
Final

Community Relations Plan Former Laredo Air Force Base Laredo, Texas

Submitted to
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Tulsa District**

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CH2MHILL

Executive Summary

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) describes a process for conducting community relations activities in support of the environmental investigation at the former Laredo Air Force Base (LAFB) in Laredo, Texas. The objective of the CRP is to document community awareness of current and planned environmental activities at the former LAFB, and to present public preferences regarding these activities. The CRP is a living document and will be modified to address additional situations and concerns if those issues emerge during the restoration process.

The following goals are established for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) community relations program: (1) ensure that city officials support and participate in community relations activities; (2) publicize the results of the environmental investigations for the former LAFB; (3) separate the environmental investigations at the former LAFB from other USACE projects in the area; (4) emphasize the use of electronic media to communicate information; and (5) provide verbal and written information in English and Spanish.

Community relations activities that are required or recommended to meet the goals outlined above include: (1) contact state and local officials; (2) establish and maintain an Administrative Record File; (3) provide news releases to the local media; (4) hold a public meeting to present and discuss the results of the environmental investigations at the former LAFB; (5) prepare a fact sheet for each site that summarizes the environmental investigation and its results; and (6) designate a point-of-contact (POC) for the former LAFB. The primary POC for the USACE is Anita Horky, Fort Worth District Public Affairs Office, 817-978-3395.

The CRP is based on USACE guidance; site investigation reports prepared by consultants to the USACE; and 32 interviews conducted in Laredo, Texas, during May 2001. Participants in these interviews included city and county officials, business and community leaders, local environmental group representatives, and residents who live in or near the footprint of the former LAFB.

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Acronyms

AR	Administrative Record
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CLF	Construction Landfill
CRP	Community Relations Plan
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DOD	Department of Defense
DSMOA/CA	DOD and State Memorandum of Agreement/Cooperative Agreement
EM	Electromagnetic
FS	Feasibility Study
FTA	Fire Training Area
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Sites
IWTP	Industrial Waste Treatment Plant
LAFB	Laredo Air Force Base
NCP	National Contingency Plan
NPL	National Priority List
POC	Point-of-Contact
PRP	Principal Responsible Party
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RI	Remedial Investigation
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SGR	Shotgun Range
SI	Site Investigation
SLF	Sanitary Landfill

Section 1

Introduction

1. Introduction

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) describes a process for conducting community relations activities in support of the environmental investigation at the former Laredo Air Force Base (LAFB or Base) in Laredo, Texas. The following six areas (sites) are included in this investigation:

- Construction Landfill (CLF)
- Fire Training Area (FTA)
- Fuel Farm
- Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP)
- Sanitary Landfill (SLF)
- Shotgun Range (SGR)

This CRP presents the status of the environmental investigation at the former LAFB; identifies issues of concern to the community; outlines how the public can be involved in the decision-making process; and serves as a public record of community involvement and participation. The objective of the CRP is to document community awareness of current and planned environmental activities at the former LAFB, and to present public preferences regarding these activities. The CRP is a living document and will be modified to address additional situations and concerns if those issues emerge during the restoration process.

The CRP is organized into the following sections:

- Introduction
- Site Background and Environmental Status
- Community Background
- Community Relations Program
- Community Relations Activities and Timing
- References

Section 2

Site Background and Environmental Status

2. Site Background and Environmental Status

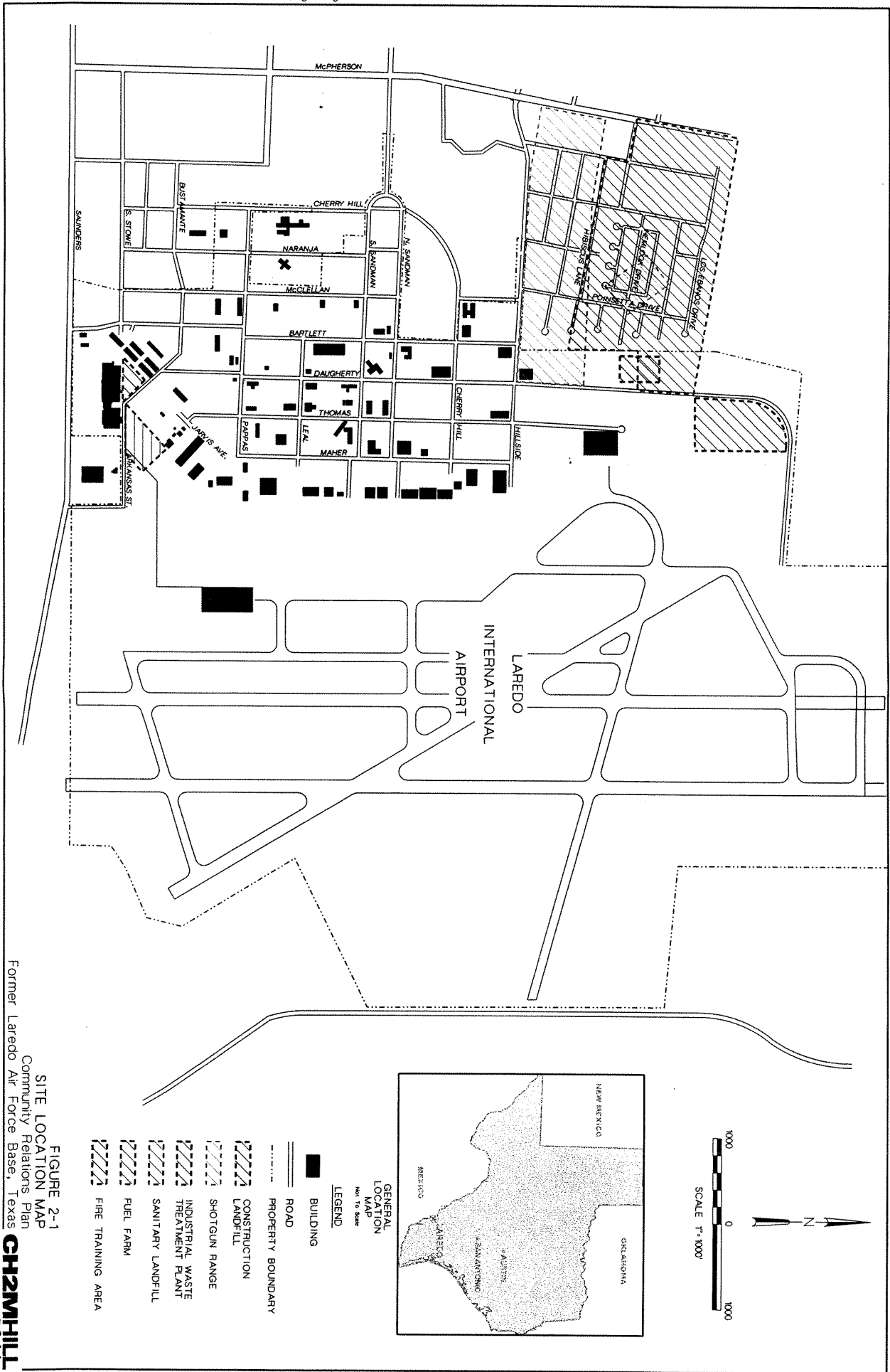
In May 1942, the U.S. government acquired 1,752.76 acres northeast of the City of Laredo for the construction of the Laredo Army Air Corps Base, subsequently known as the Laredo Air Force Base (LAFB) and now known as the Laredo International Airport. At its peak in the 1960s, the former LAFB comprised approximately 2,085 acres. The Base included aircraft maintenance facilities, fuel storage tanks and distribution systems, and landfills. LAFB was initially deactivated in June 1947; however, it was reactivated during the Korean conflict. The U.S. Air Force (USAF) closed the Base in March 1974 and deeded most of the former Base to the City of Laredo. Approximately 309 acres were transferred to federal, state, and county agencies or sold to private parties.

Currently, the majority of Base property is occupied by Laredo International Airport and used for various purposes related to commercial aviation. A portion of the Base was developed into commercial and residential areas by private developers. Figure 2-1 presents a general site map of the former LAFB, including the six sites where environmental investigations are in progress. Each site currently under investigation is discussed in more detail below.

2.1 Construction Landfill

The CLF site is located along the northwest boundary of the Laredo International Airport, near the runway terminus (Figure 2-1). The site is bounded by Daugherty Road on the west and north, and by an unnamed north-south gravel road on the east. The southern extent of the site is delineated primarily by the absence of concrete and other debris.

The CLF was used while the property was owned by the U.S. government and after the property was deeded to the City of Laredo. Numerous large discarded metal objects and other debris, including pieces of concrete rubble, are visible along slopes on the western and northern boundaries. Since the landfill is located near the end of an aircraft runway, it is assumed that the disposal area was filled primarily with construction debris originating from runway pavement replacement or demolition.



The USACE investigation in 1996 included a review of aerial photographs from 1934 to 1990, a geophysical survey, and a soil gas survey. At the request of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), a limited groundwater assessment was performed in 1999. The field activities associated with the limited groundwater assessment included drilling soil borings, installing groundwater monitoring wells, collecting and analyzing groundwater samples, and excavating test pits to delineate the southern boundary of the landfill.

2.2 Fire Training Area

The FTA site is located on property that is presently part of the Laredo International Airport (Figure 2-1). The site consists of two former burn pits, which are located in an open area west of Daugherty Road and north of Hillside Road.

The burn pits did not exist prior to the 1950s. Historical aerial photographs and records for the former LAFB show that this area was used for fire training exercises while the property was owned by the U.S. government and after the property was deeded to the City of Laredo. The military reportedly used aviation fuels and waste oils to create training fires in both pits. Air photos from 1975-1995 suggest that the City of Laredo used both pits between 1975 and 1992, reportedly for burning diesel fuel and gasoline.

Environmental investigations of the FTA began in January 1995 with an inspection by the TNRCC. Subsequently, TAC Environmental Company performed a Preliminary Site Assessment in March 1995, and the USACE performed a Phase I Remedial Investigation (RI) in September 1996. The field activities associated with the Phase I RI included collecting and analyzing soil and groundwater samples.

2.3 Fuel Farm

The Fuel Farm is located on the southwest corner of the Laredo International Airport property, northeast of the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (IWTP) (Figure 2-1). Both the USAF and the City of Laredo stored fuels for aviation and support vehicles/equipment in aboveground and underground tanks at this facility. The following table summarizes information on underground storage tank (UST) removals at the Fuel Farm:

UST Description	LPST ID Number	Removal Date
11 out-of-service, single-walled, steel USTs, piping, and ancillary equipment	104866	January 1993
5 out-of-service, single-walled, steel USTs, piping, and ancillary equipment	106165	February 1993
6 25,000-gallon steel USTs, piping, and ancillary equipment	095021	June 1997

Currently, the USACE, the City of Laredo, and other potentially responsible parties are negotiating cost-sharing agreements to further study the site.

2.4 Industrial Waste Treatment Plant

The IWTP site is located near the southwestern corner of the Laredo International Airport (Figure 2-1). The site is bordered on the south by commercial property, on the east by the Fuel Farm, on the north by the Arkansas Street Extension, and along the west by a drainage ditch, with Jarvis Street beyond and parallel to the drainage ditch.

The USAF constructed the IWTP in 1969 to treat flow from the underground storm sewer system that served the southern portion of the flight line area. The plant consisted of a control building, a clarifier, a sludge lagoon, and associated subsurface piping. Discharge from the IWTP was directed into the Base sanitary sewer system, which in turn discharged into the City of Laredo sanitary sewer system. No information regarding the amounts of waste processed by the system or regarding the disposal of sludges from the system is available. The IWTP was reportedly taken out of service in 1974 when LAFB closed.

An environmental investigation of the IWTP was performed in 1999. The investigation had two purposes: (1) to assess the presence or absence of impacted soils or groundwater at the site due to activities conducted during the time that the U.S. government controlled LAFB; and (2) to recommend further actions, if any, for the site. The field activities were performed in May 1999 and included drilling soil borings, installing three groundwater monitoring wells, and collecting and analyzing soil and groundwater samples. CH2M HILL conducted the investigation while under contract to USACE.

2.5 Sanitary Landfill

The SLF site is located approximately 1/2-mile west of the northern end of the Laredo International Airport (Figure 2-1). The site is generally bordered by McPherson Road on the west, Hibiscus Lane on the south, Daugherty Road on the east, and Los Ebanos Drive on the north.

Waste disposal activities at the site apparently began in the early 1940s and continued until closure of LAFB in 1974. A review of historical aerial photographs identified 16 former landfill trenches within the SLF area. An electromagnetic (EM) survey successfully confirmed the locations of these trenches, and identified two additional former trenches. No other trenches have been identified.

Residential development of the SLF area began in the early 1980s. Currently, the site contains three residential subdivisions (Alta Vista, School View Acres, and Valle Alto) and a school (Newman Elementary School), with some commercial development along McPherson Road.

An environmental investigation of the SLF was performed in June and July 1997. The investigation had two purposes: (1) to assess the presence or absence of impacted environmental media at the SLF due to activities conducted while the U.S. government controlled LAFB; and (2) to recommend further actions, if any, for the site. The investigation, which was performed by the USACE and its contractors, included a review of historical aerial photographs; an EM survey of the SLF area; and the collection and laboratory analysis of soil gas, soil, groundwater, and sediment samples.

2.6 Shotgun Range

The SGR site is located approximately 1/2-mile west of the northern end of the Laredo International Airport and consists of two areas (Figure 2-1). The larger, main portion of the site is bordered on the south by Hillside Road, on the west by McPherson Road, on the east by Daugherty Road, and on the north approximately by Hibiscus Lane. The smaller portion of the SGR area is a rectangular area centered just west of the intersection of Hemlock Drive and Poinsetta Drive.

The SGR was part of the original Base construction and operated as a gunnery training area. At the SGR, crews were trained in the use of the types of machine guns and turrets used on military aircraft, as well as small arms. Based upon historical aerial photographs, the original firing line was located along Hillside Road, with the weapons fired northward. The firing line extended from McPherson Road on the west to north of Bartlett Avenue on the east. The use of the SGR during the period of 1947 through 1952, when the Base operated as Laredo's municipal airport, is unknown; however, no obvious changes in land use are visible between the 1952 and earlier aerial photographs.

Much of the area was developed as a golf course during the 1960s, then as a residential area (the Vista Hermosa and Alta Vista subdivisions) during the 1980s. Commercial properties are located along McPherson Road, on the west side of the site.

An environmental investigation of the SGR was performed in May and June 1999. The investigation had two purposes: (1) to assess the presence or absence of impacted soils at the site due to activities conducted while the U.S. government controlled LAFB; and (2) to recommend further actions, if any, for the site. The field activities included surface and shallow subsurface soil sampling. The investigation was conducted by CH2M HILL under contract to the USACE.

2.7 FUDS Overview and Regulatory Involvement

The FUDS program is a significant and integral component of the Department of Defense's (DOD) environmental program. As with operational and closing installations, DOD must address potential contamination on properties that were formerly owned, leased, or otherwise operated by DOD or any of its components. The FUDS program focused DOD efforts on its obligation to restore such properties across the United States and its territories. The initial concept for the program originated with a study DOD directed in 1974 to determine the potential environmental impact of abandoned military debris in Alaska. Concerns about these issues and releases of hazardous substances from former and active installations led to the development of the DERP.

The FUDS program was officially established in December 1983, when the Fiscal Year 1984 Defense Appropriations Act required that DOD establish a program to manage environmental cleanup at properties formerly controlled by DOD. In 1985, the U.S. Army became the executive agent in charge of administering the program and in 1986, designated USACE as the program manager for environmental restoration at FUDS properties.

DERP-FUDS projects addressing hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants are required to comply with Section 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (42 U.S.C 9620). Consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), state, and local authorities is also required. The program advises that efforts should be made to accommodate standards, requirements, or criteria requested by these authorities where they are consistent with CERCLA and the National Contingency Plan's (NCP) processes and criteria. For sites not listed on the National Priority List (NPL), such as the former LAFB, it may become apparent that other regulatory processes can be used instead of the NCP process. Examples include regulations under Subtitle I of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) as amended for underground storage tank releases, and state regulations for petroleum or other releases (www.nwd.usace.army.mil/pm/derp/fmpream.html, 2001).

The DOD and State Memorandum of Agreement/Cooperative Agreement (DSMOA/CA) Program was established pursuant to Section 211(B) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), enacted October 17, 1986. The goal of the program is to expedite environmental restoration at DOD installations through partnerships with states. The focus of the partnerships is to protect human health and the environment through environmental restoration at DOD installations in an expeditious and efficient manner in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The DSMOA is the overarching agreement between DOD and the state that provides the framework for the partnership at specified DOD installations. After signing a DSMOA with DOD, a state may obtain a CA. Under the CA, the state may be reimbursed by DOD components, through Headquarters, USACE, for eligible services in support of environmental cleanup at listed installations (www.fusrap.usace.army.mil/programs/dsmoa/dsmoaagree/dsmoaagree.htm, 2001).

Several FUDS properties in Texas are listed in a DSMOA. Currently, the State of Texas and the DOD are in the fourteenth month (October, 2001) of the fourth CA. Under this agreement, the USACE supplies the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) with a list of FUDS sites, which are then adopted by the TNRCC. The TNRCC then establishes an estimate of time and dollars required to devote to these projects and submits a reimbursement budget to the USACE.

Other than the investigations identified above (Sections 2.1 through 2.6), the only remedial actions completed, as identified by USACE, have been building demolitions conducted by the USACE-Fort Worth District and several UST removals.

During current or future environmental investigations, Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) may be identified. If PRPs are identified, they may become responsible for clean-up actions, including community relations activities, if an agreement on the clean-up actions is not reached by the PRP and the USACE. The USACE FUDS PRP process (Appendix B) will be used to establish PRP goals and responsibilities.

Section 3
Community Background

3. Community Background

3.1 Community Profile

Laredo is located along the Texas/Mexico border on the north bank of the Rio Grande, approximately 150 miles south-southwest of the City of San Antonio (Figure 2-1). Laredo encompasses 79.42 square miles and is the largest city in Webb County. Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, is located directly across from Laredo on the south bank of the Rio Grande.

The City of Laredo, which was founded in May 1755 by Captain Tomas Sanchez, is considered the oldest independent settlement in Texas and is the only remaining Spanish colonial settlement on the north bank of the lower Rio Grande. The Spanish settlement became a Mexican city in 1821 when Mexico gained its independence from Spain. In 1845, the U.S. annexed Texas, which led to a declaration of war against Mexico. Shortly after the fall of Mexico, the Rio Grande was declared the boundary between the U.S. and Mexico, and Laredo officially became part of Texas. In 1881, Laredo was transformed into a “gateway” city with the arrival of the railroads. Laredo’s importance as a manufacturing and trading center on the Texas/Mexico border has continued to grow. Laredo is now the U.S. principal port of entry into Mexico, located on the Pan American Highway that stretches from Canada into Central and South America.

According to the 2000 census, approximately 177,000 people live in Laredo, making it the fourteenth largest city in Texas. This represents an increase of approximately 54,000 people, or 43.7 percent, since the 1990 census. Approximately 166,000 residents, or 94 percent, are of Hispanic or Latino origin. According to the 1990 census (which is the most current data available), 92 percent of people 5 years and older speak Spanish at home, and 49 percent reported at least some difficulty speaking English.

The following table summarizes cohort demographics for children in Laredo:

Age	Number	Percent of Population
Under 5 years	20,439	10.6
5 to 9 years	20,768	10.8
10 to 14 years	18,078	9.4
15 to 19 years	17,494	9.1
Total	76,779	39.9

Approximately 560 children attend Newman Elementary School, which is located in the vicinity of the former LAFB.

Major employers include the United Independent School District, the Laredo Independent School District, Mercy Hospital, the City of Laredo, H.E.B. Grocery Company, Webb County, Laredo Community College, and the U.S. Border Patrol. The median household income in Webb County is \$23,386, which is about 30 percent below the state median household income of \$34,478.

City government consists of a mayor elected at large and eight council members representing geographic districts. The former LAFB is located in District 2, which is represented by the Honorable Louis H. Bruni.

3.2 Previous Community Involvement

An information workshop, described in more detail below, was the primary community relations activity for the former LAFB. Other activities included issuing news releases concerning the activities at the SLF site, conducting door-to-door visits at residences affected by sampling activities, and developing an Administrative Record (AR) File.

On February 13, 1997, USACE-Tulsa District held an information workshop at Newman Elementary School in Laredo, Texas. The purpose of the workshop was to inform the public about the District's environmental investigations at the former LAFB. The workshop was also intended to solicit questions and concerns from the public regarding the investigations

at the Base. The District held the workshop at the elementary school because of its proximity to areas under investigation, its unofficial role as a well-known neighborhood center for activities, and its official role as an election polling place.

The public meeting was advertised through direct mail to affected residents, property owners, and the parents of children who attended Newman Elementary School. The meeting was also publicized through a press release and advertisements in the *Laredo Morning Times*.

The workshop was held using an open house format consisting of information stations accompanied by poster displays. USACE personnel were available at each table to answer questions and discuss the investigations. Technical documents were made available for anyone wanting more detailed information, and Spanish-speaking persons were available to help with translation.

Fifty people attended the information workshop, including USACE representatives, the Mayor, two City Council members, the Laredo International Airport Director, and school officials. Other attendees included members of the public, primarily parents and homeowners in the Alta Vista neighborhood.

During the meeting, several homeowners in the Alta Vista neighborhood expressed concern about their children's safety and the impact of the investigations on the value of their homes. Other concerns included the odor of aviation fuel from planes using the airport and hazardous materials that may have been used at a high security area at the former LAFB. The Newman Elementary School principal stated that he had received a few calls from parents requesting that the information about the workshop that had been sent home with the students be translated into Spanish.

3.3 Community Concerns

As part of the research for this CRP, CH2M HILL documented current community issues, concerns, and information needs related to the former LAFB via community relations interviews. Thirty-two interviews were conducted with community members, including public officials, business and community leaders, local environmental group

representatives, and residents who live on or near the affected properties. Interviewees were selected based on USACE guidance, internet searches, and local referrals. Residents were selected at random from those visiting the local library or a nearby recreation center. The interviews were conducted in Laredo, Texas, from May 15 through May 17, 2001. The following information was generated by the community interviews.

- Less than 50 percent of the interviewees were aware that any environmental investigations had been conducted at the former LAFB. There is confusion over which sites had been investigated and what the investigations entailed. In general, awareness of the investigations was limited to two groups: (1) civic leaders who had been involved in the investigations or with the development of the surrounding areas; and (2) residents who were directly affected by the investigations.
- The interviewees that were aware of the environmental investigations at the former LAFB expressed a desire to know the results and to complete appropriate project activities, including cleanup and closure. Economic issues were important to a number of community leaders, who are particularly interested in making the former Base available for industrial and commercial development.
- Local sources of information about the former LAFB are very limited. As a result, many community members are unaware of the potential for environmental contamination, such as is commonly encountered at former military installations.
- None of the persons interviewed expressed concerns regarding effects on health or property values associated with the former LAFB. However, one resident expressed her concerns over structural damage (floor tiles shifting, walls cracking) to her home and the homes of two neighbors. She had reported her concerns to the City Manager.
- No clear point-of-contact (POC) for the former Base was identified during the surveys. Interviewees indicated that they would contact a variety of people, ranging from city officials to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, if they had a question or concern about the former Base.

- There is an unfavorable perception of the USACE, particularly among environmental groups in the community, due to a road construction project along the Rio Grande. Opportunities for public involvement in this project were perceived to be extremely limited and conducted only as a formality. However, several city officials who worked directly with the USACE-Tulsa District on issues concerning the former LAFB indicated that USACE personnel had been helpful and responsive.
- Interviewees did not identify any specific organized environmental groups that have expressed concern about the former LAFB. However, there is a high level of environmental awareness in Laredo, and the majority of people were well-informed, particularly on issues associated with the Rio Grande and the public water supply. Other environmental issues of interest to Laredo residents include illegal dumping, sustainable development, infrastructure, increased traffic, and noise pollution from the Laredo International Airport.
- Interviewees indicated that the most effective communication tools for informing residents about site activities are news articles in the local media and the internet. Public meetings or briefings at City Council meetings, which are broadcast on the local public access channel, were also recommended as effective methods of communication. Most interviewees indicated a desire to receive information monthly during on-going projects, or more frequently if events warranted. Most community members speak both English and Spanish, but prefer to read English. However, several interviewees requested both verbal and written information in Spanish.

Appendix C contains a copy of the questionnaire used during each interview. Both English and Spanish versions of the questionnaire are provided.

Section 4
Community Relations Program Goals

4. Community Relations Program Goals

The community relations program for the former LAFB should be designed to enable the community to learn about, and participate in, the environmental decision-making process without unduly increasing the level of community concern. To be effective, the community relations program must be based on the community's need for information and its interest and willingness to participate in the process.

As described in Section 2.7, the USACE and PRPs may share responsibility for community relations activities. The goal of the USACE's community relations program is to identify community concerns and foster two-way communications between the community and USACE. The following are general objectives to meet this goal.

- *Ensure that city officials support and participate in community relations activities.* City officials, particularly the Airport Director and the Environmental Manager, need to be actively involved in the community relations program. Several of the former LAFB sites are located on City property, and these individuals are relatively familiar with the previous environmental investigations. In addition, the Airport Director and Environmental Manager are visible, trusted leaders who are well perceived by the community, and, as such, can provide credible information to the general public. The City of Laredo also has a Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee that could take an active interest in the community relations program.
- *Publicize the results of the environmental investigations for the former LAFB.* Community members who were aware of the environmental investigations at the former LAFB expressed a desire to know the results. This information should be made available to all community members as soon as possible. City officials and property owners with potentially affected land should be contacted individually before information is released to the news media and the general public.
- *Separate the environmental investigations at the former LAFB from other USACE projects in the area.* During the interviews, people associated problems with other USACE efforts with

the investigations at the former LAFB. Therefore, it is important to establish the former LAFB as a separate project. All information that is released to the public should clearly state that it is for the former LAFB, and inquiries about other USACE projects should be referred to the correct POC. Finally, using display advertisements and publishing meeting notices several weeks in advance are recommended to counteract the perception that community involvement is only a formality.

- *Emphasize the use of electronic media to communicate information.* Several interviewees stated that electronic media are the most convenient way to receive information. Developing electronic versions of fact sheets that can be sent via e-mail and/or posted on the city's website (www.ci.laredo.tx.us) was recommended as an effective method of communication. The city's website could also be modified to include links to supplemental information on the USACE-Tulsa District or USACE-Fort Worth District websites. The USACE-Tulsa District currently maintains a webpage for the former LAFB, located at www.swt.usace.army.mil/projects/studies.htm.
- *Provide verbal and written information in English and Spanish.* Although most community members are bi-lingual, providing information in both languages will ensure that information is equally available to everyone.

These objectives are based on the assumption that community interest in the Base remains fairly low. If environmental sampling or other field activities occur in the future, community interest in the Base may increase dramatically. Additional community relations activities, such as public notices, responsiveness summaries, and establishing a Restoration Advisory Board, may then be applicable.

Section 5
Community Relations Activities and Timing

5. Community Relations Activities and Timing

According to USACE guidance, the following activities are currently required for the community relations program at the former LAFB:

- *Contact state and local officials.* During the interviews, several community leaders indicated that they would like to receive more information about the environmental investigations at the former LAFB. Telephone calls or informal meetings should be held when the results of the investigations become publicly available and for other significant milestones.
- *Establish and maintain an AR File.* Fact sheets, official correspondence, and site reports (including the CRP) must be placed in the AR File. The USACE is responsible for updating and maintaining the AR File. The AR File should be kept at the following location, which is adjacent to the former LAFB.

Laredo Public Library
1120 East Calton
Laredo, Texas 78041
(956) 795-2400

The Laredo Public Library is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

The USACE should also consider providing portions of the AR File to the Airport Director and/or the City's Environmental Manager, particularly if they are designated as POCs for the community relations program. A notice of the availability of the AR File should be published in the *Laredo Morning Times* and posted on the city's website.

- *Revise CRP.* The CRP should be revised to reflect significant changes in technical schedules or community attitudes that may affect the community relations program. The USACE guidance requires that the CRP be revised under the following conditions:

(1) before the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study begins; (2) before the remedial design begins; and (3) when community concerns change focus or become more intense.

In addition to the required actions, the following activities are recommended for the community relations program at the former LAFB. These recommendations are based on USACE guidance as well as the results of the community interviews.

- *Provide news releases to the local media.* Prepared statements or information should be released to the *Laredo Morning Times* and to local radio and television stations to notify the community of the outcome of the environmental investigations and any public meetings. News releases should also announce the availability of the AR File and other significant milestones. Appendix D includes contact information for local media representatives.
- *Hold a public meeting to present and discuss the results of the environmental investigations at the former LAFB.* An informal information workshop with poster stations, similar to the 1997 meeting, should be held as soon as possible. Potential meeting locations include Newman Elementary School, the Laredo Public Library, and San Martin de Porres Church (Appendix E). Meetings should be scheduled in the early evenings on weeknights. Handouts and poster displays should be produced in both English and Spanish, and Spanish translation services should be provided.
- *Prepare a fact sheet for each site that summarizes the environmental investigation and its results.* The fact sheets should contain clear, accurate descriptions of technical information prepared in a style and format that will encourage readability and understanding. POC information should be included on each fact sheet. The fact sheets should be placed in the AR File, distributed at public meetings, and mailed to city officials, environmental groups/organizations, and area residents.
- *Designate a POC for the former LAFB.* Establishing a single POC will ensure that community inquiries are handled efficiently and consistently. POC information should be made available at public meetings and included on all printed and electronic documents. The primary POC for the USACE is Anita Horky, Fort Worth District Public Affairs Office, 817-978-3395.

- *Establish and maintain a mailing list.* The mailing list should be used to distribute notices, fact sheets, and other information to local community leaders and concerned residents. The initial mailing list will include those who attended the 1997 public meeting and those who were interviewed during the development of the CRP. Additional mailing recipients may include those individuals that attend future public meetings, contact the POC with questions or comments, or register on any future website.

Table 5-1 summarizes the required and recommended community relations activities for the former LAFB. Table 5-1 also includes the responsible party and a proposed time frame for each activity.

TABLE 5-1
Summary of Community Relations Activities
Community Relations Plan, Former Laredo Air Force Base, Texas

Activity	Responsible Party	Schedule
<u>Required Activities</u>		
Contact state and local officials.	USACE and City of Laredo	Throughout environmental restoration process
Establish and maintain an Administrative Record (AR) File.	USACE	Upon completion of the SI; update as needed
Revise Community Relations Plan (CRP).	USACE	Before the RI/FS begins; before remedial design begins; when community concerns change focus or increase in intensity
<u>Recommended Activities</u>		
Provide news releases to the local media.	USACE and City of Laredo	Upon completion of the SI; update as needed
Hold a public meeting to present and discuss the results of the environmental investigations at the former LAFB.	USACE and City of Laredo	Upon completion of the SI; additional meetings as needed
Prepare a fact sheet for each site that summarizes the environmental investigation and its results.	USACE	In preparation for the public meeting; update as needed
Designate a point-of-contact for the former LAFB.	USACE and City of Laredo	Throughout environmental restoration process
Establish and maintain a mailing list.	USACE and City of Laredo	Before the RI begins; update as needed

Section 6

References

6. References

CH2M HILL, Limited Groundwater Assessment Report, Construction Landfill Site, Former Laredo Air Force Base, Laredo, Texas, April 2000.

CH2M HILL, Phase I Remedial Investigation Report, Fire Training Area, Former Laredo AFB, Laredo, Texas, January 1999.

CH2M HILL, Revised Site Investigation Report, Sanitary Landfill Site, Former Laredo Air Force Base, Laredo, Texas, May 2000.

CH2M HILL, Site Inspection Report, Industrial Waste Treatment Plant Site, Former Laredo Air Force Base, Laredo, Texas, September 2000.

CH2M HILL, Site Inspection Report, Shotgun Range Site, Former Laredo Air Force Base, Laredo, Texas, July 2000.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Public Participation in the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), Engineering Pamphlet 1110-3-8, December 1, 1999.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Tulsa District, Preliminary Investigation Report, Construction Landfill, Former Laredo Air Force Base (FUDS), Laredo, Texas, January 1998.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Tulsa District, Public Information Workshop Discussing the Department of Defense Environmental Investigations at the Former Laredo Air Force Base (Formerly Used Defense Site), February 1997.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Community Relations in Superfund: A Handbook*, EPA/540/R-92/009, January 1992.

Appendix A

Glossary

APPENDIX A

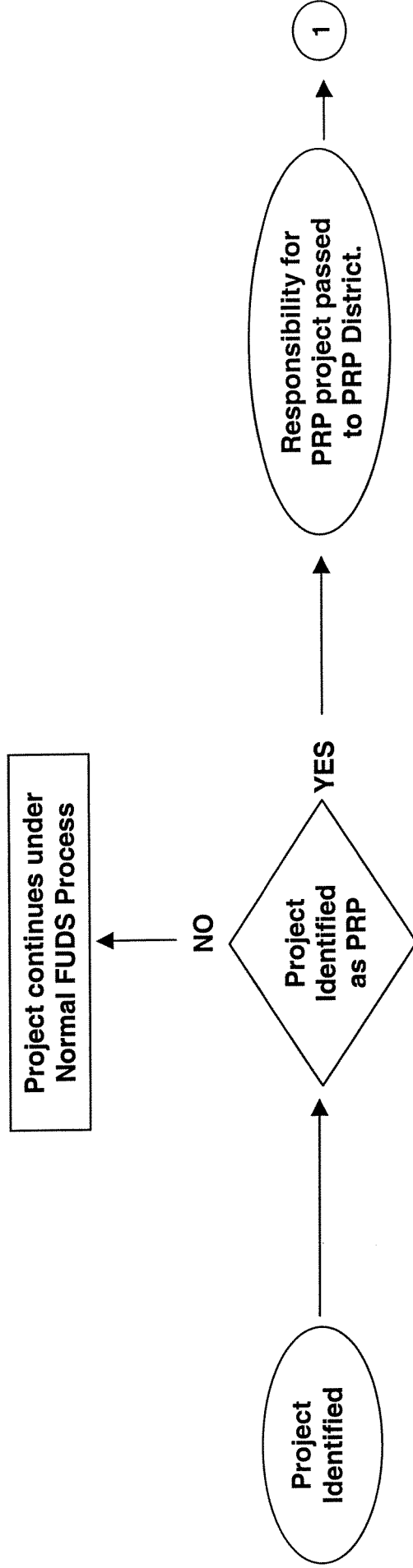
Glossary of Terms

Community Relations Plan, Former Laredo Air Force Base, Laredo, Texas

Administrative Record File	All of the information used by the lead regulatory agency to make its decision on the selection of a cleanup alternative. Development of the Administrative Record File is an on-going process.
Community Relations Plan	Formal plan that outlines community relations activities. The plan is designed to ensure citizen opportunities for public involvement at a site, determine activities that will provide for such involvement, and allow citizens the opportunity to learn about the site.
Electromagnetic Survey	Geophysical technique used to measure subsurface conductivity via low-frequency electromagnetic induction
Geophysical Survey	Non-intrusive electric, gravity, magnetic, seismic, or thermal techniques that can be used to identify subsurface anomalies
Groundwater	Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills cracks and pores in layers of sand, soil, and rock. When groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities, it can be used as a source of water for drinking, irrigation, and other purposes.
Monitoring Wells	Special wells drilled at specific locations where groundwater can be sampled at selected depths and studied to determine the direction of groundwater flow and the types and amounts of contaminants present.
Phase I Remedial Investigation	The phase that follows the Preliminary Site Assessment. During the Phase I Remedial Investigation, more extensive information about the types and amounts of contamination and other important information about the site are collected to evaluate the appropriate course of action. This usually includes actual field testing and sampling.
Preliminary Site Assessment	The initial process of collecting and reviewing available information about a site. This information is used to determine if the site requires further study.
Sediments	Soil, sand, and minerals deposited at the base of a waterway or ditch.
Soil Gas	Gaseous elements and compounds in the small spaces between soil or rock particles.

Appendix B
FUDS Existing PRP Process

Formerly Used Defense Sites Existing Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Process



Project Identified

Inventory Project Report (INPR) started by geographic District under normal FUDS process to review property and project eligibility
OR
INPR started as a result of notification by regulator or private party seeking relief under CERCLA

Project Identified as PRP

Geographical District PM in consultation with Office of Counsel (OC), identifies as PRP project as a result of:

- INPR identifies PRP(s)

OR

- Regulator or private party notifies (CERCLA 104E letter) or files lawsuit against DoD that project of potential responsibility and seeking relief under CERCLA
- USACE may notify regulators that project is designated as PRP in coordination with PRP District OC and share appropriate information.
- DoD liability concerns may limit discussion of PRP project with regulators.

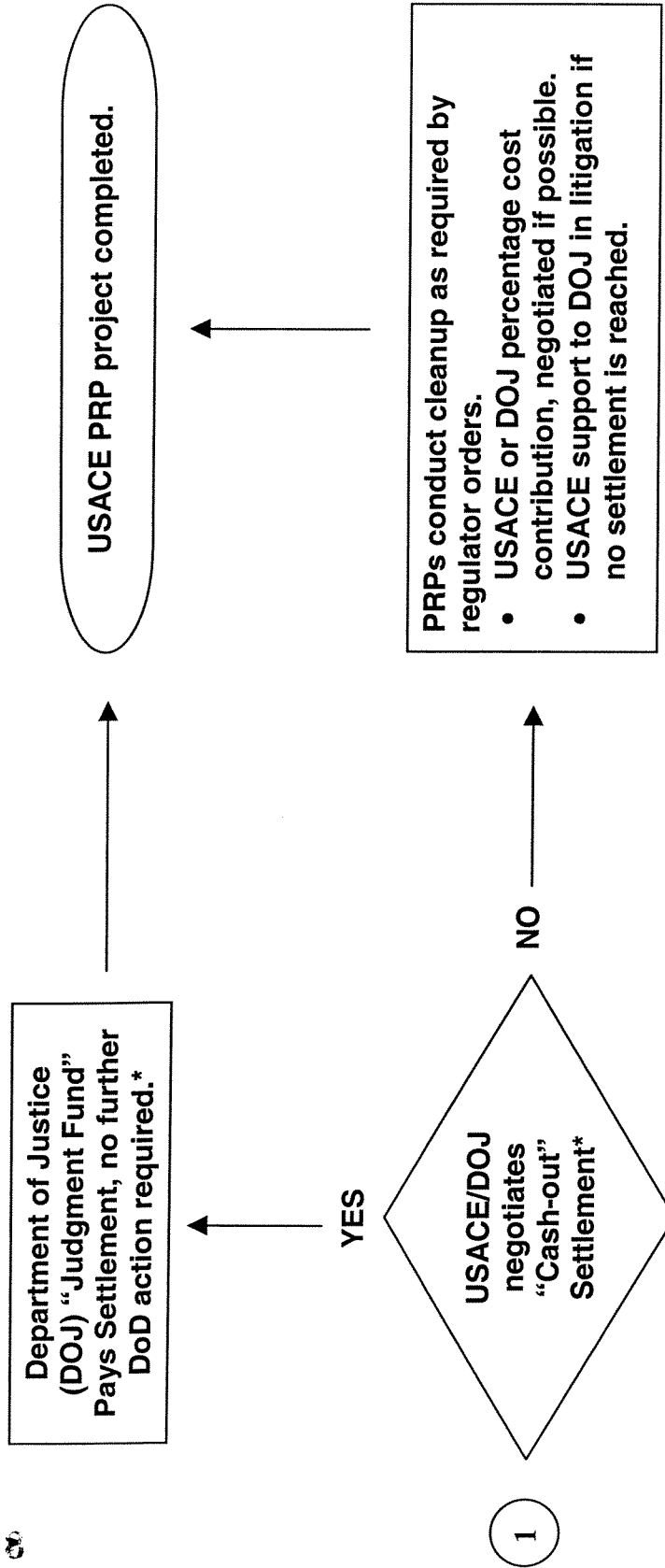
Responsibility for PRP project

PRP District Team (OC, PM and technical staff) develops and/or review PRP project documentation and evidence to develop case negotiation/litigation strategy:

- Evaluate the nature of DoD's and other PRPs operations and contribution to the contamination
- Evaluate Corps role in the cleanup process
- Estimate project cost
- Negotiate DoDs fair share/allocation with the other PRPs and/or regulators.

Formerly Used Defense Sites Existing Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Process

5968



Settlement Stage

Judicial Review

* PRP project completion is based on resolving: "all liability, to extent possible, for environmental response actions in a single comprehensive settlement."

Formerly Used Defense Sites Existing Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Process

Goals of Potentially Responsible Party Agreements

1. The overall goal of a PRP project is to negotiate a fair and equitable settlement that represents DoD's contribution for contamination at the property, in exchange for a release of liability under CERCLA, other applicable environmental laws, and/or rules of common law.
2. USACE, in coordination with DoJ and subject to the availability of the Judgment Fund, strives to pay for DoD's fair share of response costs. If there are no significant issues regarding liability or fair share, USACE steps up to offer to pay its fair share. However, USACE does not contribute if significant liability or fair share issues exist. There are several reasons for seeking to cash out:
 - First, fiscal law principles prevent FUDS Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA) funds from being used to cleanup non-DoD-caused contamination.
 - Second, it may be difficult to secure adequate resources, including DoJ assistance, to bring a cost-recovery action if USACE has paid more than its fair share.
 - Third, other PRPs must accept responsibility for their share of the cleanup.
 - Fourth, it frees up funds needed for execution of other FUDS projects where PRP issues do not exist.
 - Fifth, it avoids the potential additional regulatory responsibilities and future liabilities and responsibilities related to execution of the cleanup as well as long-term project involvement.
 - Sixth, it contravenes the fundamental national policy that the "polluter pays" for contamination for which it is liable and that general taxpayer funds should not be used to relieve PRPs of their liability under CERCLA.
3. In settling DoD liability relating to a FUDS, USACE negotiation efforts seek contribution protection and indemnification for future claims based on CERCLA, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) sections 7002 or 7003, and any similar law. It is recognized that this is a matter of negotiation and may affect other terms of the settlement. However, it is generally considered in the best interest of the Army to fully resolve all possible liability for environmental response actions in a single comprehensive settlement.

Source: DERP-FUDS Program Manual, Chapter 4

Appendix C

Questionnaire

APPENDIX C

Questionnaire

Interviewer _____

Date and time of interview _____

Location of interview _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Wishes to join mailing list Yes No

1. Environmental investigations have been conducted for six sites associated with the former Laredo Air Force Base, now the Laredo International Airport. Have you heard about these investigations? If so, do you remember when and how you learned of them?

2. Have you talked with any Corps of Engineers, state, or environmental officials about the former Laredo Air Force Base?

3. If you have, were they responsive to your concerns or questions?

4. What special interests or concerns do you have about the former Laredo Air Force Base?

5. Have any of your friends or neighbors talked with you to express interest or concern about the former Laredo Air Force Base? If so, what were their concerns?

6. If you had a question or concern, what would you do? Is there someone you would call or contact?

7. Would you be interested in joining a mailing list to receive fact sheets and other general information about the environmental investigations at the former Laredo Air Force Base?

8. Recently, what issues have attracted the most attention in the community? Are there current environmental issues that are of interest to community members?

9. Are there organized environmental groups active in the community?

10. How does the community receive information about local events and news (i.e., radio, television, newspapers)?

11. Other than the mailing list, what other ways can the Corps of Engineers provide you with information and better involve you in the decision-making process at the former Laredo Air Force Base?

Newspaper(s) _____
 Radio/TV _____
 Information Repository (suggested location) _____
 Community Hotline _____
 Community Meetings (suggested time and place) _____
 Formal Briefings _____
 FUDS Property Visits _____
 Other _____

12. How frequently would you like to receive information?

Monthly _____
 Bi-monthly _____
 Quarterly _____
 Annually _____
 Whenever events warrant _____
 Other _____

13. Can you suggest anyone else (friend, neighbor, group, informal or formal leader) that we should contact or who might want to be included on the mailing list?

14. Is there anything else you would like to mention that we have not talked about?

Additional Questions for Community Officials

15. Do you get calls or questions from community members regarding the former Laredo Air Force Base? If yes, what types of issues are they concerned with?

Health _____
 Environmental protection _____
 Property values _____
 Other _____

16. How do you rate public perception regarding the environmental investigations that have been done at the Base?

High Awareness
Average Awareness
Low Awareness

High Concern
Average Concern
Low Concern

Encuesta

Entrevistante _____

Fecha y hora de la entrevista _____

El local de la entrevista _____

Nombre _____

Domicilio _____

Numero de telefono _____

¿Le gustaria recibir información por correo? Si No

1. Investigaciones ambientales han sido conducidas en seis locales asociados con la base anterior de Laredo Air Force Base, ahora conocido como el Aeropuerto Internacional de Laredo. ¿Usted ha escuchado algo sobre estas investigaciones? Si lo ha escuchado, recuerda cuando y como recibio la información?

2. ¿Ha hablado usted con algún representante del Army Corp of Engineers (Fuerza de Ingeniería), del estado o oficiales de organizaciones ambientales sobre la anterior base de Laredo Air Force Base?

3. ¿Si tuvo alguna conversación con ellos, respondieron a sus preguntas y preocupaciones?

4. ¿Tiene algun interes especial sobre los asuntos de la base anterior de Laredo Air Force Base?

5. ¿Han expresado algunos de sus vecinos o amistades con usted sus intereses o preocupaciones sobre la base anterior de Laredo Air Force Base? Si lo hicieron, cuales eran esos intereses?

6. Si usted tuviera alguna pregunta o preocupación, hay alguna persona con quien puede comunicarse y hablar sobre el asunto?

7. ¿Le gustaria poner su nombre en una lista postal para recibir boletines y información sobre las investigaciones ambientales sobre la base anterior de Laredo Air Force Base?

8. ¿Cuales son los puntos de interes que han atraido mas atención entre la comunidad recientemente? Hay algunos asuntos ambientales que son de mas interes entre la comunidad?

9. ¿Conoce usted si hay algunas organizaciones ambientales que estan activas entre la comunidad?

10. ¿Como recibe la comunidad información o noticias sobre eventos locales, (por ejemplo: por la radio, la television, o el perodico)?

11. ¿Ademas de una lista postal, como puede el Corps of Engineers, proveerle información para que usted pueda involucrase mas en el proceso de las decisiones sobre la base anteior de Laredo Air Force Base?

Por el:

Perodico/Diario _____

Radio/Television _____

Reposito de información _____

Linea especifica telefonica de información _____

Juntas públicas _____

Presentaciones formales _____

Visitas por representates de FUDS (Formerly Used Defense sites) _____

Otros metodos _____

12. ¿Que tan frecuente le gustaria recibir información?

Una vez al mes _____

Dos veces por mes _____

Tri-mestral _____

Anualmente _____

Solamente cuando es necesario _____

Otros metodos _____

13. ¿Conoce de alguna persona que usted pude sugerir (amigos, vecinos, grupos, algun leader formal or informal) con quien debemos de hacer contacto o incluir en nuestra lista postal?

14. ¿Hay algun otro tema que quiere mencionar ahora que no se ha tocado?

Preguntas adicionales para los oficiales de la comunidad

15. ¿Recibe usted llamadas or preguntas de miembros de la comunidad sobre la base anterior de Laredo Air Force Base? Si ha recibido, cuales son las preocupaciones que se han mencionado?

Salud _____

Protección ambiental _____

El valor de la propiedad _____

Otros asuntos _____

16. ¿Como mide la percepción sobre las investigaciones ambientales que se han hecho en la base?

Mucho conocimiento _____

Mucha preocupacion _____

Conocimiento mediano _____

Preocupacion mediana _____

Poco de conocimiento _____

Preocupacion baja _____

Appendix D

Contact List

Appendix D CONTACT LIST

Federal Elected Officials

U.S. Senator Phil Gramm
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Fax: (202) 228-2856
phil_gramm@gramm.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson
Legislative Correspondent Amy Flynn
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Austin, TX 78711-2428
Phone: (512) 463-2000
Fax: (512) 463-1849
www.governor.state.tx.us/acgperry2001/e-mail.html

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Laredo, TX 78042
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Fax: (956) 718-8612

Commissioner Felix Velasquez
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Commissioner Miguel J. Urdiales
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Local Environmental Groups

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Media Contacts

Television

FOX 57 KHFTX
1505 Calle Del Norte
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Phone: (956) 728-0165
Fax: (956) 728-0841

KVTV-13 (CBS Affiliate)
2600 Shea Street
Laredo, TX 78040
Phone: (956) 725-5888
Fax: (956) 723-0474

TV-AZTECA
107 Calle Del Norte
Laredo, TX 78041
Phone: (956) 725-1161
Fax: (956) 725-9696

Newspaper

Laredo Morning Times
111 Esperanza
Laredo, TX 78041
Phone: (956) 728-2560
Fax: (956) 724-3036

Radio

Catholic Telecommunications Center
1901 Corpus Christi Street
Laredo, TX 78043
Phone: (956) 722-4167
Fax: (956) 722-4464

KOYE/KVOZ
505 Houston
Laredo, TX 78040
Phone: (956) 723-4396
Fax: (956) 725-3424

KJBZ-FUERZA 93
902 East Calton Road
Laredo, TX 78040
Phone: (956) 725-9393
Fax: (956) 724-9915

KNEXT 106.1
505 Houston
Laredo, TX
Phone: (956) 725-1061

KLDO TV-CH 27 (ABC Affiliate)
1600 Water
Laredo, TX 78043-4206
Phone: (956) 727-0027
Fax: (956) 727-2673

KGNS-TV (NBC Affiliate)
120 West Del Mar Boulevard
Laredo, TX 78044
Phone: (956) 727-8888
Fax: (956) 727-5336

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Fax: (956) 727-0313

KBDR-B100
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Fax: (956) 718-1000

KLNT
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Laredo, TX
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Fax: (956) 795-0326

KRRG
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KBNL Radio Manantial
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Fax: (956) 724-9919

XHNOE-FM
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Laredo, TX 78045
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XHNLO-97.1
107 Calle Del Norte, Suite 1C
Laredo, TX 78041
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Fax: (956) 725-9696

Appendix E
Suggested Locations for Meetings and
Information Repository

APPENDIX E

Suggested Locations of Meetings and Information Repository
Community Relations Plan, Former Laredo Air Force Base, Laredo, Texas

Meeting Locations:

Newman Elementary School
Contact: Zulema Gutierrez, Principal
1300 Alta Vista
Laredo, TX 78041
Phone: (956) 727-8498
Fax: (956) 727-8624
zgutierr@united.ist.tenet.edu

Capacity - approximately 400 people
Tables available
Cost - None

Laredo Public Library
Contact: Monica Resendiz
1120 East Calton
Laredo, TX 78041
Phone: (956) 795-2400, ext. 2245
Fax: (956) 795-2403

Capacity - 300 people
Tables, chairs, and AV available
Cost - \$150 per day

San Martin de Porres Church
Contact: Norma de Leon, Business Manager
1704 Sandman
Laredo, TX 78041
Phone: (956) 723-5215
Fax: (956) 723-9443
smartin@surface.net

Capacity - 125 people
Tables and chairs available
Cost - \$150 per day

Location for Information Repository:

Laredo Public Library
Contact: Robert Brown
1120 East Calton
Laredo, TX 78041
Phone: (956) 795-2400
Fax: (956) 795-2403