Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Environmental Cleanup Program

Fact Sheet **1995**

Restoration Advisory Board

Citizens of Myrtle Beach and the surrounding area can participate in the environmental cleanup program at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base through the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). This fact sheet provides information on the RAB.

Myrtle Beach Air Force Base's Environmental Cleanup Program

The purpose of the Myrtle each Air Force Base's cleanup program is to protect human health and the environment, and to enable the base property to be converted to reuse by business and the community. The cleanup program is managed by a team consisting of the Air Force, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). This group is called the Base Cleanup Team, or BCT. The BCT is supported by additional agency staff members as well as consultants.

Public participation is an integral part of the cleanup process. Every Air Force base that is closing encourages involvement of the community in the base's cleanup program by having information available, providing opportunities for citizen comment. and establishing and seeking participation in a RAB.

What is the Restoration Advisory Board?

The Myrtle Beach Air Force Base RAB, which was established in 1994, is a partnership between the Air Force and the local community. The RAB is a group of citizens and officials formed to provide input to the BCT. The BCT recognizes the importance of community involvement during the cleanup process and incorporates community relations issues into its meetings.

The purpose of the RAB is to act as a forum for discussion and exchange of environmental cleanup information between the public and the BCT. It provides an opportunity for RAB members to comment on actions and proposed actions taken by the Air Force under its cleanup program. It also facilitates regulatory and public participation consistent with applicable laws.

Who Is On the RAB?

The RAB is made up of individuals with diverse interests within the local community. Citizen members of the RAB include residents with public health and environmental expertise, those who have business or professional concerns regarding the base, and other concerned citizens who wish to participate in the cleanup process. RAB members serve as volunteers, and agree to attend meetings.

The RAB has one representative from the Air Force, USEPA and SCDHEC. In addition, other staff members and consultants to the BCT often attend in order to provide information to the group.

Myrtle Beach's RAB presently consists of 16 members. The RAB has two co-chairs. They are Richard Souza, Base Environmental Coordinator for the Air Force, and Buddy Styers. The Co-chairs' responsibilities are held jointly, and the Air Force and the community are equal partners.

Listed below are the members of the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base RAB.

Richard Souza, Base Environmental Coordinator, AFBCA (Co-chair)
Cathy Amoroso, USEPA, Region IV
Anne Ragan, SCDHEC
Thomas C. "Buddy" Styers (Co-chair)
Elizabeth Ballou, Myrtle Beach AFB Redevelopment Authority
Robert B. Burney
Eleanor C. Conmy
William Grounds
Dean Guyton
Richard L. Harrington
Lynn W. Livesay
John F. McVeigh
Larry Schwartz
John T. Smith
Rodney L. Thompson, Santee-Cooper Power Authority
Walter Whittier, Horry County Airports Department

Can I join the RAB?

The RAB welcomes greater participation in its activities. Residents of the Grand Strand area may join the RAB by sending a letter to the group requesting nomination. The letter should state their interest in serving on the RAB, and any previous experience in working with diverse committees should be sent to the RAB in care of Richard Souza, RAB Co-chair, AFBCA, 1051 Shine Avenue, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. New members will be admitted to the RAB by a majority vote of the current members.

What Does the RAB Do?

The RAB shares community concerns with the Air Force and other BCT members. By keeping the cleanup team abreast of community issues, plans are more likely to reflect those community issues and priorities.

Representatives of such organizations as the Horry County Department of Airports and the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority, and Santee-Cooper Public Service Authority attend meetings in order to provide comment on cleanup programs and to be informed on technical information that affects the timing and selection of remedies. Public representatives the RAB represent the community's interests in these discussions. Examples of past meeting topics include issues regarding the removal of lead contaminated soil from the base as well as proposed remedies for solvent contaminated areas, including a tour of a "pump and treat" remediation system recently installed at the base. Cleanup alternatives are discussed, and the BCT is given an opportunity to explain to the RAB how decisions are made.

The agenda for RAB meetings always includes a question and answer component as well as an update on current cleanup activity and current status of property leases and transfers.

RAB Charter

The Charter of the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base RAB, adopted by the group in April, 1995, calls for community and Air Force co-chairs. The RAB meets at least four times a year and all meetings are open to the public. Minutes are recorded and are made part of the public record.

When and Where are RAB Meetings Held?

RAB meetings are held at night, with all meeting dates and locations announced in the *Myrtle Beach Sun News*

In addition, notices are mailed to RAB members, local public officials and others on the base's community relations mailing list. Meetings are held in locations easily accessible to the community.

All members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the RAB. Anyone wishing to be placed on the mailing list may call Dick Souza at 238-6080 and leave their address.

How Can I Learn More About the Cleanup at Myrtle Beach AFB?

Interested citizens have several means of learning more about the cleanup. One way is to attend RAB meetings, described in this fact sheet.

Another way is to be placed on the mailing list; those on the mailing list receivefact sheets, notices of meetings, and notices of important decisions in the cleanup process. To be placed on the mailing list, send your name and mailing address to: D. Shirley, WPI, Inc., 1051 Shine Avenue, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.

All documents related to cleanup decisions at the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base are available to the public in an Information Repository. This repository is located in the reference section of the Chapin Memorial Library, 400 14th Avenue North, in Myrtle Beach. For ease of use, the large number of documents are listed in a computerized index, which gives information on the content of each document. Copies of the index are kept at the reference desk in the library.

AFBCA/SEP
1051 Shine Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Official Business

To learn more about the RAB, please contact any RAB member or:

Richard Souza
RAB Co-Chair

AFBCA
1051 Shine Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Telephone (803) 238-6080.

This fact sheet was prepared by WPI, Inc. of Cambridge, MA, under contract with the Air Force, to inform the community on the progress of Myrtle Beach AFB's environmental cleanup. Please send comments, questions and changes of address to D. Shirley, WPI, 1051 Shine Avenue, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.