

The SCAPS truck will extend a probe into the ground near the trench areas to determine if chemical contamination is present.

analysis devices. By pushing the probe into the ground near the trench areas, the unit can detect petroleum products or other chemical presence. The Corps of Engineers will be conducting these activities in a manner which will minimize disrupting residential and commercial property. The plan is to have the truck take samples from city streets and vacant lots. Only in a couple of cases will right of entry permits be sought from property owners to conduct the sampling.

Construction Landfill; Pistol Range; and Industrial Waste Treatment Plant Areas. Further investigations will be conducted in these areas to determine the presence of petroleum products, solvents and other compounds in the soil and ground water.

Potentially Responsible Party Negotiations. It is known that individuals and businesses other than the Department of Defense have used portions of the former Air Force base. These individuals and businesses (referred to as "responsible parties") may

have contributed to the environmental contamination. The potentially responsible parties are working together to determine whether and how the cost of further investigations and cleanup should be shared. The Corps of Engineers has conducted several meetings with these parties and will continue to work toward a partnership with them. The goal is to make to the former base property environmentally clean.

Public Involvement

Public involvement is an integral part of this project. The Formerly Used Defense Site program requires keeping the public informed and allows public input into the decision making process.

Public workshops will be held; information brochures will be developed; and technical documents associated with the Corps of Engineers work will be made available for public review. The Corps will maintain copies at the **Laredo Public Library**. This information repository will be updated as new information becomes available.

The public is encouraged to ask questions and make comments throughout the process. These will become part of the public record. Please contact by mail or phone.

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Public Information Workshop - February 13, 1997

The first public information workshop on the former Laredo Air Force Base Formerly Used Defense Site project will be held on February 13, 1997. The public is encouraged to attend.

The meeting will be held at:

Newman Elementary School
1200 Alta Vista Drive
Laredo, Texas
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
(Arrive any time)

To obtain more information, or to get placed on the mailing list, please write to the project manager.

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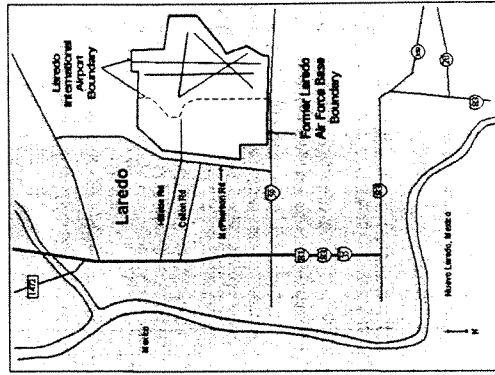
Status Update



Formerly Used Defense Site Environmental Investigations

at the

Former Laredo Air Force Base Laredo, Texas



January 1997

The Formerly Used Defense Site Program at Laredo, Texas

In 1980, Federal legislation established provisions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform environmental restoration activities at properties formerly controlled or used by the Department of Defense. This "Formerly Used Defense Site" (FUDS) program involves thousands of sites throughout the United States. While every site is unique, there are five project focuses in the FUDS program which will be evaluated at each site. These are:

- Containerized Hazardous, Toxic and Radiological Waste
- Building Demolition and Debris Removal
- Ordnance and Explosive Debris
- Hazardous, Toxic and Radiological Waste
- Potentially Responsible Party Investigations

The Corps of Engineers is currently evaluating the site of the former Laredo Air Force Base.

Ultimately, the environmental conditions at the site will be evaluated. Cleanup plans will be developed as necessary to provide an acceptable remedy to the site. These environmental investigations are in partnership with the City of Laredo, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, private parties, and the public.

History of the Site

In 1942, the United States Government acquired approximately 2,085 acres north-east of the City of Laredo. The Air Force constructed runways and other facilities and operated air flights between 1942 to 1974.

The base included aircraft maintenance facilities, fuel storage and distribution, and landfill sites.

During World War II, the Army Air Corps trained anti-aircraft gunners at the base.

The Air Force closed the base in 1974, and decided most of the former base to the City of Laredo. Approximately 309 acres were subsequently transferred to federal, state and county agencies or sold to private parties.

Currently, most of the former Air Force base is occupied by Laredo International Airport and used for a variety of purposes. A portion of the former base has been developed by private developers into commercial and residential areas.

What Has Been Done

The City of Laredo, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, and the Corps of Engineers have examined some of the past records. These records show that past Air Force activities and the activities of others since the Air Force left the site involved the use of petroleum products, solvents and metal plating materials.

The City of Laredo has installed a number of groundwater monitoring wells on the airport property to determine the presence of petroleum and other compounds. Tests have shown that there are petroleum products in the ground water (water found under the surface of the ground) in limited areas at the airport.

Areas which are part of the current and proposed investigation include:

Refueling and Fuel Storage Area.

Areas where aviation fuel has been and is currently being stored and dispensed are being investigated. The Corps of Engineers and the City of Laredo has taken samples from these fueling and underground fuel storage areas.

Fire Protection Training Area. Another area under investigation is a fire protection training area. Fires were started in pits and extinguished to train personnel on fire fighting methods. The Air Force and the City of Laredo have used this area as a training site. Samples taken from this area indicate the presence of petroleum and solvent related products.

Trenches. The Corps of Engineers has examined historic aerial photographs of the former base. Initial review of these photographs indicate that pits were dug in a configuration similar to that done for sanitary landfills. No information has been discovered on what wastes, if any, were placed in the areas. Some of the lands in which trenches where dug include areas that are now occupied by residential neighborhoods and retail businesses.

Construction Landfill; Industrial Waste Treatment Plant; and Pistol Range Areas. Some areas of the former installation were used to dispose of construction waste (such as concrete and wood), and near the fueling area industrial wastes were treated. Area photographs indicate that another area served as a pistol training range. These three areas will be part of future investigations.

What Needs to Be Done

The Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the City of Laredo, will conduct more tests on soil and ground water at selected locations on the former air base.

Refueling and Fuel Storage Area. The Corps of Engineers and the City of Laredo have been negotiating interim cost sharing agreements to further study these areas. It is anticipated that these areas will be tested to determine the extent of contamination in the soil and ground water. Coordination will continue with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

Fire Protection Training Area. Further testing will be conducted in the fire training areas to determine the extent of the presence of petroleum products, solvents and other compounds in the soil and ground water.

Trenches. In 1997, the Corps of Engineers will conduct underground testing using their Site Characterization and Penetrometer System (SCAPS) truck. This truck is equipped with onboard probes and sensitive



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers SCAPS truck.