

**DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT  
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NMED

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**COMMENTS:** *Steve, There has been sufficient interest in forming a RAB. Your assistance in selecting community RAB members is requested, and we hope to have you as a RAB member. The following update should bring you up to speed. I'll be calling you soon to set up a meeting.*

**ATTENTION!**

*Regards, Jim*

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**U S ARMY AIR DEFENSE  
ARTILLERY CENTER  
& FORT BLISS**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

### **FORT BLISS RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**28 January 1997**

Fort Bliss held two Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) information meetings on December 4th and 5th, 1996, at Fort Bliss and Las Cruces, New Mexico, respectively. Meeting notices were mailed to 160 individuals and classified ads were placed in the El Paso, Las Cruces and Alamogordo newspapers. In addition, the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office submitted press releases to all local television and radio stations, and local newspapers including El Paso's Spanish language newspaper.

There were 23 people in attendance at the meeting held at Fort Bliss, including 8 individuals associated with the Fort Bliss Environmental Directorate, and two representatives from other Army Agencies. The cleanup and disposition of Castner Range drew the most interest at the Fort Bliss meeting. The RAB meeting held in Las Cruces had 10 people in attendance, including 4 individuals associated with the Fort Bliss Environmental Directorate, and two representatives from other Army Agencies. Questions raised at the Las Cruces meeting concerned future land-use plans for the McGregor and Castner Ranges. Both briefings were well received and no contentious issues were raised.

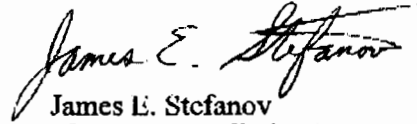
There were a significant number of phone calls from interested individuals who could not attend the above meetings. Thirteen RAB membership applications have been received from community members from both Texas and New Mexico as of 27 January 1997. Regulators from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) have also expressed an interest in participating in the RAB.

Based on the number of inquiries there appears to be sufficient interest in establishing a RAB. The next step will be for Fort Bliss to establish a RAB membership selection committee to select five to seven diverse community members. The selection committee will consist of Fort Bliss representatives appointed by the Commanding General and representatives from the TNRCC and NMED. During the first RAB organizational meeting, a community Co-Chair will be selected by the RAB community members based on criteria established by the community members. Fort Bliss will have three members on the RAB, the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Manager, Installation legal counsel, and the Garrison Commander (also serving as Co-Chair of the RAB). A representative from TNRCC and NMED will complete the RAB membership.

An update will follow this letter in approximately 4 weeks. The proposed time lines for establishing a RAB are as follows:

- (1) Establish a selection committee in late February to select community members by mid-March.

- (2) Have the first organizational RAB meeting by mid-April to establish a mission statement, select the community Co-Chair, and to discuss potential facilitators.
- (3) Have a second organizational RAB meeting by early-May to select a facilitator acceptable to all RAB members, and to set the date for the first public RAB meeting.



James E. Stefanov  
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