBGR project is approximately 66 percent complete. Mr. Hodgson stated that he planned to meet with Mr. Jeff Swanson (CDPHE) in early December to discuss the status of the project and the plan forward for the remaining areas, in particular the Jeep/Demolition Range (JDR) and the AGGR.

Adjournment

Mr. Hodgson reminded RAB members and other attendees that future RAB meetings will be held quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for 21 January 2009. Future locations are to be determined. In addition to recent locales (the Doubletree Hotel and the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds), Mr. Hodgson suggested the possibility of holding future meetings at the USACE site compound.

Discussions

Mr. Randy Hawbaker, Cherry Creek School District, asked if there was any new information on the JDR. Mr. Hodgson replied that he will discuss the JDR at his meeting with Mr. Swanson in December. After that meeting they will develop a plan forward that will hopefully be acceptable to all parties. Mr. Hodgson still wants to discuss formal land use with the City of Aurora since there is a potential difference between cleaning up for a future residential use of the area vs. a recreation use.

Mr. Lance Barber of the "Wings Over the Rockies Museum" requested information on the disposition of aircraft parts from any crashes that may have occurred historically on site. Mr. Hodgson informed Mr. Barber that all cultural debris (i.e. anything not munitions related) gets left on site and that the current project is only concerned with munitions-related debris. Any munitions debris discovered on site gets smelted subsequent to removal. In addition, as FLBGR is a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), the site is not federally-owned; therefore, the USACE has no authority over cultural debris found on site. Mr. Julio Iturreria, Arapahoe County, added that there are a number of private, municipal, county, and state property owners on the Range. He also added that of the acreage owned by the State of Colorado, only 6 square miles are currently planned for development while 34 square miles are being set aside. Mr. Barber also asked if there were any available photographs of munitions or cultural debris and was directed to check the project Administrative Record.

As there were no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.