

Environmental Investigations Begun in 1980s

Historical activities at the Fire Control Area may have resulted in the compound trichloroethene (TCE) entering the groundwater. TCE is a common industrial solvent used to remove grease from metal parts. It is also an ingredient in adhesives, paint removers, typewriter correction fluids, and spot removers.

In the 1980s, a series of environmental investigations were conducted by Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability and the Army. They collected soil and groundwater samples, including some from nearby homes, to determine the nature and extent of the site-related compounds in soil and groundwater. Trichloroethene was detected in groundwater and found to be migrating off-site; the investigations did not find contamination remaining in the soil. In 1994, the Army funded a water supply system to provide permanent and safe drinking water to the affected homes on Sunnybrook Road. This water supply, known as the Phoenix Community Supply, is not affected by the contamination. The Army continues to investigate and monitor groundwater conditions at the site, including sampling of private wells.

The Army continues to work collaboratively with state (lead regulatory agency) and local authorities regarding all environmental investigations at the site.

Recent Environmental Work to Complete Comprehensive Investigation

In 2011, the Army installed an additional groundwater monitoring well on the southwestern edge of the Phoenix Military Reservation. Following installation of that well, the Army sampled the new well, the existing twenty-three groundwater monitoring wells (on-site and off-site) and a series of six nearby private drinking water wells. The groundwater sampling data was analyzed to ensure the extent of TCE contamination was fully defined. There were no detections of TCE in samples from private drinking water wells. TCE above its Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is currently present on-site in samples from three deep wells and a stable to decreasing dissolved-phase TCE groundwater plume remains on-site, although at order-of-magnitude lower concentrations than detected historically.

The 2011 well sampling activities completed the investigation of groundwater impacts at the Phoenix Military Reservation, and the data will be included in a Remedial Investigation Report. If required based on the findings of the Remedial Investigation Report, the Army will prepare a Feasibility Study which will evaluate possible remediation alternatives for the groundwater. After the public has an opportunity to comment on these alternatives, the Army will proceed with a final remedy for the site.

Army Assessing Interest in Restoration Advisory Board

As part of the Army's environmental program, and where there is sufficient interest in the community, a Restoration Advisory Board may form to facilitate communication between the Army and the community. Following are some frequently asked questions and answers regarding these Boards, also called RABs.

- *What is a RAB?*

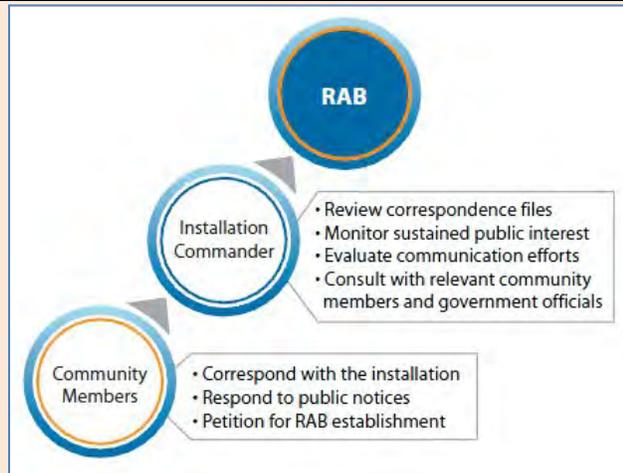
RABs are forums for discussion and exchange of information between the Army and the local community regarding restoration activities. The RAB is composed of representatives of the community, the Army, and regulatory agencies. Community members provide their perspective and input to the Army and regulators. While the community's input is strongly considered and a key factor in major decisions, the Board is not a decision-making body. Both representatives of the Army and the community jointly chair the RAB. The RAB provides an opportunity for community participation and ongoing discussion and input, and the RAB complements but does not replace other ongoing community relations activities.

• *When is a RAB formed?*

RABs are established at installations where there is sufficient, sustained community interest in the environmental restoration program.

Criteria for determining sufficient interest are:

1. An affected local, state, tribal, or federal government entity requests a RAB be formed; or,
2. At least 50 residents of the local community or region sign a petition requesting that a RAB be formed; or,
3. The Army determines a RAB is needed.



• *Who are RAB Members and what are their responsibilities?*

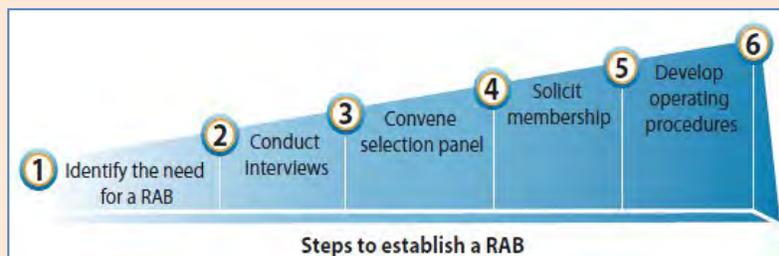
RAB members include representatives from the local community, the Army, state environmental regulatory agencies, and local government agencies.

RAB members would be asked to meet regularly (four to six meetings a year) and review and comment on technical documents and plans relating to the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities at Phoenix Military Reservation. All RAB meetings will be open to the public at convenient times and locations. Members will be expected to serve as a liaison with the community and be available to meet with community members and groups. Membership terms are decided by the RAB.

• *How is a RAB established?*

Once the Installation Commander has determined a RAB will be established, the installation will form a selection panel to nominate individuals for membership. The community members nominated should represent the diverse interests of the community. The community members will then be contacted and asked to serve. Once the community members are in place, they will help develop operating procedures to guide the RAB members and ensure an effective and functioning advisory board. Operating procedures establish goals and objectives, membership criteria and categories, participation requirements, roles and responsibilities, and other rules and guidelines.

The steps to establish a RAB are summarized in the graphic below:



• *Is There Community Interest?*

If you would like to see a RAB formed for Phoenix Military Reservation and/or if you would like to apply to be a member, please fill out and return the attached Community Interest Form. Forms will be evaluated by the Army, and if sufficient interest in forming a RAB is expressed, the Army will proceed by organizing a public meeting to begin the RAB formation process.

For More Information

More information on TCE can be obtained at: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts19.html.

More information on Fort Meade/Phoenix Military Reservation's Environmental Restoration Program can be found at www.fortmeade.army.mil/environment.

Fort Meade also has established an information repository for Phoenix Military Reservation at: Cockeysville Branch Library, 9833 Greenside Drive, Cockeysville, MD, 21030. The Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 9 pm; Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 5:30 pm; Sundays from 1 pm to 5 pm during October through April.

Contact Information

- Fort Meade/Phoenix Military Reservation Public Affairs Office: 301-677-1361
- Fort Meade/Phoenix Military Reservation Project Hotline: 410-441-9979