



BRAC Environmental Office
Hamilton Army Airfield
1 Burma Road
Novato, CA 94949

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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

HAMILTON ARMY AIRFIELD

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Please mail this postcard by October 31, 2004

Attention!

This will be your final mailing unless we hear from you. Please see page 3 for more details.

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) UPDATE

RAB Responsibilities

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), is an advisory board made up of interested and concerned community members who reflect the diverse interests of the local community as well as representatives of state, local, and federal agencies. The RAB is designed to serve as a forum for the exchange of information between the Army and Navy and the community regarding those restoration activities presently underway, as well as those planned for future studies and remediation.

The Hamilton RAB meets quarterly. **The next RAB meeting is October 13, 2004.** To receive further information regarding the RAB, community involvement, environmental cleanup at Hamilton, or to be added to the Hamilton RAB mailing list, please contact: **Joy Lanzaro (415) 883-6386.**

Upcoming Meetings

The next RAB Meeting will be held at the Novato Police Station Meeting Room on Wednesday, October 13, 2004, 7 p.m.

For More Information

Army BRAC Environmental Office
 Hamilton Army Airfield
 1 Burma Road, Novato, CA 94949
 tel: (415) 883-6386 fax: (415) 883-1033

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Navy BRAC Environmental Office

Jennifer R. Valenzia
 tel: (619) 532-0919 fax: (619) 532-0940
 Jennifer.valenzia@navy.mil

Information Repositories

Marin County Public Library, Novato Branch
 1720 Novato Boulevard, Novato, CA 94947
 tel: (415) 897-1141

Army BRAC Environmental Office (Call for an appointment)
www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-pm/haaf/rab/rab.html
www.efds.w.navy.mil/Environmental/Novato.htm

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

• Co-Chairs

Ed Keller
 Army BRAC Environmental Coordinator

Jennifer Valenzia
 Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator

Tunstall Lang
 Community Co-Chair

• Community Members

Marucia Britto
 Preston Cook
 Joan Dekelboum
 Richard Draeger
 Patricia D. Eklund

Jeff Johnston
 Sue Lattanzio
 Matthew McCarron
 William McNicholas

Manuel Mier
 Ross Millerick
 Sabrina Molinari

REGULATORY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Naomi Feger (510) 622-2328
 Regional Water Quality Control Board

Laurent Millier (510) 622-2440
 Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lance McMahan (916) 255-3674
 California Department of Toxic
 Substances Control

Theresa McGarry (916) 255-3664
 California Department of Toxic
 Substances Control

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Ray Zimny
 US Army Corps of Engineers

Jim McAlister
 US Army Corps of Engineers

WORK BEGINS ON WETLAND RESTORATION

You may witness Army Corps construction contractors working on the Airfield this fall. Over the summer, the project team designed some of the perimeter levees that will provide flood protection for the adjacent land to the west and south of the site. The project will be starting large-scale construction at the end of September. This first phase of construction will involve shallow soil scraping and levee construction.

The project will scrape soil from the top of about one hundred acres. The soil will be relocated and eventually covered by clean dredge material in the northern portion of the airfield where two levees are to be constructed. The soil excavated by the wetland project does not pose a risk to people. It contains trace levels of the pesticide DDT (See related article in this issue) and is being moved to avoid potential exposure to the tidal wetlands food chain.

Next spring, the final design for the Airfield portion of the project will be

released. This is of particular interest to those homeowners who live along the levee because it will lay-out the design of the future wetland including the extension of the San Francisco Bay Trail. The schedule for the project calls for levee construction and then sediment placement in the fall and winter of 2005.

The goal is to have the property ready to receive clean dredged sed-

iment for placement by the fall of next year. The dredged material will be used to construct habitat features and reduce the length of time for tidal wetlands to form at the site. Placement is anticipated to take about five years. Once the site has been filled, the existing levee on the current bay front will be graded down and breached, allowing tidal waters to flow across the land as it had prior to the late 1800's.

WHAT IS THE HAMILTON WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT?

The Hamilton wetlands restoration project (project) is a joint effort between the Army Corps of Engineers civil works program and the California State Coastal Conservancy. The project will restore tidal wetlands and provide habitat for endangered species; namely the California clapper rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse. The future wetland will span over four properties: the Main Airfield (644 acres), the North Antenna Field (319 acres), the Navy ball fields (18 acres), and the Bel Marin Keys Unit V (1610 acres). The first three properties are authorized by Congress. The Bel Marin Keys property is slated for authorization in pending federal legislation.

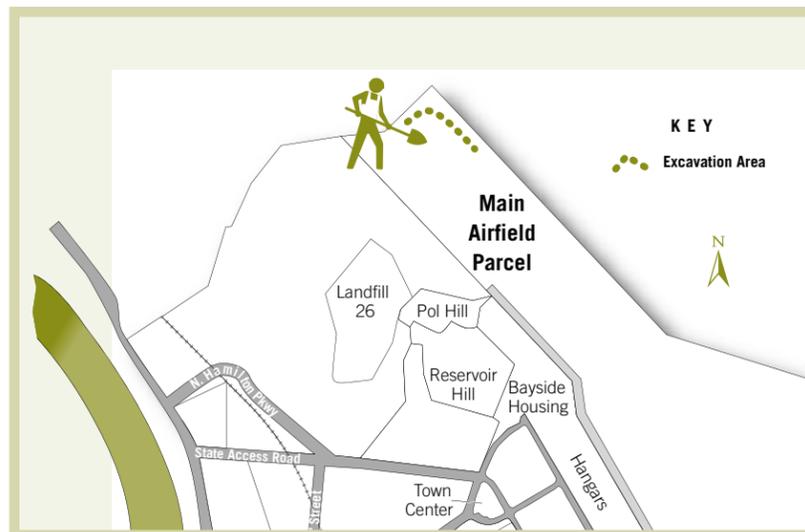
If you have any questions about the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project, please contact Tom Gandesbery or Eric Polson at (510) 286.5262.

Residual DDT Excavation at Unlined Perimeter Drainage Ditch

In the late 1940's, the pesticide DDT was a widely-used for commercial and agricultural purposes. It was effective in the prevention of malaria, typhus, and other insect-borne diseases. Its use was discontinued in 1973. Because DDT does not readily dissolve in water and prefers to stay bound to soil particles, it is persistent in the environment. A section of the perimeter drainage ditch located near the northeast corner of the former runway contains residual DDT.

According to the Record of Decision/Remedial Action Plan (ROD/RAP) (Army, DTSC, RWQCB 2003), soils containing DDT in excess of 1 mg/kg require excavation with off-site disposal. The ROD/RAP is the document that details the environmental actions to be completed for environmental restoration. This fall, the Army BRAC program will excavate soil from the perimeter drainage ditch in accordance with the ROD/RAP.

The Army BRAC program will move forward with the cleanup now that it has conducted sampling to determine excavation boundaries and depth. To avoid inflow of water in the area of excavation, work is planned during the dry season and standing water will be pumped out prior to commencing with the work. In the event of rain, temporary berms will be built and pumps will be used to reduce the amount of water in the work area. Soil will be excavated and temporarily stored in stockpiles on site until it is sampled and transported to an appropriate disposal facility. After excavation, sam-



ples will be collected from the ditch to confirm the removal of soil containing DDTs in excess of 1 mg/kg.

The excavation work will be coordinated so that the Army's cleanup will not interfere with the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project's levee construction project that will take place in the same area.

Lead regulatory oversight of the cleanup is provided by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The work plan for the Army's cleanup effort is available at the Novato library, Hamilton BRAC office library and online at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/environmental/haaf/index.html>

Attention!

The Army BRAC office is conducting a review of its mailing list. If you wish to continue receiving correspondence from this office, please check the appropriate box(es), detach and mail in this card by October 31, 2004.

You may also let us know via email at: Joy.L.Lanzaro@usace.army.mil or telephone (415) 883-6386.

If we do not hear from you, your name will be deleted from the mailing list.

What is a RAB? The Restoration Advisory Board is forum for the general public to be updated and provide input on the environmental projects at the environmental cleanup and restoration sites at Hamilton. For more information, please see "RAB Update".

The *Environmental News* is this quarterly newsletter.

Please respond by October 31, 2004.



FIRING RANGES UPDATE

The Army BRAC office has concluded evaluation of one of the three former firing ranges described in the Archives Search Report (USACE 2001)

The Firing-In Target Butt, or "Firing-In Butt" as it is referred to the Archives Search Report, was an earth and timber target constructed in 1943 and dismantled in 1947. It was used to test wing-mounted machine gun alignment. The aircraft would be tested by anchoring the craft at some distance from the target, and then its guns would be fired into the target so that the points of impact could be measured and evaluated. The gun orientation would then be adjusted so that the projectiles converged in front of the aircraft as required.

During a sampling event in January 2004, a small number of fragments, which may have been associated with Firing In-Butt operations, were recovered by sieving through the soil. Chemical analysis of samples taken in the general target area indicated no elevated soil metal concentrations, however the samples were not at the same location where the sieving occurred. In June 2004, after discussion with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), the Army collected samples at the same locations where frag-

ments had been sieved. The results of the second field sampling effort confirmed that there are no elevated soil metal concentrations in the area of the former Firing In-Butt. The Army has concluded that operations at the Firing In-Butt have not impacted site soils. Based on this finding the Army recommended, to the RWQCB, that no further investigations or actions be taken at this site.

Bay Trail Update

For all you outdoor enthusiasts, construction of the anticipated Bay Trail segment in Hamilton is now underway. The \$900,000 project funded by the City of Novato and a Grant by the Coastal Conservancy will create two new trailheads on the North and South ends of the existing trail, and a spur trail to a vista overlook on Reservoir Hill. The project will also include handicap access from the existing levee to the Hamilton Parkway, improvements to Reservoir Road, and spectacular views of the Bay! Construction is anticipated to be completed in mid-November, 2004.

For more information on the status of the Bay Trail's construction, please contact Pam Shinault at the City of Novato Parks, Recreation and Community Service Department at (415) 897-4323.



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