

**B R A C P o r t i o n o f  
R I C K E N B A C K E R  
A I R N A T I O N A L  
G U A R D B A S E  
C O M M U N I T Y  
R E L A T I O N S P L A N**

**Appendix D**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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- SITE DESCRIPTION ..... 2**
  - LOCATION ..... 2
  - HISTORY ..... 3
  - ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS..... 4
- COMMUNITY BACKGROUND ..... 6**
  - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OVERVIEW..... 6
  - KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS ..... 7
- RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT APPROACH ..... 8**
  - INFORMATION REPOSITORY ..... 8
  - FACT SHEETS ..... 9
  - NEWSLETTERS..... 9
  - PUBLIC NOTICES/OPEN HOUSES/PUBLIC MEETINGS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD..... 9
  - MEETING LOCATION ..... 9
  - MEDIA RELATIONS/FLYERS..... 9
  - SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT/ OUTREACH MEETINGS ..... 9
- ATTACHMENT 1: STAKEHOLDER DATABASE ..... 10**
  - ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS: ..... 11
- ATTACHMENT 2: MEDIA LIST ..... 12**

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# Site Description

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## Location

Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base is located in central Ohio, primarily in southern Franklin County with a small portion in northern Pickaway County, approximately 12 miles southeast of downtown Columbus, Ohio. The nearest population centers are Lockbourne, one-half mile west of the base; Ashville/South Bloomfield/Duvall, one and one-half miles to the south; and Groveport, three miles to the northeast. The closest metropolitan area is Columbus.

## *Adjacent Off-Base Land Use*

Land uses adjacent to the base are residential, agricultural, low-density industrial, institutional and commercial. Open agricultural land with some residential development lies north of the base. New warehouse space and related industrial development also occur north of the base. Along major roads east of the base is agricultural land and residential development. To the west is a railroad easement, the old Ohio Canal, and the Village of Lockbourne. The area south of the base is primarily cultivated farmland, several rural homesteads, single family homes and a mobile home park.

Most property directly adjacent to the base is owned by the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA). Remaining adjacent property to the northeast belongs to several owners and is primarily agricultural. Directly adjacent to the base on the north side of an existing rail spur is multi-family housing formerly occupied by base personnel. This housing has been purchased by a private developer and is being rented and sold. Areas adjacent to Columbus Regional Airport Authority property surrounding the base are primarily within unincorporated areas of Franklin and Pickaway Counties.

## *Topography*

At its largest, the former base covered more than 4,300 acres. It is located on a plateau separating the Big Walnut Creek and Walnut Creek drainage basins. Surface drainage from the base is controlled through an extensive storm drain network. This network includes corrugated metal and concrete drainage pipes and open drainage ditches. Surface water is muted through emergency interceptors before it is released into surrounding surface streams.

The area near the base ranges from flat to gently rolling hills with no mountains or large hills. Big Walnut Creek flows on the west side, and Walnut Creek flows on the east side of the base.

## History

The former Lockbourne AFB has been known by several names since it began as the Northwest Training Center of the Army Air Corps. In 1942, it was renamed for the nearby town of Lockbourne, Ohio, and became the Lockbourne Army Air Base. It was renamed Lockbourne Air Force Base in 1948 and was re-designated as the Rickenbacker Air Force Base in 1974, to honor Captain Edward V. Rickenbacker, a World War I hero.

The property was primarily used as a training base for B-17 and glider crews from 1942 to 1949. In 1951, the base became a Strategic Air Command Base and in 1965, a Tactical Air Command Base.

In 1980, the base was transferred to the Ohio Air National Guard and renamed the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. In 1984, 1,642.62 acres (of the original 4,371.07 acres) were conveyed to the Rickenbacker Port Authority (RPA), which renamed the site Rickenbacker International Airport (RIA) and established the passenger terminal. RPA merged with the Columbus Airport Authority in 2003, forming the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA), which currently owns and operates the RIA.

The RIA is comprised of a high speed logistics hub, an adjacent industrial park, and an on-site Foreign-Trade Zone. The airport specializes in air cargo and features parallel 12,000-foot runways and 500,000 square feet of cargo terminal space.

The Secretary of the Air Force announced the decision to realign Rickenbacker Air Force Base and to reduce the active duty mission at the installation in March 1978. In April 1980, Rickenbacker Air Force Base was transferred from Strategic Air Command to the Air National Guard and closed. The installation was then turned over to the Ohio Air National Guard. At that time, an organization known as Detachment 1, Ohio Air National Guard, was created to be the single manager for the military units stationed at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. The 121<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing (since renamed the 121st Fighter Wing), 160th Refueling Group, and 907th Tactical Aircraft Group were the major tenants.

In 1981, the 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing vacated, and its units were converted to the 907<sup>th</sup> Tactical Aircraft Group Air Force Reserve. The 356th Aerial Spray Squadron, under the 907th Tactical Aircraft Group, was responsible for aerial spraying missions at other bases around the country (pesticides used by the 356th Aerial Spray Squadron were not stored or transported at Rickenbacker, but were supplied by the base being sprayed). In January 1993, the 907th Airlift Group and the 356th Aerial Spray Squadron moved to the Youngstown Municipal Airport Air Force Reserve facility.

In April 1993, the 907th Airlift Group was relocated to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. In the fall of 1988, Detachment 1 was deactivated and the 121st Fighter Wing assumed host and single manager responsibilities under a sub-unit known as the 121st Consolidated Operating Support Group. The 121st Fighter Wing has been at Rickenbacker since 1949.

As part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1991, Rickenbacker ANGB was slated for full closure. This was amended as part of BRAC 1993, which stated that some Air National Guard activities would remain on the base when it closed in September 1994. The 121st Fighter Wing was re-designated the 121st Air Refueling Wing in 1993. In September of 1993, the 160th Air Refueling Group was deactivated and became part of the 121st Air Refueling Wing. The 121st Air Refueling Wing has remained at the base.

The BRAC portion of Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base is currently much different in size and shape than the original base. Most of the base boundary changes are fairly recent and stem from agreements with the CRAA, which has acquired large areas of the original base and additional areas as a result of the BRAC decisions. The final BRAC property transfer to the CRAA was completed in June 2007. In addition, the Army National Guard owns 124 acres and the Army Reserve owns 24 acres of land that was part of the original base. Today the active portion of Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base consists of approximately 164 acres owned by the Air Force and licensed to the state of Ohio for use as an Air National Guard facility. The major operations of Rickenbacker ANGB that have used and disposed of hazardous materials/wastes include aircraft maintenance, aerospace ground equipment maintenance, liquid fuels maintenance, transportation maintenance, transportation paint shop operations, power production, machine shop operations and flight simulation. The operation involves such activities as corrosion control, non-destructive inspection, fuel cell maintenance, engine maintenance and pneudraulics. Varying quantities of waste oils, recovered fuels, spent cleaners, strippers, solvents and other hazardous wastes were generated and disposed of by these activities.

The base was recommended for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in January 1994. NPL is the EPA's list of the most serious waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial response. The list is based, primarily, on the score a site receives on the Hazard Ranking System. Rickenbacker has not yet been included on the NPL due primarily to objections from the state of Ohio.

## **Environmental Actions**

The Air Force has been conducting its environmental restoration program at Rickenbacker ANGB since 1986. This program has been executed under the guidelines

of the Air Force's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) authority and the State of Ohio programs for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation (BUSTR).

In 2005, the Air Force awarded a Performance Based Remediation (PBR) contract to manage the remedial actions at five sites with active groundwater monitoring programs: Sites SS001, SS002, SS021, SS041, and SS042. Site 1 (SS001) is managed under the State RCRA program. In addition to the five sites with known groundwater contamination, there are 46 sites with land use controls that are included in the Five-Year Review Reports. Groundwater cleanup goals at Site 2 were met in 2008 to achieve the Response Complete milestone.

The first Five-Year Review report was signed by AFRPA/DR in March, 2008.

In 2011, the Air Force awarded a nine-year performance based contract to manage the environmental program and achieve site closure for all 51 sites at the BRAC portion of the Rickenbacker ANGB.

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# Community Background

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Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base is located in the southeast portion of Franklin County with a small portion in northern Pickaway County, approximately 12 miles southeast of downtown Columbus, Ohio. Most of the property directly adjacent to the base is owned by the CRAA and is in the unincorporated townships of Hamilton (pop. 8,260), Madison (pop. 23,509), and Harrison (5,253). The nearest towns are Lockbourne (pop. 237), one-half mile west of the base; Ashville (4,097), South Bloomfield (1,744), one and one-half miles to the south of the base; and Groveport (pop. 5,363), three miles to the northeast. The closest metropolitan area is Columbus (pop. 787,033), located approximately six miles to the north. Land use in the surrounding communities is primarily agricultural, residential and low-density industrial.

## Community Involvement Overview

Throughout the history of Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, base/community involvement has been positive. The base conducted tours of the facility for school and community groups, and every other year hosted an open house and air show. Though the officials at the base have always attempted to be responsive to community concerns, the community has had few issues concerning the base. Generally, the community has looked toward the base as a good neighbor, but there was little interaction between the base and the community. In 1980, Rickenbacker Air Force Base was transferred to the Air National Guard, and the base was realigned. In 1981 Citizens Opposed to Noise was formed to address the noise problem. A public meeting was held in Groveport. The citizens group and the base worked out a solution to the concerns. The noise problem is addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

In 1986, the citizens of the Village of Lockbourne were concerned that the base landfill, which closed in 1979, was leaking contaminants into the groundwater and contaminating the drinking water wells within the village. Water samples were obtained from the wells, and no evidence of contamination was noted. The village now gets its water from the Columbus Municipal Water System. This issue is still a concern to the Village of Lockbourne. The landfill is located on property now owned and operated by the CRAA, and is not being investigated under the Air Force Installation Restoration Program. This site is managed by the Army Corps of Engineers as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). A Record of Decision was signed in 2012 that specified waste consolidation, construction of a landfill cover system, long-term monitoring, and land use controls.

The Village of Lockbourne's city park is directly adjacent to the drainage ditch which is described as the off-base portion of Site 25. Water quality within this drainage feature

has been a concern to those citizens using the park. There is an emergency interceptor through which all the water in the ditch must pass before it enters Big Walnut Creek. Water quality in this ditch, as well as the sediments in the bottom of the ditch, were investigated as part of the Installation Restoration Program.

In the 1980s, an ammunition storage area located in the southern portion of the base was questioned by local residents. They feared nuclear arms may have been stored there. A radiological survey was conducted 6-10 February, 1995, to determine if there was any residual nuclear contamination in the munitions storage area. The field investigation revealed no evidence of residual nuclear contamination. All of these community concerns and issues have been or will be addressed.

The last Restoration Advisory Board was held in May 2005. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) was part of the last meeting in May 2005 and was to take over leadership of the RAB. This change reflects the greater involvement of the ACOE in the overall site investigation and clean-up while the Air Force remediation activity moves toward completion. The RAB has been inactive since 2005. The ACOE is reluctant to adjourn the RAB because they did not create it.

### **Key Community Concerns**

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) is an integral stakeholder for all processes. The network of communication, with the ANG, intermodal facility and airport operations, is complex but CRAA needs to be kept up to date on all proceedings. The CRAA wants most to understand and receive communication on the Air Force's schedule for Remediation, and how the remediation will affect the property reuse. They have found that email and phone updates have been effective. Their greatest concern is the speed and efficiency of the process. As new contractors are engaged to accomplish work on existing sites, it reduces institutional knowledge, extends the process and creates duplication of effort while the new contractors get "up to speed".

Community members who were interviewed stated a desire for better communication between ANG and the local community. The public involvement should focus on education with respect to base environmental activities.



# Recommended Community Involvement Approach

Given the current status of the clean-up efforts, strategies recommended for the BRAC portion of Rickenbacker ANGB include those appropriate for the Proposed Plan, Record of Decision, Remedial Design/Remedial Action, and Operation & Maintenance.

	Information Repository	Administrative Record	Fact Sheets	Newsletters	Open Houses, Poster Board Sessions, and Site Tours	Public Notices	News Releases/Media Relations	Neighborhood Notices/ Flyers	Public Meetings	Public Comment Period	Responsiveness Summary	Speaking Engagement/ Outreach Mites
<b>Proposed Plan (PP)</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Record of Decision (ROD)</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Remedial Design (RD)/ Remedial Action</b>	●	●	●	●	●		●					●
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance (O&amp;M)</b>	●	●		●		●	●			●	●	●
<b>Deletion from the National Priorities List</b>	●	●				●	●			●	●	●

For guidelines on each of these community relations strategies please see the main document. Base-specific recommendations are detailed below.

## Restoration Advisory Board (inactive)

The RAB has been inactive since 2005. The ACOE is reluctant to adjourn the RAB because they did not create it. Recommend increased contact with the ACOE and with the Air National Guard as sites are closed and land use controls are removed.

## Information Repository

The Information Repository is maintained online on the Administrative Record (AR) database.

The online AR database is available at <https://afarpaar.lackland.af.mil/ar/docsearch.aspx>

If possible, the Information Repositories and Administrative Record should be reviewed once a year to ensure contents are complete and current. Further, there should be a process in place to incorporate the names of interested individuals into the stakeholder mailing list. With regards to the Administrative Record, a Quick Start instruction sheet should be developed so new staff are aware of the AR, its contents, and how and when to incorporate new documents.

## **Fact Sheets**

Fact sheets should be developed on an as needed basis around specific topics of interest to the local community or to share information about a specific approach or technique being utilized during mitigation efforts. The first fact sheet should address the performance based remediation contracting approach and the accelerated site closure objectives. Other topics might include enhanced bioremediation or land use controls.

## **Newsletters**

A majority of those interviewed indicated a preference to receive quarterly information via an electronic (e-mailed) newsletter. Newsletters are a great way to push out information on a regular basis. The intent is to address pertinent environmental issues and to provide a status of technical milestones as needed.

## **Public Notices/Open Houses/Public Meetings/Public Comment Period**

Public notices should be published any time a public meeting or event is scheduled or in relation to a public comment period. Open houses and public meetings should be scheduled as needed and tied to specific decision-making points in the process. For example, input from the public could be solicited when considering alternative methods for mitigating contamination or if the USAF needs to modify a previously approved planned.

## **Meeting Location**

Based on the community interviews, stakeholders would prefer to meet locally at town halls in Lockbourne or Groveport, local schools, or at hotels near the base, with town halls being the most favored. Future meeting locations should reflect these recommendations.

## **Media Relations/Flyers**

These strategies are specifically useful for advertising upcoming meetings or events. An updated media list is attached for distribution purposes. Given that interviews identified a preference for electronic communications, flyers should be available in both a print and electronic format. The electronic version can be emailed to stakeholders and to community partners for further distribution. They can also be posted to social media sites to help reach a larger audience.

## **Speaking Engagement/ Outreach Meetings**

In cases where changes or impact are tied to a specific geographic area, rather than the entire community, it may be more appropriate to conduct one-on-one meetings or to present at meetings for existing organizations. This approach provides a low-cost option to target specific stakeholders.

# ATTACHMENT 1: Stakeholder Database

BRAC'ed Base	Senator	Congressman	Governor	President	City Council Members
BRAC portion of Rickenbacker ANGB	<p>Senator Sherrod Brown (D) 1301 East Ninth St., Suite 1710 Cleveland, OH, 44114 216-522-7272</p> <p>Senator Rob Portman (R) 1240 East 9th Street Room 3061 Cleveland, OH 44199 216-522-7095</p>	<p>Congressman Steve Austria (R-OH 7th) Lancaster District Office 207 S. Broad Street Lancaster, Ohio 43130 740-654-5149</p>	<p>Governor John Kasich Riffe Center, 30th Floor 77 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215-6117 614-466-3555</p>	<p>Andrew J. Ginther, President Columbus City Council 90 West Broad Street, 2nd Floor Columbus, OH 43215 614-645-2931</p>	<p>A. Troy Miller, President Pro Tem Columbus City Council 90 West Broad Street, 2nd Floor Columbus, OH 43215 614-645-2013</p> <p>Hearcel F. Craig 614-645-7379</p> <p>Zachary M. Klein 614-645-5346</p> <p>Michelle M. Mills 614-645-5344</p> <p>Eileen Y. Paley 614-645-2010</p> <p>Priscilla R. Tyson 614-645-2933</p>

### Additional Stakeholders:

Mr. Paul Kennedy  
Columbus Regional Airport Authority  
Phone: (614) 239-3347  
Email: [pkennedy@ColumbusAirports.com](mailto:pkennedy@ColumbusAirports.com)

Mr. Fred Myers, BRAC Cleanup Team Member  
Ohio EPA (Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization (DERR))  
Phone: (614) 728-3830  
Email: [fred.myers@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:fred.myers@epa.state.oh.us)

Mr. Chris Bulinski, BRAC Cleanup Team Member  
Ohio EPA (Division of Materials and Waste Management (DMWM))  
Phone: (614) 728-5036  
Email: [chris.bulinski@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:chris.bulinski@epa.state.oh.us)

Mr. Thomas Smith, BRAC Cleanup Team Member  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
Phone: (312) 886-6540  
Email: [smith.thomasl@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:smith.thomasl@epamail.epa.gov)

Ms. Carla M. Heck  
Army Corps of Engineers (Louisville District)  
Phone: Unavailable  
Email: [Carla.M.Heck@usace.army.mil](mailto:Carla.M.Heck@usace.army.mil)

Mr. Winston Crow  
ANG NGB/A7OR  
Phone: (301) 836-8155  
Email: [Winston.Crow@ang.af.mil](mailto:Winston.Crow@ang.af.mil)

Mr. Roger A. Jones, Environmental Manager  
121 ARW, Ohio Air National Guard  
(614) 492-4110  
Email: [Roger.Jones.4@us.af.mil](mailto:Roger.Jones.4@us.af.mil)

## ATTACHMENT 2: Media List

### Former Rickenbacker AFB

Radio Station	Phone	E-mail
WBNS 1460 AM / WBNS 97.1 FM	614-460-3850	www.1460thefan.com
WOSU AM 820 / FM 89.7	614-292-9678	www.wosu.org
WODB FM OLDIES 104.3	614-573-8400 x204	www.b1079.com
WCBE 90.5 FM	614-365-5555	www.wcbe.org
WCKX 107.5 FM / WXMG 98.9 FM / WJYD 106.3 FM	614-487-1444	www.power1075.com
WRFD 880 AM	614-848-3108	www.wrfd.com
WCVO 104.9 FM	614-855-9171	www.1049theriver.com
WTVN 610 AM / WZNW 1230 AM / WNCI 97.9 FM / WCOL 92.3 FM / WFJX 105.7 FM	614-487-2480	www.610wtvn.com / www.progressive1230.com / www.wnci.com/ www.wcol.com / www.1057thefox.com
WHOK 95.5 FM	614-229-3819	www.whok.com
WJZA 103.5 FM	614-889-1043	www.wjza.com
WSNY 94.7 FM	614-451-2191	www.sunny95.com
WLVQ 96.3 FM	614-227-9696	www.qfm96.com
WWCD 101.1 FM	614-221-9923	www.cd101.com
WMNI 920 AM / WBZX 99.7 FM / WEGE 103.9 FM	614-232-0289	www.wmni.com / www.wbzx.com / www.eagle1039.com

TV Station	Phone	E-mail
WBNS TV 10 – CBS	614-460-3758	www.10tv.com
WCMH TV 4 – NBC	614-263-5555	www.nbc4i.com
WOSU TV 34 – PBS	614-292-9678	www.wosu.org
WSYX TV 6 – ABC	614-481-6667	www.abc6onyourside.com
WTTE TV 28 – FOX	614-481-6659	www.myfox28columbus.com
ONN	614-280-3600	www.onnnews.com

Newspaper	Phone	E-mail
<i>Columbus Dispatch</i>	614-461-5000	www.dispatch.com
<i>Columbus Daily Reporter</i>	614-228-6397	www.sourcenews.com
<i>Columbus Business First</i>	614-461-4040	www.columbusbizjournals.com