



Former Galena

Forward Operating Location



April

2012



# Community Relations Plan

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## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) developed the Community Relations Program to ensure public involvement in all cleanup actions. The U.S. Air Force has been designated as the lead government agency in cleanup efforts at the former Galena Forward Operating Location (FOL). As the lead agency, the Air Force must ensure public involvement in all remedial cleanup decisions. This community relations plan is intended for Air Force and regulatory authorities to describe how the Community Relations Program will be implemented during the remedial cleanup at the former Galena FOL.

The plan serves as the management tool to direct the Air Force's communications methods for the Galena Community, Local, State and Federal Regulators, Public Interest Groups, Citizen Groups, Local Businesses, and School Districts, aka stakeholders. The plan documents community concerns and identifies community relations activities that will be used to help ensure two-way communication between the United States Air Force and those interested in the investigation and becoming involved in decision making regarding the selection of cleanup actions. Designed to meet federal, state, and local requirements for disclosure, this plan also outlines how the Air Force encourages public participation in the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) process.

This plan has been produced to identify issues of community concern as well as to involve all stakeholders in the environmental cleanup activities at all levels. Information contained in this document is based on documents concerning the ERP, as well as, 26 interviews with nearby residents, community organization representatives, and federal, state, and local officials. The plan is a living document and will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary.

### 1.1 GOALS OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

Five goals were established to guide the development of this plan. These goals provided a roadmap to identify stakeholders' concerns, establish appropriate communication tools and venues and define the information to be distributed.

Listed below are the goals for the Galena Community Relations Plan development.

1. Assess existing community concerns regarding planned and ongoing studies at former Galena FOL, including all phases of cleanup activities and determine how and when the public would like to be involved in the cleanup decision-making process
2. Establish procedures for accurate and timely release of information to potentially affected and interested stakeholders
3. Establish methods to facilitate communication between the Air Force and the community at large
4. Articulate and clarify key issues for the public regarding remedial cleanup
5. Receive and understand (and clarify if necessary) all the information the various interest groups have to communicate

## **1.2 REPORT ORGANIZATION**

The remainder of this Plan is organized as follows:

Section 2: Provides historical military use, Galena history and the current use of the former Galena FOL property

Section 3: Presents the ERP overview for the former Galena FOL to include public health and environmental concerns

Section 4: Details the community background. The profile and demographics of Galena are described along with the school system, economy and government.

Section 5: Describes the CRP in detail. It explains the goals of the program and the steps the Air Force will take to meet the objectives as outlined in Section 1.1. The results of the community interviews are discussed in Section 5.5.

Appendix A: Acronym List

Appendix B: Interview Questionnaire

Appendix C: Copies of Recent Newsletters

Appendix D: Restoration Advisory Board Charter

Appendix E: Mailing List

## SECTION 2: SITE BACKGROUND

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The City of Galena, Alaska, is located in traditional Koyukon Athabaskan Indian territory, approximately 340 air miles northwest of Anchorage and approximately 270 air miles west of Fairbanks, Alaska. As Galena has no connecting road systems outside the village, travel to and from Galena is by air or by water. After the summer thaw, the Yukon River provides travel by boats and barges between neighboring communities along the 150-mile Yukon-Koyukuk Region. During winter, the frozen Yukon River provides for less conventional travel including all-terrain-vehicles, snow-machines and dog sleds.



The former Galena FOL area is approximately two miles southwest of New Galena and approximately 1,000 feet northwest of Old Galena, along the Yukon River.

### 2.1 HISTORICAL SITE USE

This section provides an overview of the history of the former Galena FOL.

### 2.2 EARLY HISTORY

The City of Galena, Alaska was established in 1918 as a supply and trans-shipment point for lead ore (galena) mining prospects south of the Yukon River. The location was on the site of a former Athabaskan fish camp recorded in the 1880 Census map as Natulaten. A school was established in the mid-1920s and a post office opened in 1932. The population of Galena in 1940, the year the Civil Aeronautics Authority (later the Federal Aviation Administration) began the first buildup in Alaska, was 30 people. Most residents were Athabaskan Indians who moved there from nearby villages on the Yukon River.

### 2.3 CONSTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN FIELD

In 1941, Air Navigational Site Withdrawal No. 172, through Public Land Order 255, set aside 5,282 acres for the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA 1940 FDR) to establish an air navigation facility as part of an overall civilian airport construction program in Alaska. The CAA selected Galena because of its central location in interior, western Alaska. The project was completed in spring 1942. Since 1941, the Federal Aviation Administration has continually maintained and operated facilities at Galena Airport. The FAA currently leases some portions of the airport to other entities.

### 2.4 ASSUMPTION OF MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY 1942 TO 1945

Galena and 11 other mostly interior air fields were initially intended to serve civilian needs. The military had no presence in Galena until World War II. Negotiations with the Soviet Union for the lend-lease transfer of American aircraft to the Soviet Union led to the establishment of the Alaska-Siberia route, which ran from Great Falls, Montana, north through northwestern Canada, then west across Alaska to Nome and finally across Siberia to the Eastern Front. Galena



supported the Alaska-Siberia route from August 1942 until September 1945 when the last aircraft were delivered to the Soviet Union. Altogether, 7,926 fighters, medium bombers and attack and transport aircraft were delivered to the Soviet Union over the Alaska-Siberia route. Many stopped at Galena to be refueled and serviced before going on to Nome.

Facilities for military use (separate from the joint-use airfield and support facilities already established by CAA) were constructed through the Alaskan Defense Command. An Army post was established June 24, 1942. A platoon from Company C, 176th Engineer Regiment, began constructing military support facilities at Galena September 17, 1942. The remainder of the company was moved to Galena following approval of the expansion program June 17, 1943. CAA officially turned operation of the airfield over to the military July 1, 1943.

The runway, located in a bend of the Yukon River, was extended in 1944 to 6,250 paved feet with a 1,000-foot, pierced-steel plank overrun at the eastern end. In 1944, Quonset and Pacific Huts and temporary wooden-framed buildings were erected in a triangular area at the northwestern corner of the east-west runway. The structures were built to accommodate a 340-person Army garrison and consisted of personnel, administrative and maintenance facilities and a 12-bed hospital. The largest structure, a 200-by-202-foot, wood-truss birch wood hangar, was completed in 1945 to house aircraft and maintenance facilities.

The Army declared the airfield surplus at the end of World War II and CAA resumed control of the airfield and facilities (USAF, April 2001).

## **2.5 ASSUMPTION OF MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY 1945 TO 1993**

The newly created US Air Force was the next military service to use the Galena Airfield. The 11th Air Force was designated the Alaskan Air Command December 18, 1945, and its headquarters were moved to Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. The AAC mission was to provide “Top Cover for America,” and defend against the Soviet bomber threat. The key to Alaskan defense was perceived as preventing bombing attacks against the main military complexes at Fort Richardson and Elmendorf AFB, both in Anchorage; and at Ladd Field (now Fort Wainwright) near Fairbanks, using information provided by multiple radar sites to scramble and direct fighter interceptors (USAF, May 2008).

The AAC negotiated an agreement with CAA in early 1951 for joint use of Galena Airport. Between 1954 and 1959, the AAC upgraded the runway to 7,250 feet; improved the runway lighting, fuel storage and delivery systems; and constructed some new modern facilities to support additional personnel, including the Combat Alert Cell (CAC) hangar (Building 1428) (USAF, April 2001). The next major construction effort occurred between 1979 and 1989 when several buildings were renovated and 17 new facilities were constructed (USAF, April 2001). The establishment of the Galena Air Station and Galena II/Campion Radar Site in the 1950s brought growth and change to Galena.

A progression of increasingly capable aircraft was assigned to Galena, starting with the F-94s in 1951 and culminating with the F-15A Eagle in 1993. Four F-94s were assigned to Galena FOL in March 1951 to train combat crews in intercepts and cold weather operations.

The installation was upgraded in 1954 to accommodate F-89 aircraft. The AAC converted from the F-89 to the F-102 during the last half of 1957, and the F-102 and F-106 were replaced by the F-4E Phantom II in June 1970. By October 1982, the F-4E aircraft were replaced with the F-15A

Eagle, and two Boeing E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control aircraft were assigned to the field in 1986.

The Galena Airport was made the site of the regional long-range radar for aircraft control and warning, as part of the conversion to minimally attended radar in 1984. The F-15s stayed on alert at Galena until the drawdown in 1993. The AAC was replaced and absorbed by the 11th Air Force with the Pacific Air Force as the Major Command.

The Air Force and CAA joint-use agreement was modified when the federal government transferred the airport to the state of Alaska in 1966, in compliance with provisions of the 1958 Statehood Act. The Air Force retained ownership of the facilities built by the military and through a 1966 deed to the state reserved possession and use of certain parcels for military purposes. The military also entered into lease agreements with the State of Alaska (through the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities or ADOT&PF) for additional parcels of land on which certain military facilities were located and where military operations were conducted (USA and State of Alaska, January 17, 1966).

Other federal entities that maintained offices on the base, such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Federal Aviation Administration, were identified in the 1966 deed as federal entities that would maintain rights to operate on State of Alaska land until such time as their mission was no longer required.

## **2.6 CARETAKER STATUS MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY 1993 TO 2008**

By 1993, the Air Force mission had changed. All permanent military personnel and aircraft withdrew from Galena. Many of the previous Air Force facilities were transferred to federal, state and local entities for their exclusive uses. The base chapel was donated to the City of Galena and moved offsite and the Birchwood Hangar was demolished.

The remaining facilities reverted to caretaker status and a contractor was hired to maintain the properties. An Environmental Baseline Study was completed in 1996, which detailed the condition of Air Force facilities with regard to elements such as environmental contamination, asbestos, lead-based paint and hazardous substance use. On August 25, 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission voted unanimously to recommend closing the former Galena FOL.

## **2.7 LAND USE AGREEMENTS WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA**

Unique to the former Galena FOL is the fact that the Air Force operated facilities on a combination of land leased from the State of Alaska and land that was reserved for continued federal use after Alaska became a state through the 1966 deed. From the initial construction by the CAA (later the FAA) in 1941, through use by the Army from 1942 until the end of World War II and at the beginning of the Air Force build-up at Galena in the 1950s, Alaska was still a U.S. territory and the land in Alaska was federally owned.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state and the federal government granted the new state 28 percent ownership of its total area (ADNR, March 2000). In the 1966 Omnibus Deed, as part of the land selection process, all lands within the Galena Airport boundary were deeded to the State of Alaska.



The Deed reserved uses of certain lands on Galena Airport to specific federal entities: AF, FAA, BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USA and the State of Alaska, January 17, 1966). The 1966 deed references the State of Alaska Division of Aviation drawing “Galena Land Occupancy,” dated December 22, 1965.

The Galena Land Occupancy Drawing, maintained by Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, is still used to identify land occupancy and lease owners at Galena Airport.

The AF was required to permanently close its mission and terminate all military activities at Galena FOL by September 15, 2011, under the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended in 2005. An Air Force, Program Action Directive (PAD) and Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Programming Guidance Letter 06-03 established September 30, 2008, as the closure date for Galena FOL. All former AF facilities were declared to be excess and surplus and were either demolished or conveyed. Many Air Force facilities were conveyed by Bill of Sale to the City of Galena for beneficial economic reuse. Some of the facilities were conveyed by Bill of Sale, or will be conveyed, to ADOT&PF. Not included on the Bill of Sale were the RAPCON building (Building #1568) which was demolished in 2010 due to health and safety issues, and the Combat Alert Cell hangar (Building #1428) which was conveyed to the USF&WS in 2011, along with transfer of the associated reserved land.

The Air Force has released reserved land and terminated the majority of leases allowing property to subsequently transfer to the City of Galena, Galena school district, the AK DOT&PF, or the USF&WS. The Air Force, however, remains responsible to cleanup any remaining contamination left by the Air Force to be cleaned up in accordance with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) or state requirements such as selection and implementation of remedies, including any applicable land use controls/institutional controls.

## **2.8 CURRENT GALENA FOL USE**

Galena Airport is owned and operated by the ADOT&PF. Many of the former AF facilities were demolished because there was no feasible reuse identified. Most of the remaining former AF buildings and infrastructure (for example, power plant/steam heating plant, water treatment plant, sewage treatment plant, sewage treatment system, lodging, supply, offices, school, dining facilities, building and grounds maintenance, fuel maintenance and storage and vehicle maintenance) were transferred through Bills of Sale to the State of Alaska (USAF and ADOT&PF, 2008), the City of Galena (USAF and the City of Galena, 2008) and the USF&WS (USAF and USF&WS, 2011).

The majority of the former AF buildings at the airport are currently used by either the City of Galena, Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA) (education, dormitory, storage, utilities), ADOT&PF (administrative, storage, maintenance), or Alaska State Troopers (administrative, storage). The BLM (lodging, administrative and storage), FAA (storage and administrative), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (storage) and USF&WS (administrative, hangar and storage) continue to maintain their facilities and operations unaffected by the departure of the Air Force from the former Galena FOL area (USAF, May 2008).

### SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

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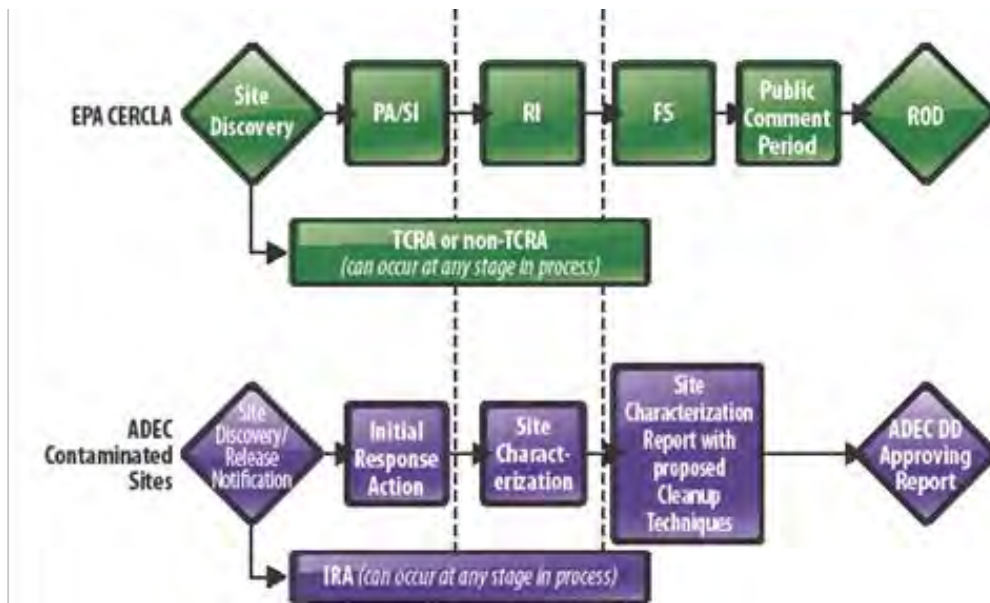
BRAC established an independent commission to review the Secretary of Defense's base closure and realignment recommendations. After reviewing these recommendations, the 2005 Commission forwarded its recommended list of base closures and realignments to the President, who accepted the recommendations and submitted them to Congress. Since Congress did not disapprove the recommendations in the time given under BRAC, the recommendations became law. The Secretary's recommended list did not initially include the Air Force FOL at Galena. The FOL was added by the Commission for further consideration. Because the FOL at Galena was on the Commission's list, the decision to close the FOL was final. The FOL at Galena was closed September 30, 2008.

Through military operations over the years, releases of hazardous chemicals occurred via spills or historical disposal practices. The Air Force has identified numerous areas that are defined as sites with contamination from past Air Force activities. The Air Force is the responsible party for cleaning up these sites following the federal CERCLA standards for protecting humans, the ecosystems, and the environment. Because the former Galena FOL is not on the National Priorities List, the USEPA is not involved with the site cleanup. The Air Force, as the CERCLA lead agency, is primarily responsible for site cleanup and is actively managing the environmental cleanup. The Air Force is also cleaning up certain petroleum contaminated sites (POL sites) following state law and regulations. ADEC oversees and actively participates in the environmental cleanup to ensure that it meets the CERCLA and State of Alaska standards.

The ERP was established to identify, characterize and remediate CERCLA related contamination on Air Force installations. The program is designed to evaluate past disposal sites, control the migration of contaminants and control potential hazards to human health and the environment.

The ERP at Galena FOL has been established as the mechanism for the CERCLA (42 U.S.C. Section 9601) process, incorporating applicable state regulations, as well as meeting requirements of the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 300). To ensure compliance with CERCLA and with ADEC regulations for the cleanup of POL sites, the ERP was implemented to identify potentially contaminated sites, investigate those sites and evaluate and select remedial actions. The ADEC and CERCLA process is outlined below as applicable to the former Galena FOL ERP.

Figure 3-1: ADEC/CERCLA ERP Process for Former Galena FOL



### 3.1 GALENA FOL ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION PROGRAM

The investigation approaches for the former Galena FOL investigations were described in the Work Plan for Site Inspection, Remedial Investigation, and Site Characterization Investigations, former Galena FOL, Alaska (Work Plan). The Work Plan was developed in accordance with the requirements of Title 18, Chapters 75 and 78, of the Alaska Administrative Code (18 AAC 75 and 18 AAC 78) and USEPA guidance documents for completion of remedial investigations and site characterizations.

The Work Plan, which was approved by ADEC July 2, 2010, lays out a multi-phase process for assessing conditions at each of the identified sites at the former Galena FOL to make decisions about the need for further investigation, risk assessment and/or remedial action. The Work Plan has been updated periodically to include field sampling plans for additional sites and to detail FOL-wide investigations.

For most sites, the process began with the Preliminary Assessment (PA) phase in which all available data for a potential site were reviewed to determine whether historical operations at the site may have resulted in environmental contamination. PAs were not conducted for sites that had previously been identified as requiring characterization and remediation under the ERP. The Final Preliminary Assessment Report submitted to ADEC on September 30, 2011, documented conditions at 58 non-ERP sites. Of these, 24 sites were designated as “non-sites” because there was no evidence of releases or contamination and two sites were recommended for no further action because contaminant concentrations were found to be below risk-based screening levels. The remaining 32 sites were retained for further investigation under the Site Inspection, Site Characterization (SC), or Remedial Investigation (RI) pathways.

The purpose and investigation approaches for each of these investigation pathways are detailed in the Work Plan and summarized as follows:

- Site Inspection:** The SI is a limited field investigation for which the objective is to confirm the presence or absence of contamination. Sites with positively confirmed contamination that exceed regulatory cleanup levels or risk-based concentrations (discussed in the Work Plan as screening levels [SLs]) will be recommended for further investigation under the SC or RI pathways, depending on the type of contamination encountered. Sites contaminated with petroleum, oil, or lubricants (POL) are assigned to the SC pathway; sites contaminated with chemicals regulated under CERCLA, or mixture of POL and CERCLA-regulated chemicals, are assigned to the RI pathway. Sites with no detected contamination above SLs are recommended for Cleanup Complete or re-designation as a non-qualifying site. A site may be considered non-qualifying under the ADEC Contaminated Sites Program if contamination was wrongly suspected or the site is already regulated under another ADEC program. Cleanup Complete sites are sites where contamination was identified and remedial actions were completed/no longer necessary and/or levels of contamination are below applicable risk-based cleanup levels.
- Site Characterization:** The SC is a comprehensive field investigation for which the overall objectives are to delineate the extent of POL contamination in soil, surface water, and groundwater relative to SLs, and evaluate the potential threat to human health and the environment from site contamination. Sites assigned to the SC pathway are regulated under 18 AAC 75 (contaminated sites) and 18 AAC 78 (underground storage tank [UST] sites).
- Remedial Investigation:** The RI is also a comprehensive field investigation, but is used for sites with contamination from non-POL sources (or a mixture of POL and non-POL contamination), such as chlorinated solvents, which are hazardous substances and regulated under CERCLA. The overall objectives of the RI are to delineate the nature and extent of site contamination in soil, surface water, and groundwater relative to SLs, and to evaluate the potential threats to human health and the environment. Sites assigned to the RI pathway must comply with the requirements of both CERCLA and 18 AAC 75 and 18 AAC 78 (for USTs).

Table 3-1 and Figure 3-2 list sites currently being investigated under the ERP.

**Table 3-1: List of Environmental Sites at the Former Galena FOL**

<b>Former Galena FOL Environmental Investigation Sites</b>		
<b>Site ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Investigation Pathway</b>
AST1569	Electric Power Station (Standby Generator near Building 1568)	SC
AST1768	Supply Yard "Used Oil"	SI
AST1875	Communications Transmitter Standby Generator	SI
AST2000	Storm Drain Pump Station	SI
UST1404	Control Tower	SI
UST1428	Combat Alert Cell	SC
UST1429	Former Guard Shack	SI
UST1769	Supply Warehouse	SI
UST1859	Dining Facility	SC
OWS1833	MWR Storage	RI
OWS1845	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	SI
OAP/PADS/VP09	Oil Abandoned Pipeline, Refueling Pads and Valve Pit 9	SC
TACAN1	Tactical Air Navigation (south of runway, east of south apron)	SI
DS1769	Potential Drum Storage and Disposal (Building 1769)	SI
DSNW	Potential Former Disposal Site North West of the Former Galena FOL	SI
DSWD	Potential Former Disposal Site West of the Dike	RI
B400	Former CAA Facility – Air Force Weather Observation Station (south of apron and Building 1573; north of runway)	SC
B408	Strobe Shack	SI
B1403	Former LOX Plant	SI
B1558	Former Power Plant Transformers	SI
S1769	Supply Warehouse Storage Yard	SI
B1812	Former Satellite Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point	SC
S1850	Storage Yard	RI

## Former Galena FOL Environmental Investigation Sites

Site ID	Site Name	Investigation Pathway
B3005	Precision Approach Radar Electric Power Station	SI
B3205	Airport Surveillance Radar Electric Power Station	SI
BLA	Barge Loading Area (Air Force lease area only)	SI
TAR	Possible Tar Pit Construction Area	SI
UST1400	Former Ammunition Storage	SC
UST1401	Former Ammunition Storage Guard Shack	SC
UST1770	Former Incinerator	SC
UST15783	Water Treatment Plant	SC
AOC023	Waste Accumulation Area	RI
CB001	Galena Aviation Vocational Technical Center	SC
CG001	Million Gallon Hill	SC
CG002	Missile Storage Area	SC
FT001	Fire Protection Training Area	RI
SS005	Wilderness Hall, Building 1872	SC
SS006	TCE Area	RI
SS014	Birchwood Hangar	SC
SS015	South Apron Maintenance Area – TCE Area	RI
SS016	2541 POL Fuels Laboratory	SC
SS017	Truck Fill Stands	SC
SS019	Building 1700 – Refueler Maintenance Shop	SC
SS021	Building 1549 – Old Fire Station	SC
ST005	POL Tank Farm	SC
ST009	West Unit JP-4 Fillstands	SC
ST010	Southeast Runway Fuel Spill	SC
ST020	Building 1837 Petroleum Operations Facility	SC
TU 001	Power Plant Tank 49	SC



AOC = area of concern  
AST = aboveground storage tank  
ID = identification  
OWS = oil/water separator  
RI = remedial investigation  
SC = site characterization  
SI = site inspection  
UST = underground storage tank

Figure 3-2: Map of Environmental Sites at the Former Galena FOL



## 3.2 CONTAMINANTS AND POTENTIAL EXPOSURE PATHWAYS

### Public Health and Environmental Concerns

Contaminated sites at the former Galena FOL primarily include:

- Petroleum-contaminated soil and groundwater at several locations associated with fuel transport, dispensing, and storage
- Chlorinated-solvents contaminated soil and groundwater beneath maintenance shops and other areas associated with cleaning and degreasing activities
- A fire fighting training area within the airfield

It is anticipated that risk will be evaluated for the following potential human exposure scenarios at all sites:

- Excavation/construction workers: Excavation/construction workers may potentially be exposed to chemicals in soil and shallow groundwater by ingestion, contact with skin, and inhalation of small amounts of dust and vapors.
- Current and future occupational workers: Future occupational workers may potentially be exposed to chemicals in soil by ingestion, contact with skin, and inhalation of small amounts of dust and vapors in ambient air. Workers may also inadvertently inhale vapors migrating from subsurface soil and groundwater to indoor air and/or potentially consume groundwater.
- Hypothetical future residents: Hypothetical future residents may potentially be exposed to chemicals in soil by ingestion, contact with skin, and inhalation of small amounts of dust and vapors in ambient air. Residents may inhale vapors migrating from subsurface soil and groundwater to indoor air and/or potentially use groundwater for domestic purposes. Although the Air Force does not anticipate using some sites for residential use, this scenario addresses the possibility for restrictions on land use in the future.

These exposure scenarios are expected to account for the range of reasonably anticipated exposures under current and future conditions at the former Galena FOL.

### Current Status

The former Galena FOL is currently in the investigation phase of the cleanup process. This means extensive soil and groundwater sampling is being conducted to assess the type of contamination, total extent of contamination, and determine the associated risks to humans and the environment. Some of the key preliminary findings are summarized in the following bullets.

- The groundwater data collected to date indicates the water from the former base drinking water well is safe to drink and that contaminated groundwater is most likely not reaching the Yukon River.
- The Galena City School District operates an Aviation Vocational Technical Center within the boundaries of the POL Tank Farm site. There is the potential that petroleum vapors are migrating into the school building from subsurface soil and groundwater contamination coming from the POL Tank Farm. However, the Air Force installed a subsurface depressurization system in August 2002 to minimize vapor movement into the building, and subsequent air sampling and system monitoring have found the system to be effective. Additional background information is provided in the report,

"Environmental Update: Galena Public School System Aviation Vocational Training Center" (PDF 2.76M), written by the US Air Force, 611th CES/CEVR.

- Bioventing treatment systems designed to remediate contaminated soil have been operating at Million Gallon Hill and the POL Tank Farm sites as interim remedies and have effectively been removing petroleum contamination from subsurface soil.

### 3.3 GALENA MILITARY MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM (MMRP)

The Air Force performed Phases 1 and 2 of a Comprehensive Site Evaluation (CSE) in 2008 to identify MMRP sites. The CSE primarily focused on the identified Munitions Response Area (MRA) 683, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Range. The Air Force conducted an investigation limited to the portions still under its control. A large portion of the safety zone and EOD Range was transferred to the state of Alaska in 1966, while approximately 86 acres was reserved for military and Air Force use which is now referred to as Parcel D, Demolition Area. The investigation of the EOD Range and associated safety zone area located within the Native-owned property will be addressed under the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program.

Based on historical research and site visits, the Air Force has identified several other areas as potential military response sites that have been scheduled for further evaluation and investigation in 2012. These identified sites are included in Table 3.2. Additionally as part of the 2012 investigation, the Air Force is conducting a detailed historical records review to ensure that all MRS have been identified and addressed.

The Air Force submitted the Military Munitions Response Program Supplemental Site Investigation Work Plan to the regulators in February 2012 to further investigate the sites listed below in Table 3-2. This work plan includes conducting an extensive historical records review, physical investigation to include geophysical surveys at the sites identified below. Limited removal following MMRP safety guidelines may be conducted.

**Table 3-2: List of Military Munitions Sites at the Former Galena FOL**

Site ID	Site Name
EOD001	Demolition Area, Parcel D
--	Suspected Ordnance Burial site
--	Small Arms Range
--	Historical Ordnance Storage Buildings
--	Southwest Landfill
--	Rocket Container Site

## SECTION 4: COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

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### 4.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Galena was established in 1918 near an old Athabaskan fish camp called Henry's Point. It became a supply and trans-shipment point for nearby lead ore mines. In 1920, Athabascans living 14 miles upriver at Loudon began moving to Galena to sell wood to steamboats and to work hauling freight for the mines. A school was established in the mid-1920s and a post office opened in 1932. The Galena Air Field was constructed in World War II. In 1945, the community suffered a major flood.

During the 1950s, military facilities at the Galena and Campion Air Force Stations and airport and road developments sparked growth in the community. Due to another severe flood in 1971, a new community site was developed at Alexander Lake, about 1.5 miles east of the original townsite. City offices, the health clinic, schools, a washateria, a store, and more than 150 homes were constructed at New Town and a city government was formed. The Air Force Station was closed in 1993, and the facilities are currently being used by the Galena School District as a boarding school.

### 4.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

A federally-recognized tribe is located in the community—the Galena Village (aka Loudon Village). The population is mixed Athabaskan and non-Native and traditional festivals attract visitors from other river villages. The establishment of the Galena FOL and Campion Air Force Station (AFS) in the 1950s brought growth and change to the city of Galena. Many of Galena's residents were originally from Loudon or are descendants of Loudon inhabitants. Subsistence food sources include salmon, whitefish, moose and berries.

According to Galena city Census 2010 results, the population of the area was approximately 470 people. From 2000 to 2010, the Galena city population growth percentage was -30.4% (from 675 people to 470 people).

Of those individuals, approximately 60% identified themselves as Native American, and approximately 30% identified as White. The remaining 10% included:

- 1.04% as Asian
- .3% as Black/African American
- 1.93% as Hispanic/Latino
- .3% as Pacific Islander
- 4.4% as two or more races

The detailed 2010 Census Data is scheduled for release in 2013. Based on the 2000 Census Data, there were 216 households.

- 49.1% had children under the age of 18 living with them
- 50.5% were married couples living together
- 12.0% had a female householder with no husband present

- 31.0% were non-families
- 24.5% of all households were made up of individuals and 3.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older.

The average household size was 2.83 and the average family size was 3.44.

In the city the age distribution of the population shows

- 37.5% under the age of 18
- 7.6% from 18 to 24
- 29.9% from 25 to 44
- 20.9% from 45 to 64
- 4.1% who were 65 years of age or older.

The median age was 28 years. For every 100 females there were 121.3 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 123.3 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$61,125 and the median income for a family was \$70,250. Males had a median income of \$46,563 versus \$37,000 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$22,143. About 1.3% of families and 10.2% of the population were below the poverty line, including 1.4% of those under age 18 and none age 65 or over.

### **4.3 FACILITIES AND UTILITIES**

The Air Force water system, originally installed in the 1950s, includes two groundwater wells, a treatment facility, one storage reservoir, and approximately 15,000 feet of distribution system piping. The water treatment plant is located in Facility 1578. Water is pumped through 6-inch mains to the water treatment plant, where it is treated for domestic use and stored in a 100,000-gallon storage tank located inside the treatment building. The water treatment system was updated in 2003; upgrades included replacement of the ion exchange water softeners, greensand filters, and chemical feed systems, and rehabilitation of the water storage tank.

### **4.4 SCHOOLS**

The Galena City School District (GCSD) has a rich history of innovation and success along the banks of the Yukon River. The Galena staff, school board and parents are proud of their school/community partnership. The GCSD programs bring state-of-the-art technology, recreational facilities, recognized academic excellence and industry standard vocational programs to a rural Alaskan community.

#### ***GALENA INTERIOR LEARNING ACADEMY***

GILA is a statewide boarding school for grade 9 -12 students who are seeking another choice and is Alaska's longest operating residential secondary vocational school. It is accredited by the "Northwest Association of Accredited Schools". GILA also offers post-secondary vocational programs authorized by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.



The residential school has become an example of success with students from all over the state who left home in search of better educational opportunities. The unique combination of academics and vocational offerings and highly qualified staff gives GILA students an advantage.

Twenty-three students graduated from GILA May 20, 2011 with diplomas having passed all three sections of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Two of the 23 graduates graduated as juniors having completed their coursework and graduated early, and were recognized during the May 20, 2011 graduation festivities. Three of the 23 graduates completed their coursework in December and graduated early and were also recognized during the May 20, 2011 graduation festivities. Six seniors are eligible to return to GILA for a 5th year to complete district credit requirements.

### ***SIDNEY HUNTINGTON SCHOOLS***

The community school is called the Sidney Huntington School. SHS provides K-8 education for local Galena students and the SHS high school shares campuses with the Galena Interior Learning Academy. This arrangement doubles the courses, facilities, instructors and activities available to local students as well as boarding school students.

### ***IDEA PROGRAM***

IDEA is the home school support program of the Galena City School District, serving the needs of students throughout Alaska since 1997. IDEA partners with home schooling parents, providing resources and support to committed parents who individualize education for each child.

## **4.5 ECONOMY AND GOVERNMENT**

The City of Galena has a city council and the Mayor is Russ Sweetsir, who has served since 1987. The Loudon Tribal Council is elected to represent the local Athabascan Native community and the Tribal Chief is Chris Sommer.

Galena serves as the transportation, government and commercial center for the western Interior. Federal, state, city, school and village government jobs dominate, but Galena has many other jobs in air transportation and retail businesses. In 2010, 12 residents held commercial fishing permits. Other seasonal employment, such as construction work and Bureau of Land Management firefighting, provide some income.

The 2005-2009 American Community Survey estimated 276 residents as employed. The public sector employed 62.7% of all workers. The local unemployment rate was 7.7%<sup>1</sup>. The percentage of workers not in the labor force was 24.7%<sup>1</sup>. The ACS established that average median household income (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$59,773. The per capita income (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$26,630 (MOE +/- \$3,837)<sup>1</sup>. About 14.1% of all residents had incomes below the poverty level.

## SECTION 5: COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

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### 5.1 HISTORICAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Air Force, ADEC and ADOT&PF comprise the Technical Project Team and communicate the status of environmental cleanup activities to stakeholders and the community. Stakeholder meetings include representatives from the Air Force, Loudon Tribal Council, City of Galena, USF&WS, ADEC, ADOT&PF and Gana-A'Yoo.

In addition, communication with Galena community members occurs via a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB was inactive in previous years due to the involvement of many stakeholders in the Technical Project Team. As of 2009, the RAB was reinstated and the community relations efforts reinvigorated.

### 5.2 CURRENT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Galena currently has an active RAB. This board reflects the diverse interests within the local community, enabling the early and continued flow of information between the Galena community, the Air Force and regulatory authorities. The purpose of the RAB is to ensure all stakeholders have a voice and can actively participate in a timely and thorough manner in the review of environmental restoration documents. RAB membership is divided between government members and community members.

Government members include Air Force and regulatory representatives from the ADEC, ADOT&PF and USF&WS. Community members are comprised of volunteers interested in providing advice to the decision-makers on restoration issues. The RAB complements other community involvement efforts, but does not replace them. The Air Force is responsible and will continue to fulfill all statutorily mandated public involvement requirements. RAB members include:

Government RAB Members	Community RAB Members
Mr. AL Weilbacher, Co-Chair	Mr. Tim Bodony, Co-Chair
Ms. Colette Foster, ADOT&PF	Mr. Phil Koontz
Mr. Kenton Moos, USF&WS	Mr. Chris Reitan
Mr. Sam Myer, ADOT&PF	Mr. John Stam
Ms. March Runner, Loudon Tribal Council	Mayor Russ Sweetsir
Mr. Dennis Shepard, ADEC	Mr. Marvin Thurmond
Mr. Fred Vreeman, ADEC	

### 5.3 COMMUNITY RELATIONS GOALS

The community relations program for the environmental cleanup activities at former Galena FOL has five goals developed after considering the information presented in Sections 2 (Site Background) and 4 (Community Background) of this Plan. These goals were based on the goals

identified in Section 1.1 and will guide the community relations activities throughout environmental cleanup process.

***Goal 1: Provide the community with information***

The Air Force will continue to provide information to Galena residents about environmental cleanup activities and respond to inquiries from community members in an accurate and timely manner. The Air Force will disseminate information to the Galena community, public interest groups, elected officials and agency officials through fact sheets, information releases, public notices and reports. Additionally, the Air Force will continue to initiate community meetings and maintain information repositories to coordinate community involvement activities and releases of information. The Air Force will keep these and other regulatory agencies informed of ongoing activities. The Air Force will strive to produce understandable, concise and accurate documents.

***Goal 2: Continue two-way communication between Air Force and community at large***

Communication with the community during the environmental cleanup process will allow the Air Force to understand the community's perspective on issues related to the sites and to become more aware of the community's information needs and its concerns. Frequent, open communications during the cleanup process will enable the Air Force to develop cleanup alternatives in feasibility study reports and select remedies in decision documents that are responsive to community concerns. In addition to hosting the RAB, the Air Force has scheduled, and will continue to schedule, presentations and informal discussions as well as formal ongoing meetings with local government, business representatives, public interest groups and the general public.

Furthermore, the Air Force will work with Galena's radio station, KIYU, to provide additional information to residents through interviews. Residents will have an opportunity to submit questions in advance for the Air Force to answer. The Air Force will also supplement with information releases and fact sheets to respond to community concerns and to keep the public updated on cleanup site-related activities.

***Goal 3: Respond to community concerns and needs that arise during cleanup activities***

This major objective of the community relations program will be accomplished by using meetings and correspondence to identify concerns as they develop and addressing these concerns quickly and appropriately. Individuals or groups with questions or concerns may address them to The Air Force Real Property Agency, toll free 1-866-725-7617 or e-mail [afarpa.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afarpa.pa@us.af.mil).

***Goal 4: Provide for community input and involvement***

Although community members are encouraged to provide input throughout the environmental cleanup process, the Air Force will periodically draft and issue Proposed Plans, hold public meetings to discuss Proposed Plans, and provide a minimum of 30-days to review and comment on each Proposed Plan for the CERCLA sites. Such Proposed Plans will discuss in detail the existing contamination, the remedial action alternatives for cleaning up contamination and/or limiting exposure to contamination left on site. The Proposed Plans will evaluate the cleanup alternatives in accordance with the law and regulations and will discuss the Air Force's preferred remedies for CERCLA sites. This comment period will be announced at least one week in advance through a display advertisement in a major, general circulation newspaper (such as the

Anchorage Daily News and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner), through a news release, and local publicity targeted to reach residents of the City of Galena as well as the surrounding areas.

All comments received during the comment period, whether from the community or public interest groups or government agencies, will be reviewed and considered by the Air Force before preparation of the Records of Decision (ROD), which document the final selection of the cleanup remedies for CERCLA sites at the former Galena FOL. The Air Force will prepare a responsiveness summary as part of each ROD (see below). In addition, the Air Force will continue two-way communications with the community or public interest groups, and the RAB will continue to meet semi-annually throughout the cleanup decision-making process, as long as there is sufficient community interest and participation.

***Goal 5: Provide for effective management of the Community Relations Plan***

Implementation of the Community Relations Plan will continue through the completion of environmental cleanup activities. Although the Air Force is responsible for community relations activities, they will be closely coordinated with local, state and federal agencies. Each activity will be carefully monitored and evaluated by the Air Force to determine its effectiveness in meeting the plan's objectives. To ensure the community's informational and involvement needs are met, the Air Force will modify or revise this Plan as necessary.

## **5.4 COMMUNITY RELATIONS OVERVIEW**

As part of the development of this Plan, the Air Force conducted community interviews to determine the knowledge of the environmental clean-up and the community's preferences on receiving and disseminating information. Many of the community concerns and issues expressed in the interviews are addressed through the Air Force's current Community Relations Program. The Air Force prepares newsletters and fact sheets which are distributed to provide the community with current information on the cleanup program. The Air Force also hosts public RAB meetings to provide up-to-date information and address the community's concerns.

Additionally, community members recommended:

- Partnering with the Loudon Tribal Council and high school's journalism class to publish cleanup information in their respective newsletters
- Working with the radio station to broadcast more frequent information about the cleanup program, such as interviews with Air Force representatives
- Developing factsheets or charts that reassure the community that drinking water and soil are safe for public use

This subsection provides an overview of activities to be conducted by the Air Force as part of the Environmental Restoration Program, in coordination with regulatory agencies, to inform and involve the public throughout the cleanup process. Some of these activities are required by regulations or recommended by guidance. Other activities are supplemental and are conducted to further the community involvement in the ERP.

### ***Community Relations Plan***

The Plan is a public document that organizes and explains how the Air Force provides information on the cleanup and involves the Galena community. The Plan governs how the Air Force in conjunction with regulatory authorities will execute the Community Relations Program. It describes the current cleanup program at Galena and community relations activities. This Plan is a living document. The Air Force will review the Plan after the RODs are finalized, but before the remedial design/remedial action stage(s) begin, to determine whether this Plan needs to be revised to describe further public involvement activities as the cleanup progresses past the decision-making stage. Additionally, this Plan will be reviewed and updated at a minimum during the environmental cleanup five year reviews.

### ***Restoration Advisory Board***

The Galena RAB was reinitiated in 2009 and is currently active. The RAB is comprised of volunteer members of the community, representatives from the Air Force, federal and state agencies, Louden Tribe, and other key stakeholders. RAB members perform a variety of functions, including reviewing plans and documents and advising the Air Force of community concerns and priorities as they relate to Air Force's environmental cleanup of the former Galena FOL. These meetings are conducted semi-annually.

### ***Administrative Record***

The Administrative Record (AR) consists of all the documents and correspondence used by the Air Force and the State of Alaska to make decisions about the cleanup program, particularly as it relates to the selection or modification of cleanup remedies, which are documented in the RODs or Post-ROD decision documents. Galena's AR is located in the AFRPA electronic library. It is accessible via the AFRPA public website <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/afropa/index.asp>; click on "Administrative Record and Document Library" located in the right-hand column, or visit <https://afropaar.lackland.af.mil/ar/>, select "Galena" from menu, then on the next page select "Search." In addition, the Galena AR can be accessed from a second location on the AFRPA public website home page. In the right-hand column under "AFRPA BRAC Bases," select "Galena" from the drop-down menu, or use the following link: <http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=16786>

An electronic copy of the AR is available in the Galena library at the address listed below (but may not be as current as the on-line electronic library).

### ***Information Repository***

The purpose of an Information Repository is to allow convenient access to documents explaining the cleanup actions taking place at former Galena FOL. The repository includes copies of work plans, technical reports and maps. An electronic Information Repository (i.e. DVDs) is also maintained at the Galena Library to make information on the cleanup program readily available to the public on electronic media. This Information Repository essentially provides local, physical access to the AR and any additional supporting information/materials for review and copying.

The Charles Evans Community Library  
Antoski Street (inside Galena High School)  
Galena, AK 99741  
(907) 656-1205

Current Hours of Operation:  
Mon-Fri: 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.  
6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

### ***Newsletters***

The Former Galena FOL Environmental Update newsletter is published semi-annually and is released as information becomes available. The frequency of publication may vary depending on the schedule and status of cleanup activities in order to provide the community with the most current information. The intent is to address pertinent environmental issues and to provide a status of technical milestones as needed. The newsletter is distributed to popular community gathering places such as the airport, school, post office, grocery stores, radio station, government facilities and other businesses.

### ***Public Notices and News Releases (News, TV and Radio Releases)***

Public notices (paid for by the Air Force) will be placed in local papers such as the Anchorage Daily News and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner to announce RAB meetings, general public meetings, the release of documents and public comment periods. News releases are issued to local media as needed to publicize timely information on cleanup activities.

### ***Public Meetings***

Public meetings provide information about the environmental cleanup program and opportunities for community involvement. RAB meetings are an example of public meetings. Additional public meetings will be held to inform the public about specific projects, often during public comment periods. Written and oral comments are taken from the public and a verbatim transcript is published. Prior to a public meeting, a paid display advertisement will be placed through the Anchorage Daily News and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. In addition, announcements will be posted through the semi-annual newsletter, Loudon Newsletter, radio KIYU announcements and through flyers posted in public places.

### ***Public Comment Period***

Federal law requires formal public comment periods be conducted for key documents pertaining to proposed remedial and removal activities at CERCLA sites to solicit public input. The documents are placed in the AR prior to the start of the public comment period. The public receives advance notice of the public comment periods for key decision documents through paid advertisements in local newspapers and news releases. Notices and advertisements will contain a brief description of the document, where it could be reviewed, the dates of the public comment period and the date and location of any related meetings.

For formal public comment periods on key decision documents, the Air Force creates a permanent record of all comments received. Typically, the public has a minimum of 30-days to review the proposed decision document with its supporting information/materials and submit comments to the Air Force. Generally there will be a public meeting to discuss the proposed



decision document that also facilitates the submission of written or oral comments. At the close of each formal public comment period, the Air Force and regulatory agencies review all written comments received by any means and any oral comments given at the public meeting, which are documented in a verbatim transcript of that meeting. Comments received during the formal public comment periods are included in final decision documents for CERCLA sites in the AR. The Air Force will also respond to comments using a written responsiveness summary. The documents that trigger formal public comment periods are Proposed Plans that are associated with preparing RODs and proposed ROD amendments for CERCLA sites.

### ***Responsiveness Summary***

As required, the Air Force prepares a responsiveness summary to describe and document the community's comments received during the formal public comment period. The responsiveness summary contains the Air Force's responses to significant comments, criticisms and new relevant information raised or submitted during each formal public comment period. A copy of the responsiveness summary is available in final decision documents located in the AR. Individuals who submit questions or comments during the formal public comment period are also provided a copy of the responsiveness summary.

### ***Website***

The former Galena FOL website is located at:

<http://www.safie.hq.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=16786>.

## **5.5 COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

### **5.5.1 Initial Community Interviews**

In 1992, the Air Force interviewed 15 community members and 15 on-base personnel as part of the combined Galena/Campion Community Relations Plan. Interviewees included city officials; business leaders; military, federal and state employees; health and education professionals; and key members of the native and non-native population.

General concern focused on drinking water and groundwater; effects on fish and wildlife; soil used for gardens; long-term health concerns; and interest in employment opportunities whenever possible.

### **5.5.2 2011 Community Interviews**

The Air Force interviewed 26 individuals in November 2011. Of the 26 interviews, 23 were conducted in person and three were conducted via phone.

Interviewees were organized into the following stakeholder groups:

- Local Government—4 individuals
- State Government—5 individuals
- Federal Government—3 individuals
- School District—2 individuals

- Community Members—6 individuals
- Tribal Members—2 individuals
- Local Business Owners—4 individuals

Please note that although all 26 interviewees may be part of more than one stakeholder group, they have been divided into only one group per each interviewee. The following paragraphs summarize the information obtained during these community interviews:

All interviewees were aware there is environmental contamination at the former Galena FOL. They learned of the contamination from growing up in the community, discussions with other community members and/or through the RAB. Most interviewees reported having sufficient knowledge to make the statement the cleanup is progressing. They said they knew this because of periodic reports or contact with RAB or Air Force members or by reading information distributed by the Air Force (i.e., semi-annual newsletter). Although many admitted they do not read all of the articles, they said sufficient information was provided to those who were interested in learning more about environmental cleanup.

Concerns noted during the interviews included the following:

- Safety of topsoil/groundwater for public consumption
- Contamination draining into Yukon River and affecting fishing
- Status of contamination at Campion (Note: Campion is a separate Air Force installation managed by the 611<sup>th</sup> Air Support Group [ASG] and is not part of the former Galena FOL cleanup)
- Use of acronyms and environmental terminology
- Perception that the Air Force is not open to hiring local contractors for environmental work

In general, interviewees noted the Air Force and regulatory agencies are making good progress and the community understands cleanup can take a long time. Overall, interviewees believe the Air Force is being open and transparent with information provided to the community.

In summary, the responses from the interviews (and the consensus of those involved in conducting them) indicated the community is concerned about the cleanup at the former Galena FOL but agrees the Air Force is making good progress toward remediation. Residents were aware the cleanup was taking place and knew someone they could contact for immediate help should they become concerned.

The community consensus is that semi-annual RAB meetings are sufficient for providing information to the community. There was not a recommendation for more frequent meetings. Those interviewed indicated the Air Force was providing sufficient information for anyone who is interested in learning more about the status of environmental cleanup.

When asked about how they wanted to be kept informed of cleanup progress, the respondents felt their needs could be supported by the following activities: continued distribution of semi-annual newsletters, partnering efforts with Loudon Tribal Council and high school journalism class to publish cleanup information in their respective newsletters, interviews with radio station KIYU and continued briefings given at semi-annual RAB meetings.

## **5.6 ACTIONS TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

Many of the community concerns and issues expressed in the interviews were addressed through the Air Force's current Community Relations Program. Newsletters and fact sheets were prepared and distributed to provide the community with current information on the cleanup program, and public RAB meetings were also held to provide up-to-date information and address the community's concerns. If new community concerns arise, the Air Force will determine the best approach to addressing and responding to those concerns.

## **SECTION 6: CONCLUSION**

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The current consensus is that community relations activities in Galena are effective. If new community concerns arise, the Air Force, along with the community, will determine the best approach to address and respond to those concerns.

## Appendix A—Acronyms

Acronym	Description
AAC	Alaska Air Command
AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADOT&PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
AFCEE	Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment
AFRPA	Air Force Real Property Agency
AST	Above ground storage tank
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CAA	Civil Aeronautics Authority
CAC	Combat Alert Cell
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CRP	Community Relations Plan
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FOL	Forward Operating Location
FS	Feasibility Study
GILA	Galena Interior Learning Academy
LUC/IC	Land Use Control/Institutional Control
MMRP	Military Munitions Response Program
PA	Preliminary Assessment

PCE	Tetrachloroethene
POL	Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RAPCON	Radar Approach Control
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RI	Remedial Investigation
ROD	Record of Decision
SC	Site Characterization
SI	Site Inspections
SL	Screening Level
TCE	Trichloroethene or Trichloroethylene
USAF	United States Air Force
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USF&WS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	Underground Storage Tank
WWII	World War II

**Appendix B - Community Interview Questionnaire for Galena  
Community Relations Plan**



Thank you for taking the time to talk with us. We are currently developing a Community Relations Plan and value your input on the best ways to communicate information to you and the community. The Air Force is committed to cleaning up your environment and would like to take this opportunity to determine how we can communicate what clean-up activities are being conducted, the status of the cleanup and provide an understanding of the technology being used. The information you provide is anonymous and will be captured and incorporated into the Community Relations Plan for the former Galena FOL. This Plan will outline what communication activities the Air Force will conduct throughout the cleanup process. The Air Force will use the activities identified in the plan to ensure you and the community are kept informed throughout the process and are provided ample opportunities to be involved.

### **Knowledge of the former Galena FOL Environmental Sites and the Cleanup**

- 1. What do you know about the environmental sites in and around Galena? What do you think is the most important environmental problem? Where is the problem located?**

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- 2. What do you want or need to know?**

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**3. Do you want to participate in the process? i.e. Restoration Advisory Board?**

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**Concerns/Issues**

**1. What are your concerns regarding the environmental cleanup?**

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**2. How would you describe the overall concerns of the community?**

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**Exchange of Information**

**1. Do you view the Air Force as a credible, trustworthy source of information? If not, why?**

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**2. Who do you feel is a trustworthy source of information (local tribes, local government, barber)?**

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**3. How do you prefer to receive information regarding Air Force and site cleanup activities?**

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**4. Do you want more information? (Try to get specifics, what information, what format, frequency and how)**

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**5. How do you think the community would like to receive information?**

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**6. What groups of individuals do you feel are not receiving information or would like to?**

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**7. Who else in the community should we be talking with?**

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## Appendix C - Copies of Recent Newsletters



# The Former Galena FOL Environmental Update



Published to keep the Galena community informed of the Air Force's environmental cleanup progress | July 2011

## Meet the Restoration Advisory Board Members

**pg2** INTERIM REMOVAL ACTION  
OVERVIEW OF THE IRA

**LOOKING AHEAD**  
PLANNED ACTIVITIES AT  
GALENA

**pg3** MAP OF THE IRA  
DETAILED VIEW OF  
AFFECTED ROADS,  
ALTERNATE ROUTES

**pg4** CONTACT INFORMATION  
POINTS OF CONTACT  
FOR AIR FORCE  
REPRESENTATIVES AND  
COMMENT CARD



*Clock wise from top: Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members from L to R: Al Weilbacher, Air Force Co-Chair; Tim Bodony, Community Co-Chair; March Runner, Loudon Tribal Council; Phil Koontz, RAB member; John Sam, RAB member. Not pictured: Norman Burgett, RAB member; Marvin Thurman, RAB member*

*Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) representative: Colette Foster. Not pictured: Sam Myers*

*Alaska Department of Conservation (ADEC) representatives from L to R: Fred Vreeman, Amanda Loomis, Andy Larson (contractor), and Linda Liu*

### Performance Based Contracts

The Air Force Base Realignment and Closure Program is constantly innovating to meet the needs of communities it serves. To help achieve the goal of returning land back to the community faster, the Air Force is using Performance Based Contracts. PBCs focus on results rather than methods, allowing private industry contractors to provide the best and brightest solutions to achieve site closure in a shorter time frame. Simply put, the Air Force identifies "what" needs to be done and the contractor proposes "how" to get it done.

The Air Force still leads the cleanup effort and will maintain a strong presence at Galena to ensure completion of remedial action. The contract is expected to be awarded in fall 2012 and will include all sites at the former base.

**In anticipation of the upcoming Galena PBC contract award, contractors will be onsite July 27, 2011 to visit the sites and take a look at the existing remediation systems.**

**The Air Force will hold a meeting for community members interested in providing services, labor, equipment, or lodging to prospective PBC contractors on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 3 p.m. at Larson Charlie Community Hall.**

**Please contact Al Weilbacher at 210-395-8239 ([adolph.weilbacher@us.af.mil](mailto:adolph.weilbacher@us.af.mil)) if you are interested in attending or would like more information.**



# Environmental Update

## Interim Removal Action Ahead

The Air Force contracted CH2M Hill to conduct an Interim Removal Action (IRA) beginning August 1, 2011 at six locations around the former Galena FOL. The goal of the IRA is to excavate soil with the highest levels of petroleum-contamination and then transport it to a landfarm for treatment. Once treated, the soil will be given to the City of Galena for use as landfill cover. Until the landfarm is constructed next year, soil will be temporarily stockpiled on the old Campion runway.

To maximize soil cleanup, the plan is to remove as much of the contaminated material as possible during the low-water season from August to October 2011. Sites SS005 near the former Wildemess Hall and AST1569 near the former RAPCON building will be excavated first to ensure work is completed prior to the start of school. The Air Force is hopeful all contaminated soil at these two sites can be removed during the IRA eliminating the need for further soil cleanup.

During the IRA, normal vehicular and pedestrian traffic routes will be affected. The next page shows maps of detours and road closures to help you plan ahead and avoid delays.

Throughout the duration of the IRA, the Air Force will remain engaged with the community to keep you informed of the latest developments.



Left: Among the major things accomplished in 2010 was the installation of a bioreactor at Site SS015 just south of the runway. The bioreactor is essentially an excavation filled with locally produced mulch and vegetable oil that will break down the groundwater contaminants over time, demonstrating "green technology". The solar panels, shown here, power the pumps that recirculate the contaminated groundwater through the bioreactor.

## Big Plans for Remainder of 2011

In addition to the IRA, the Air Force and its contractor, CH2M Hill, plan to complete field investigations at the remaining sites around Galena to complete the characterization of contamination. The team will continue sampling at sites started in 2010 and begin the investigations at the remaining sites. These sites are some of the more contaminated areas of the former base.

"We are confident 2011 will go a long way toward completing cleanup at Galena," said BRAC Environmental Coordinator Al Weilbacher.

The team will continue groundwater contamination investigations, conduct additional aquifer testing and install monitoring wells. The first group of monitoring wells is being installed now and additional wells will be added as information from the field investigations becomes available.

Also ahead in 2011 is the removal of abandoned Air Force equipment; performing supplemental investigation near the former munitions sites; and optimizing the remediation systems currently in place.

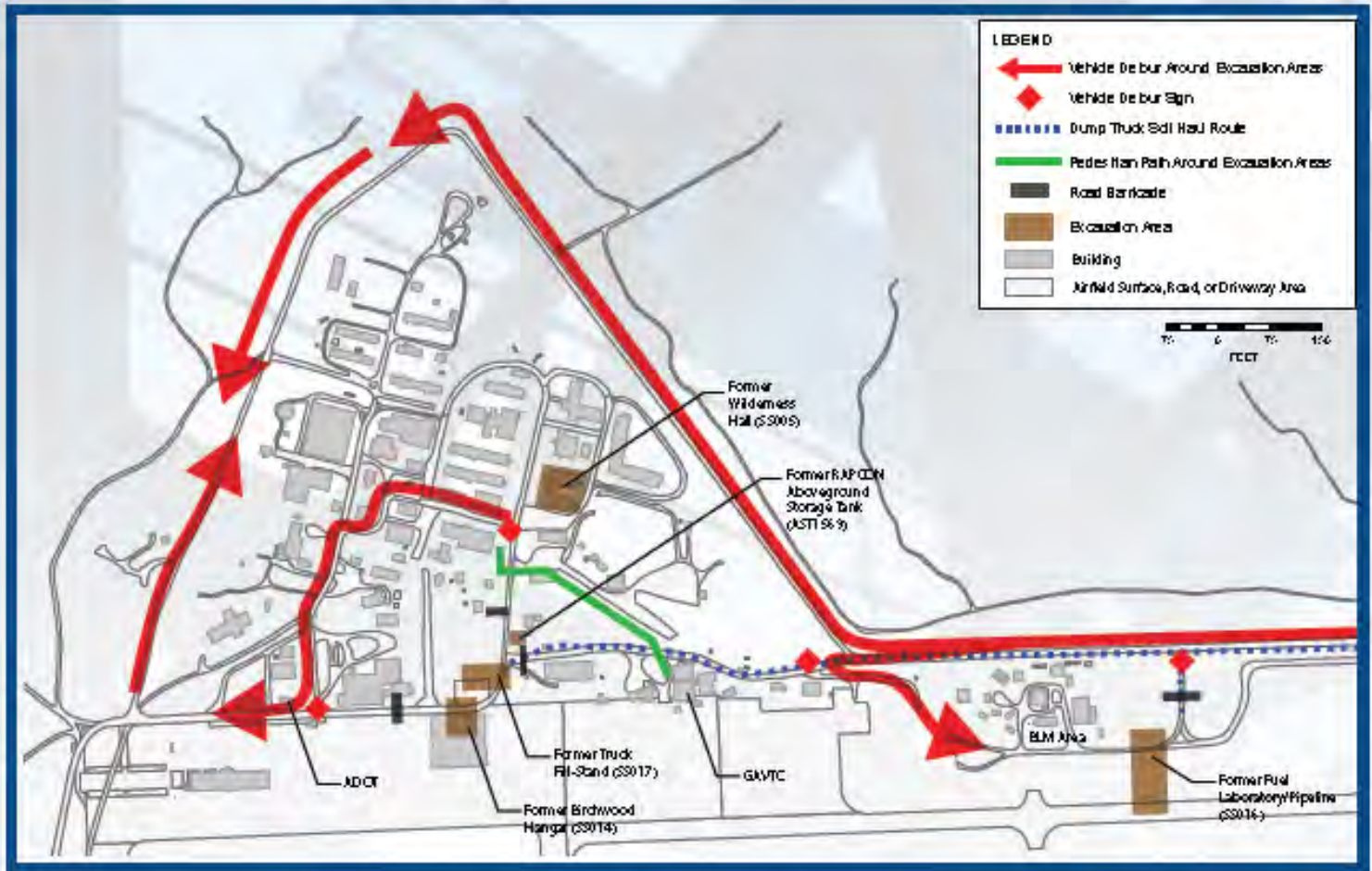
*We are confident 2011 will go a long way toward completing cleanup at Galena.*

- AL WEILBACHER

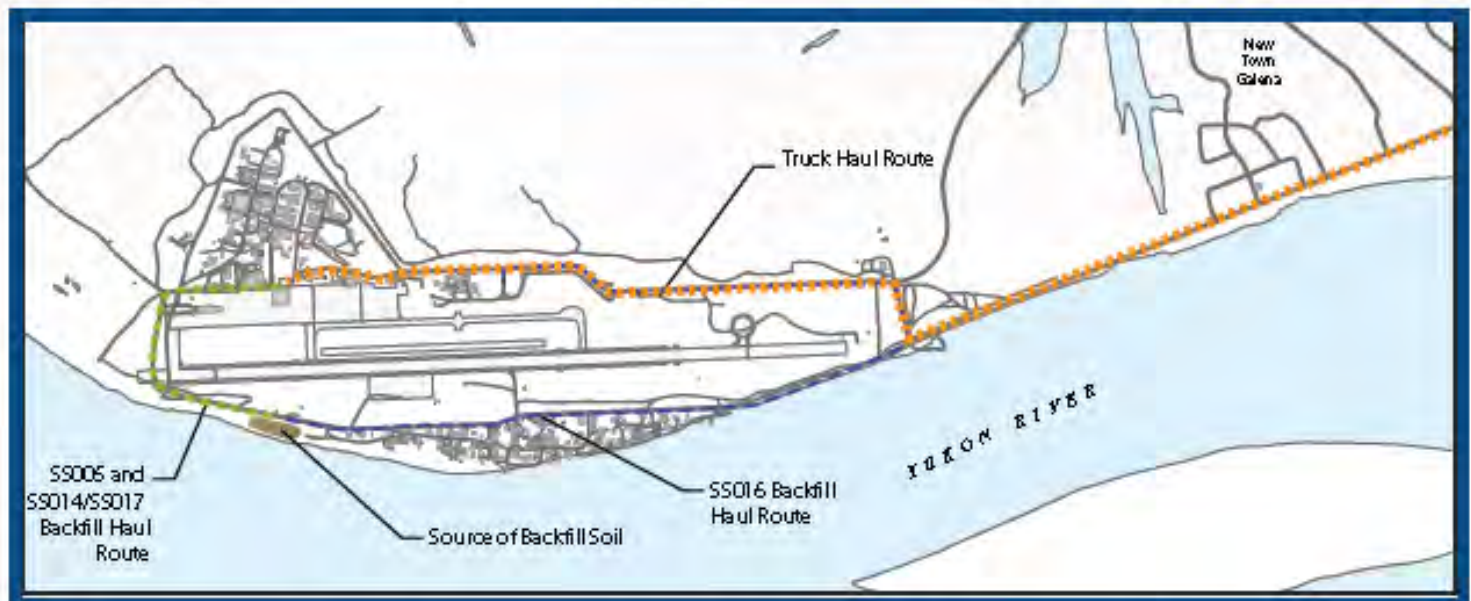
AIR FORCE BRAC ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR,  
FORMER GALENA FOL



# Traffic Routes Affected by Interim Removal Action



Above: Map detailing detour route around the former Galena FOL. Signs will be posted near the detours to help guide residents throughout the duration of the IRA.



Above: Map showing the various truck routes. Expect approximately 40 round trips per day, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., on each route as follows:

- Truck Haul Route: Aug 1 - Sep 30
- SS005 and SS014/SS017 Backfill Haul Route: Aug 1 - Sep 30
- SS016 Backfill Haul Route: Aug 23 - Sep 30

Air Force Real Property Agency  
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821

## Galena FOL Restoration Contacts

**General Questions:**  
AFRPA Public Affairs  
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821  
Toll Free (866) 725-7617  
Fax (210) 395-9527  
Email: [afropa.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afropa.pa@us.af.mil)  
Website: [www.AFRPA.HQ.AF.MIL](http://www.AFRPA.HQ.AF.MIL)

Air Force Center for Engineering  
and the Environment  
Mr. Al Weilbacher  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821  
Phone (210) 395-8239

Property Transfer/Real Estate  
AFRPA Real Estate Transactions Division  
Mr. Ernesto Bent  
Real Estate Specialist  
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821  
Phone (210) 395-9486  
Fax (210) 395-9527

### Feedback, Comments, and More Information

- I would like more information about the environmental cleanup of former Galena FOL.
- I would like more information about the Restoration Advisory Board for former Galena FOL.

Please let us know how we are doing. Your comments and opinions are welcome and assist the Air Force in providing the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the cleanup of former Galena FOL. Fill out this form and send it to the address listed below.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail this section in a stamped envelope to: AFRPA/Public Affairs, 2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121, San Antonio, TX 78236-9821





# The Former Galena FOL Environmental Update



Published to keep the Galena community informed of the Air Force's environmental cleanup progress | Vol 1, Issue 2 | November 2011

## Looking Back on 2011 and Ahead to 2012

2011 was a productive year for the Air Force Real Property Agency's environmental restoration program for Galena, AK. We will continue the momentum in 2012 as the environmental cleanup continues. This issue contains updates on activities completed to date and plans for next year.



### Interim Removal Action

This year, the Air Force removed 17,700 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soils from four sites – the former Wilderness Hall (SS005), the former Birchwood Hangar (SS014), the former truck fill-stand (SS017) and the former RAPCON above-ground storage tank area (AST1569). The Air Force also built a pedestrian walkway for Galena residents and students prior to excavation of sites SS014 and SS017 to ensure the safety of pedestrians walking between the school and the airport buildings during the interim removal actions.



*(Top) AFRPA completed Interim Removal Actions on four sites this year, and (above) conducted soil sampling on the sites.*

In addition, the Air Force completed excavation activities at SS005 prior to the students' return for the 2011/2012 school year to avoid any disruption to the community, and to ensure the safety of the Alaskan students who rely on the Galena community for their educational needs.

### In Memoriam: Norm (Buckets) Burgett 1934-2011

Condolences go out to the family and friends of Norm (Buckets) Burgett of Galena, who passed away November 1, 2011 in Fairbanks.



Buckets was born in Indianapolis and joined the U.S. Air Force in 1952. At his request he was stationed at Galena Air Force Base in 1954. There he met his wife of 56 years, Cecelia, and together they had eight children. Buckets was devoted to their 25 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Buckets had several careers throughout his life, working much of that time at Galena AFB where he was actively involved in the Air Force environmental program.

He was a wealth of knowledge for the Air Force restoration program and a valued member of the Galena Restoration Advisory Board. He will be greatly missed.

### pg2 PROGRESS TO DATE

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETE

PERFORMANCE BASED CONTRACT UPDATE

### pg3 AHEAD IN 2012

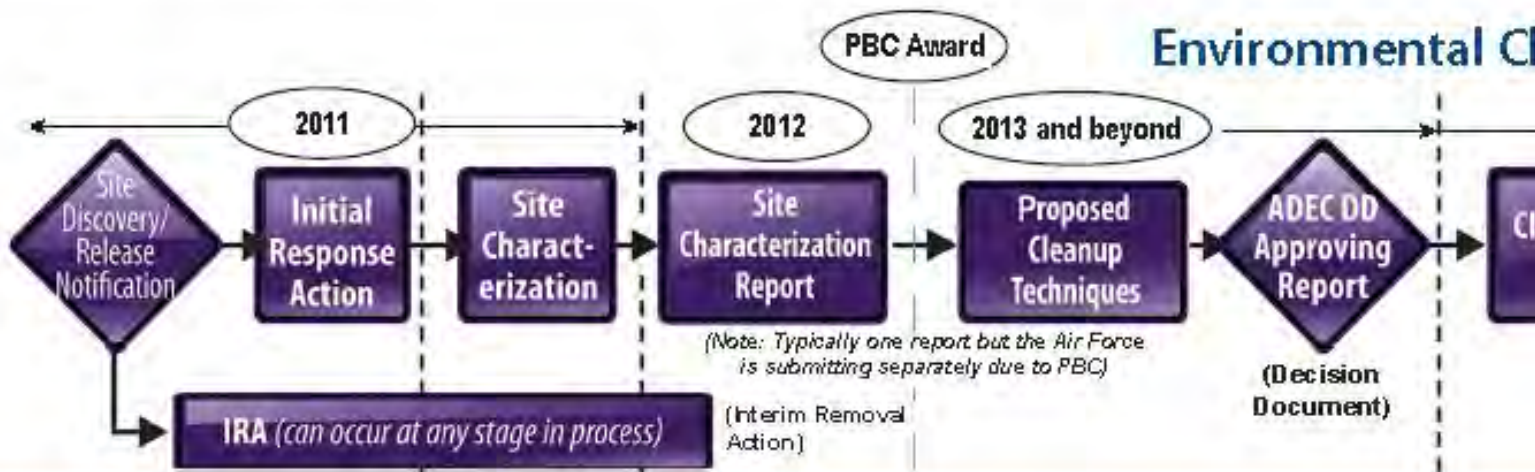
LAND BARN UPDATE

STILL TO COME

### pg4 CONTACT INFORMATION

POINTS OF CONTACT FOR AIR FORCE REPRESENTATIVE AND COMMENT CARD





Technicians took more than 4,500 soil and groundwater samples combined during two field seasons. The Air Force is now analyzing the data and drafting nearly 60 Site Investigation, Site Characterization and Remedial Investigation reports.



### Field Investigations Complete

In 2011, the Air Force completed the field investigations started in 2010 to characterize the nature & extent and boundaries of contamination, if present.

The scope of the work done during the last two field seasons includes:

- 3,631 soil samples collected
- 1,175 groundwater samples collected
- 856 boring locations installed
- 72 new monitoring wells installed

For the remainder of 2011 and into 2012, the Air Force will continue to develop and review the field season documentation, evaluate the data, conduct risk assessments and draft reports summarizing the results of investigation activities.

### Performance Based Remediation Contract Update

As stated in the last newsletter, the Air Force is using Performance Based Contracts for cleanup and closure of all active Galena sites to ensure the land is returned to the community as quickly as possible.

- The Air Force released a Request for Information to contractors in June
- Interested contractors visited Galena in July, then provided feedback and questions to the Air Force
- The Air Force is currently reviewing those responses and conducting preliminary planning for the Request for Proposal
- The Air Force will tentatively release a draft Request for Proposal to contractors in early 2012
- The Air Force tentatively expects to award the contract in November 2012

Following the PBR contract award, the Air Force will continue its presence at Galena to ensure the contractor acknowledges and addresses community and regulatory concerns, and will play an active role in continued environmental restoration activities through site closure. The Air Force Real Property Agency manages and oversees the environmental cleanup and property transfers at the former Galena FOL in accordance with Base Realignment and Closure law. AFRPA will continue to partner with the Galena community to promote environmental awareness and economic opportunities for sustainable development.

Questions about the PBC process may be directed to Mr. Al Weilbacher, 210-395-8239 or [adolph.weilbacher@us.af.mil](mailto:adolph.weilbacher@us.af.mil).



## Cleanup Progress



Soil remains stockpiled at the Campion air strip until the landfarm can be completed.

### Landfarm Set for Construction

One of the many challenges of the environmental cleanup at Galena is the limited options available for remediating soil in a harsh climate and remote area.

One of the remediation options being used by the Air Force includes finding hot spots of soil contamination, removing it, and transporting it to a landfarm for treatment. Any clean soil encountered during excavation of hot spots is set aside for reuse, and open excavations are filled with backfill purchased from the community.

A wetlands delineation survey found much of the previously proposed landfarm area was considered wetlands, delaying construction of the landfarm this year. Building on wetlands creates regulatory issues and potential drainage problems when peat and moss are removed.

In the meantime, contaminated soil is stockpiled at the Campion air strip. The Air Force is looking at a new landfarm location near the air strip, and will begin construction on the 9 acre facility next year. Once completed, the Air Force will relocate the stockpiled soil to the landfarm facility and treat it so it will be available for reuse.

### Still to Come in 2012

In the last issue of this newsletter, we previewed three actions planned for the remainder of 2011. Below is an update on those actions.

**ACTION 1: Remove abandoned Air Force equipment.** The Air Force removed the old, abandoned equipment.

**ACTION 2: Perform supplemental investigation near the former munitions sites.** The Air Force will begin the Galena Military Munitions Response Program field work in Summer 2012. They will survey if munitions exist in the ordnance disposal area, safety arc, small arms range, historic ordnance storage buildings, Southwest landfill, suspected ordnance burial site, and rocket container site north of Million Gallon Hill. If munitions are found, the Air Force will tag and remove them and conduct sampling in the area. Tree cutting will begin in early spring, with the investigation being conducted throughout the summer.

**ACTION 3: Optimize the remediation systems currently in place.** The Air Force completed sampling and testing to evaluate the current biovent and soil vapor extraction remediation systems. During the winter, the Air Force will review the results to see how effective the current systems have been in cleaning up the soil.

### Future Resources Needed

Once the performance based contract is awarded, the selected contractor will require many resources in the community. We will continue to need community support in the form of housing, vehicles, equipment and labor. The Air Force will provide more information as soon as it is available.



Air Force Real Property Agency  
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821

## Galena FOL Restoration Contacts

**General Questions:**  
AFRPA Public Affairs  
2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821  
Toll Free (866) 725-7617  
Fax (210) 395-9527  
Email: [afropa.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:afropa.pa@us.af.mil)  
Website: [www.AFRPA.HQ.AF.MIL](http://www.AFRPA.HQ.AF.MIL)

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Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail this section in a stamped envelope to: AFRPA/Public Affairs, 2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121, San Antonio, TX 78236-9821



## Appendix D - Restoration Advisory Board Charter

**CHARTER AND OPERATING GUIDELINES**

for the

**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)**

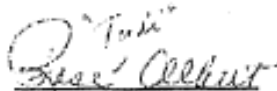
serving the community members near

**GALENA AIRPORT, CAMPION AIR STATION, AND  
KALAKAKET CREEK RADIO RELAY STATION**

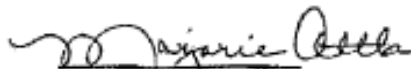
Original Version  
October 1997

**Galena Airport, Campion Air Station, and Kalakaket Creek Radio Relay Station  
Draft version October 1997**

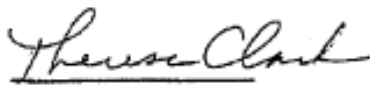
A signature below indicates the agreement of the individual to abide by the guidelines set forth in the "Charter and Operating Guidelines".

  
**Rose Albert**

  
**Charles Sink**

  
**Marjorie Attla**

  
**Pat Sweetsir**

  
**Teresa Clark**

  
**Russ Sweetsir**

  
**Gordon Cruger**

  
**Scott Tarbox**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Steve Howdeshell**

  
**Marvin Yoder**

\_\_\_\_\_

  
**Ted Alexander**

  
**Lewis Johnson**

**Charter and Operating Guidelines for the  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)**

**I ORGANIZATION**

This organization will be known as the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) serving the communities near Galena Airport, Campion Air Station, and Kalakaket Creek Radio Relay Station.

**II PURPOSE**

The RAB will facilitate communication and coordination, among the community RAB members and the United States Air Force (USAF), in relation to the Installation Restoration Program (IRP).  
The RAB shall reflect the diverse interests of the community. The function of the RAB shall be to provide opportunities for all members of the community to identify environmental restoration activities, observe progress, comment on environmental restoration priorities for the installations, and advise on environmental restoration strategies.

**III AUTHORITY**

The authority for this RAB is the Comprehensive Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and the Restoration Advisory Board Implementation Guidelines, September 1994. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 USC 11001) may also apply to RAB activities.

**IV MEMBERSHIP**

- A. The RAB should reflect the diverse interests of the community. It should be comprised of members who reside in the community, and the Air Force, and the State and Federal agencies as appropriate. The following are suggested members: local residents, local government officials, businesses, school district, public interest organizations, religious organizations, medical professionals, and Native organizations.
- B. RAB community members shall serve a two-year term without compensation.
- C. The community RAB members shall review the applications for membership which are submitted. New members may be added to the RAB if their applications for membership are approved by more than 50% of the RAB members.
- D. Each organization, which is represented in the RAB, shall have no more than one RAB member as its representative. Community members, who are members of organizations represented on the RAB, are encouraged to participate, but they represent as individuals.

**Galena Airport, Campion Air Station, and Kalakaket Creek Radio Relay Station  
October 1997**

- E. The RAB is not established for the purpose of providing employment opportunities for community members or business entities. RAB members should remain aware of the potential for conflicts of interest. The Co-chairs may ask members to resign their membership if a potential conflict of interest exists. Members will be required to resign membership if a conflict of interest exists.
- F. RAB members shall attend at least three meetings per year, provided that at least three meetings per year are conducted. RAB members that can not attend a meeting are encouraged to send an alternate and notify one of the Co-chairs. If a RAB member does not attend at least three meetings per year, and does not send an alternate or notify one of the Co-chairs, membership of that person may be withdrawn by a majority vote of the RAB.

**V CO-CHAIRS**

- A. The Air Force shall determine who shall be its representative, the Air Force Co-chair.
- B. The community RAB members shall determine who shall be the Community Co-chair.
- C. The RAB Co-chairs shall be responsible for coordinating and distributing the charter, agendas, minutes, and other documents.
- D. The Co-chairs shall be responsible for ensuring that progress of each meeting is consistent with the agenda for the meeting.

**VI MEETINGS**

- A. Regular RAB meetings shall be held once every three months. The meeting dates shall be determined by the Community RAB members. Informal RAB meetings may be conducted to address specific issues, at times other than at the regular meetings, at the request of the Co-chairs.
- B. Each RAB meeting shall be chaired by one of the Co-chairs. This shall alternate between the Co-chairs.

**VII OTHER OPERATING GUIDELINES**

- A. This charter may be amended if more than 50% of the members and both of the Co-chairs agree that the amendment is necessary.
- B. The Air Force Co-chair will not be allowed to vote on the community priorities.
- C. All RAB members must agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in this "Charter and Operating Guidelines".

## Appendix E – Mailing List

## **GOVERNMENT**

---

### **Federal Elected Officials**

Honorable Mark Begich  
Senator  
U.S. Congress  
510 L St, Suite 750  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Senator  
U.S. Congress  
510 L St, Suite 600  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Honorable Don Young  
Representative  
U.S. Congress  
4241 B St, Suite 203  
Anchorage, AK 99503

### **State Elected Officials**

Governor's Office  
State of Alaska  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Lieutenant Governor  
State of Alaska  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1700  
Juneau, AK 99501

### **Community Elected Officials**

Galena City Hall  
P.O. Box 149  
Galena, AK 99741

## **REGULATORS**

---

State of Alaska  
Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
610 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Bureau of Land Management  
Fairbanks District Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

State of Alaska  
Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities  
2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
101 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Room 110  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

## **AIR FORCE**

---

Air Force Real Property Agency  
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236

Air Force Center for Engineering and the  
Environment  
2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236



## **NATIVE CORPORATIONS/GROUPS**

---

Gana-A' Yoo  
PO Box 38  
Galena, AK 99741

Louden Tribal Council  
100 Front Street  
Galena, AK 99741

## **SCHOOLS**

---

Galena City School District  
PO Box 299  
Galena, AK 99741

## **MEDIA**

---

### **Newspapers:**

*Anchorage Daily News*  
1001 Northway Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99508

*Alaska Journal of Commerce*  
301 Arctic Slope Ave., Suite 350  
Anchorage, AK 99518

*Fairbanks News Miner*  
200 North Cushman Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

### **Television (via cable):**

KYUR/KATN/KJUD  
2700 E. Tudor Rd  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Alaska Public Telecommunications, Inc.  
3877 University Drive  
Anchorage AK 99508-4676

### **Radio:**

KIYU  
97.1 FM/910 AM  
907-656-1488



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2261 Hughes Ave., Suite 121  
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9821  
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