



# Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Fact Sheet

## What is a RAB?

A restoration advisory board, or RAB, is a stakeholder group that meets regularly to discuss environmental restoration at a specific property that is currently or was formerly owned by the Department of Defense, or DOD, where the DOD oversees the environmental restoration process.

## How does a RAB work?

**RAB operating procedures are based on the unique needs, purpose and goals of the RAB and the installation.**

- RABs are required to develop a mission statement outlining the RAB's purpose and focus.
- A RAB should decide on a schedule to meet as often as necessary.

**All members should receive training as needed.**

- RAB members should receive training on what is expected of a RAB and to provide members with information on installation-specific environmental and health issues.
- A RAB charter is created to outline roles and responsibilities for each unique RAB

**RABs may only address topics associated with the environmental restoration activities.**

- Funding for RABs are supplied by the service's Environmental Restoration account; therefore, RABs may only discuss environmental restoration topics.
- Typical RAB actions include, but are not limited to reviewing and commenting on environmental documents and activities, providing information and status updates to the community and receiving input from the community

**Up-to-date records of RAB activities should be kept for historical purposes and to keep the community informed of the installation's progress.**

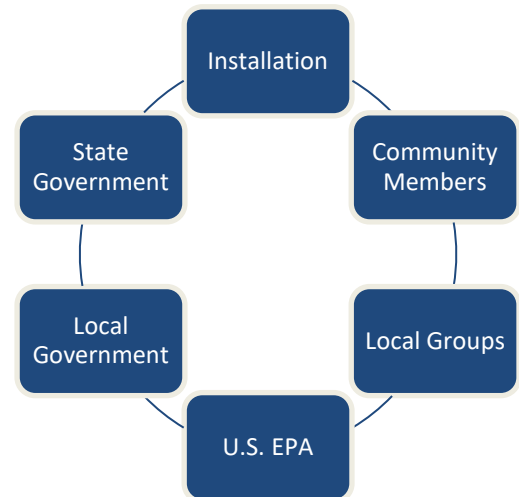
- The Office of the Secretary of Defense annually reports to Congress the RAB activities, advice provided and funds used.

**RABs can influence cleanup decisions through discussion and valuable input provided to installation decision makers, but they do not make restoration decisions**

- Installation decision makers listen closely to and consider input provided by RAB members, but are not required to follow RAB recommendations.

## Who participates in a RAB?

A RAB provides an interactive and focused forum for interested individuals and groups to exchange information with representatives of regulatory agencies, the installation and the community.



## How are RABs established?

RABs are established through a DOD process that defines authority to determine the need to establish a RAB, the criteria by which the need for a RAB is determined and the actions needed to form a RAB. Establishing a RAB requires sufficient and sustained community interest and one of the following criteria must be met:

1. The installation is closing and transferring property to the community;
2. At least 50 local citizens have petitioned for a RAB;
3. Federal, tribal, state or local government representatives have requested a RAB; or
4. The installation has determined the need for a RAB.

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