



KELLY AFB
TEXAS

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD
COVER SHEET

AR File Number 3346.20

29 August 00 RAB Action Item/Response**Item:** 1

Description: I just found out that our property is contaminated and I also found out you knew about this 6 years ago. Why didn't you personally contact us? Our name is on record for the taxes.

Requester: Mr. Rodriguez

OPR: Ms. Musgrave

Action: Provide Answer.

Response: Most major media in San Antonio have followed the Kelly environmental issues. Stories on the various contaminated sites at Kelly have been featured in the *San Antonio Express-News, La Prensa*, and all five major television stations. Kelly has made mass mailings to every active address that may be over the plume extending east of the base each time we have had new information. In addition, Kelly personnel have taken poster boards and made more than 125 presentations on the shallow groundwater contamination in the last 11 months.

Our mailing lists cover all homes in the area. We're sorry your tenants did not share the information we sent.

We cannot determine whether or not your specific property has contamination beneath it. Air Force data shows only the extent and general location of off-base contamination. Air Force monitoring wells are placed in the public right of way. Soil conditions in south San Antonio are such that clays, tightly packed silt, gravels and sand may exist with a few feet of each other. Although sampling can tell general trends, it does not provide data that would automatically apply to adjacent or nearby properties.

We also provide information repositories containing complete collections of all studies and documents affecting decisions in the environmental cleanup program in the San Antonio Central Library and the Kelly AFB Library. These locations have been advertised many times over the last 5 years.

29 August 00 RAB Action Item/Response**Item:** 2**Description:** How did this happen? (Shallow groundwater contamination)**Requester:** Mr. Rodriguez**OPR:** Mr. Ryan**Action:** Provide Answer.

Response: During eighty years of depot maintenance, the industrial shops and storage areas on Kelly used various cleaners, paint strippers, metal plating compounds and petroleum products. Waste treatment disposal practices that were legal years ago have left chemicals in the soil today. What was inadvertently spilled, leaked, or was disposed of legally on the surface gradually worked its way down into the shallow groundwater. The Air Force acknowledges responsibility for cleaning up this contamination.

The Air Force has invested millions of dollars to clean up contamination on or under Kelly and the surrounding area. As required by law and Air Force policy, cleanup of contamination caused by Kelly AFB will continue regardless of the realignment or reuse of the facility until the cleanup is completed. TNRCC and the EPA will coordinate with the Air Force to determine when the cleanup goals are met.

29 August 00 RAB Action Item/Response

Item: 3

Description: Were you (the Air Force) negligent or did you do this intentionally?

Requester: Mr. Rodriguez

OPR: Ms. Vanessa Musgrave

Action: Provide Answer.

Response: The contamination was not done deliberately. The Air Force used common practices of the time to handle chemicals and waste. The industrial work we were doing years ago may be the source that affected the shallow groundwater that is beneath portions of the base today. It is also possible that other sources may have contributed to the contamination under off-base neighborhoods. It was not until the late 60's that environmental laws were adopted to identify and address environmental issues. The Air Force acknowledges responsibility for cleaning up it's contamination and will continue to work until the cleanup is completed.

29 August 00 RAB Action Item/Response**Item:** 4

Description: This is rape of our citizen rights and dignity. Did I give you permission to spill chemicals into my property? Do you want to save monies so bad that you're willing to disrespect residents and our property and our health?

Requester: Ms. Medina

OPR: Mr. Dick Walters

Action: Provide Answer.

Response: Spills were not deliberate and were not onto private property. Our goal is cleanup; protection of the environment and public health, and no disrespect has ever been intended. The Air Force regrets that past work at Kelly resulted in contamination. It cannot be emphasized enough that it was not done intentionally and the Air Force is working to resolve the problems it caused. To date we have obligated more than \$160 millions of dollars toward the resolution of the problem. We have also worked with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to develop a plan and obtain funds that focus on understanding area health concerns. Preliminary work has already begun on that program.

In the environmental area, the Air Force cannot and does not operate alone. There are strict laws and statutes that help protect the public from environmental hazards. Standards for cleanup, selection of cleanup systems, and almost every step of the process all require coordination with and active involvement from state and federal regulators.

We encourage you to report spill incidents to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's Region 13 Office at 490-3096 and the City of San Antonio's Code Compliance Division at 207-7230.

29 August 00 RAB Action Item/Response

Item: 5

Description: How many RAB members live in the plume area? How many people own property there? (Plume areas)

Requester: Ms. Medina

OPR: Ms. Musgrave

Action: Provide Answer.

Response: There are 15 community members on the Kelly AFB Restoration Advisory Board. Seven members live within 2.5 miles of the base. Four members work on or around the base. We do not ask RAB members if they own or rent their homes.

29 August 00 RAB Action Item/Response**Item:** 6**Description:** Why did take so long to bring the updated Relative Risk Ratings to the Board?**Requester:** Mr. Quintanilla**OPR:** Mr. Ryan**Action:** Provide Answer.

Response: The RAB was presented with the Relative Risk Ratings (RRR) in May 1995 for those sites on which the AF had sufficient information to conduct the assessment. The RRR was originally applied to sites in the Installation Restoration Program. Those were the sites that needed to be restored. Other environmental sites were active ones regulated under compliance laws.

Once the closure and realignment of Kelly AFB was announced additional rules and funds were applied to ensure all environmental sites could be addressed to facilitate base conversion. This meant all sites were addressed at once and prioritization was not necessary. However, at the request of Mr. Quintanilla the RRR calculation process was applied to sites with some radiation contamination. Those calculations were presented to the Technical Review Subcommittee of the RAB for comment. They agreed with the ratings as documented in the subcommittee's November minutes.

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