



# WILLIAMS AFB ARIZONA

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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 1502

**Former Williams Air Force Base (AFB)  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)  
Meeting Minutes**

November 15, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Highland High School

4301 E. Guadalupe Rd.

Gilbert, AZ

**Attendees:**

<b>Ms. Michelle Lewis</b>	<b>Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE)/Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator (BEC)/Air Force Co-Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Len Fuchs</b>	<b>RAB Community Co-Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Andre Chiaradia</b>	<b>Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Remedial Project Manager</b>
<b>Mr. Don Atkinson</b>	<b>ADEQ</b>
<b>Ms. Beverly Selvage</b>	<b>RAB Member/Mesa</b>
<b>Mr. Dale Anderson</b>	<b>RAB Member/Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)</b>
<b>Mr. Tom Zuppan</b>	<b>RAB Member/Gilbert</b>
<b>Ms. Pat Tennant</b>	<b>RAB Member/Arizona State University (ASU)</b>
<b>Mr. Matt Fesko</b>	<b>RAB Member/ASU Student</b>
<b>Ms. Juliet Martinez</b>	<b>ASU Student</b>
<b>Mr. Glenn Stark</b>	<b>GRIC/DEQ Water Quality Manager</b>
<b>Ms. Diane Mathein</b>	<b>Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA)</b>
<b>Ms. Amber Cargile</b>	<b>Cargile Communications, LLC</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Sytsma</b>	<b>AFRPA Public Affairs</b>
<b>Mr. Scott Johnston</b>	<b>AFRPA Public Affairs</b>
<b>Ms. Elspeth Sharp</b>	<b>URS Corp. Project Manager</b>
<b>Mr. Steven Willis</b>	<b>URS Corp.</b>
<b>Mr. Jim Pastorick</b>	<b>UXO Pro</b>
<b>Ms. Janet Workman</b>	<b>URS Corp.</b>
<b>Mr. Troy Orender</b>	<b>U.S. Army Engineering &amp; Support Center-Huntsville (USAESCH)</b>
<b>Mr. Roger Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>USAESCH</b>
<b>Mr. Charles Helms</b>	<b>Booz Allen Hamilton</b>
<b>Mr. Frank Skocypec</b>	<b>CH2M</b>
<b>Mr. Everett Wessner</b>	<b>AMEC</b>
<b>Ms. Julie Hamilton</b>	<b>AMEC</b>

Mr. Fuchs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and RAB members and attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Fuchs introduced the RAB's Air Force Co-Chair, Ms. Michelle Lewis. The RAB approved the August 2011 meeting minutes without changes.

***Sites XU403 and XU403a MMRP response***

Ms. Lewis began the main presentation, which focused on Sites XU403 and XU403a, also known as the Parcel N Debris Area. These sites are part of the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP).

Mr. Willis reviewed the timeline of the munitions response at the site, beginning with the discovery of .50 caliber unfired shells in October 2003. After further confirmation of munitions debris at the site in 2007, the Air Force began a Phase 1 investigation at the site in 2009. The

Phase 1 investigation included a geophysical survey and visual site inspection. Various pieces of munitions debris (MD) were found on the ground. No digging occurred during this first phase investigation.

During the Phase 2 investigation, which began in July 2010, Mr. Willis said the site was designated part of the MMRP program when investigators discovered MD, munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and empty Chemical Agent Identification Set (CAIS) bottles.

The Parcel N MMRP site was formally designated Site XU403 and consisted of 37 acres. Of those 37 acres, 34 acres were cleared during the Phase 2 investigation and determined to require no further action. Three remaining acres, designated Site XU403a, were flagged for an additional (Phase 3) investigation.

During the Phase 3 investigation, Air Force contractors completed detector-aided visual clearance of the three-acre Site XU403a, including removal of MD and MEC from the surface. They also completed a grid-based, comprehensive geophysical survey of the site and had started identifying, removing and disposing of MEC below the soil surface. A map of the grid system used during the geophysical survey is on slide 11 of the attached presentation. The investigation yielded a lot of metallic material within a few feet below ground surface, including metal drums (one of which smelled of fuel inside); burnt .50 caliber shell casings, empty ammunition boxes, flares and other debris.

In order to clarify the terminology, Mr. Willis said MD is defined as remnants of munitions (e.g., fragments, shell casings) remaining after munitions use, demilitarization or disposal. MEC is an umbrella term that covers different specific categories of munitions that may pose unique explosives safety risk. It can include unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents, present in high enough concentrations to pose an explosive hazard. In the case of the MEC found at site XU403a, the items found were discarded munitions such as signal flares, and blasting caps as well as pieces of unburned solid rocket propellant. (Photos of this MEC are featured on Slide 18 of the attached slide presentation.) No unexploded ordnance has been found at the site.

Most notably, Mr. Willis said contractors also discovered an intact CAIS bottle with a small amount of black residue inside at Site XU403a. This discovery required the workers to suspend fieldwork at the site.

Mr. Willis said that CAIS bottles were 3.5-ounce bottles containing mustard agent used in decontamination training during World War II until the 1950s. Small amounts were put on military equipment such as vehicles as part of training efforts to teach military members how to decontaminate equipment. A photo of the intact CAIS bottle discovered at site XU403a is shown on slide 20 of the attached presentation.

The U.S. Army manages all chemical agent disposals in the United States, regardless of the size and scope of the discovery. As such, the Army's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Explosives (CBRNE) team responded to the site. Although only a tiny amount of residue appeared to be present in the CAIS bottle, the team nonetheless took all possible safety precautions. Following safety protocols, they erected a sealed safety tent at the site, destroyed the bottle and neutralized its contents. The entire unit was then shipped to a certified facility for disposal. Mr. Willis said air monitoring was conducted during the operation for safety surety and there was no chemical release to the environment during the process.

Mr. Willis noted that all MEC discovered at the site was turned over to the City of Mesa Police Department's bomb squad for disposal. Following standard protocol, all MD at the site was shipped to a certified vendor for disposal.

During the Phase 3 investigation, in addition to MD and MEC discovery, more than 900 artifacts were collected at the site. Mr. Willis said these artifacts include pottery sherds, flaked stone, glass and ceramic, which will be curated at the Pablo Grande Museum.

Most notably, more than 55 cremated human bone fragments were also found at the site. All but one of the bones was found on the ground surface, with no evidence of in-place burial. Mr. Willis said an archaeologist monitored the cultural resource recovery and handling at the site throughout the investigation. The archaeologist performed a nondestructive osteological analysis on the bone fragments, confirming they are human. The Air Force consulted with the Gila River Indian Community and other potentially affiliated tribes. Mr. Willis said all handling of bone fragments is being conducted in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and a report is being written for the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office.

Mr. Willis said Site XU403a is surrounded by a fence marked with warning signs in English and Spanish. Additionally, there is a security fence around all of Parcel N, marked with "No Trespassing" signs. He said all soil stockpiles from pit excavations as well as the Grid B2/B3 excavation area are covered with plastic.

The next steps at the site, said Mr. Willis, are to prepare a Phase 3 Investigation report and to proceed with the next phase of site cleanup. He said that since the discovery of the intact CAIS bottle requires that the Army oversee cleanup, the remainder of MMRP work on the site will be performed under a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contract. This work will not only include continued investigation and removal of any remaining CAIS bottles, MD, and MEC at the site, but will also include follow-up sampling at the site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), which is more commonly known as the Superfund law. Mr. Willis said he anticipates the contract will be awarded in early 2012 with cleanup commencing shortly thereafter.

Mr. Anderson said he would like to thank the Air Force for notifying Gila River Indian Community about the discovery and inviting them to the site during the response. He said when he was on site, he noticed that one metal drum pulled from the site had a chemical marking and he wondered if the Air Force planned to do any additional investigation. Ms. Lewis said the cleanup team thinks the drums were used as disposal containers to burn the munitions items. Ms. Sharp added that she saw photos of the drum and its markings, but that there were no other markings or indication that it, or other drums, contained chemicals.

Mr. Anderson said that perchlorates are found at a lot of MMRP sites and he wondered if the Air Force would test for perchlorates during the next round of groundwater sampling. Ms. Lewis said the Air Force will sample soils and, depending on the results, decide whether to test groundwater. If there are no perchlorates present in the site's soils, then it is very unlikely they would be found in groundwater, she said, since they would have to migrate through soils to get to groundwater. Mr. Anderson asked if it's possible to sample soils for perchlorates. Mr. Atkinson said perchlorates are very soluble, so they are hard to find in soils. Mr. Anderson said Gila River Indian Community would like the Air Force to consider testing for perchlorates. He also asked if, when clean up is complete and the issues are still fresh on everyone's minds, if the cleanup experts could provide a summary of precautions that future site users should take regarding construction or excavation on the site. Ms. Lewis said that the Air Force will take

that as an action item to consider based on the findings at the site, but she noted that any information or site restrictions will be included in any deed restrictions on the site.

#### ***Site LF004 (Landfill) off-site well installation***

Next, Ms. Lewis provided an update on the installation of nine off-site monitoring wells south of Site LF004, the old base landfill. The wells will be placed in four locations noted on the map found on slide 25 of the attached slide presentation. Ms. Lewis said Air Force Real Property Agency will be working with the City of Mesa to obtain the appropriate access to easements to install the wells.

Mr. Zuppan asked if the blue arrow on the map on slide 25 depicts the direction of groundwater at Site LF004 and, if so, has it shifted in direction. Ms. Lewis said it does depict the groundwater flow, but it has not shifted; it has always flowed in a southeasterly direction at the site.

Mr. Stark asked what the rationale is for placing the wells so far south from the site. Ms. Lewis said the Air Force is accessing easements instead of gaining private property access to place the wells. Second, she added that the Air Force is trying to verify, based on site modeling, that the edge of the plume does not extend that far south. She said the Air Force can always step in and test closer to the site if needed. She added that the levels of trichlorethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) at the site are extremely low and the Air Force is hoping that by treating the source they will further eliminate it. She said the Air Force has bounded the plume to the east and this is really an effort to bound the plume to the south by confirming the plume does not extend as far south as the test wells.

Mr. Fesko asked why only Parcel N was briefed tonight. Mr. Fuchs said that was the main focus of cleanup efforts since the August RAB meeting.

#### ***Meeting Wrap-up***

That concluded the information portion of the evening. Ms. Cargile noted one action item taken during the meeting, to note Gila River Indian Community's request that a summary be provided regarding future use of the Parcel N Debris Area. Additionally, she noted one carryover action item from the August meeting, to provide information on the treatability and risk evaluation done for site FT002 when the Air Force next updates that site to the RAB.

Mr. Fuchs noted that Ms. Cargile is resigning from her position as Williams RAB coordinator, as she has accepted another professional opportunity. He thanked her for more than eight years of contract support to the RAB. Ms. Cargile thanked RAB members for their professionalism, community service and dedication to the cleanup and redevelopment of Williams. She introduced Mr. Scott Johnston as the new RAB coordinator. Mr. Johnston can be reached at (916)-878-9622 or at [sjohnston@napkincomm.com](mailto:sjohnston@napkincomm.com) for future RAB questions and concerns.

No other topics were suggested for the next meeting. Ms. Lewis thanked the RAB for attending. Mr. Fuchs adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m. The next Williams RAB meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at Highland High School.

Attachments:

Nov 2011 RAB meeting slide presentation

# ***Headquarters U.S. Air Force***

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## **Former Williams AFB Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)**



November 15, 2011

Highland High School  
4301 E. Guadalupe Rd.  
Gilbert, AZ

# ***Headquarters U.S. Air Force***

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## **Welcome & Introductions**

Presented by:  
Ms. Michelle Lewis/Mr. Len Fuchs,  
RAB Community Co-Chairs



## Welcome & Introductions

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- Mr. Len Fuchs, RAB Community Co-Chair
- Ms. Michelle Lewis, Air Force Center for Engineering & the Environment (AFCEE), PM/BEC and RAB Co-Chair
- Ms. Carolyn d'Almeida, Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
- Mr. Andre Chiaradia, Project Manager, ADEQ





# Agenda

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<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
7:00 p.m.	<b>RAB meeting convenes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and introductions</li><li>• Community co-chair remarks</li><li>• Review August 2011 meeting minutes and action items</li></ul>	<b>Ms. Michelle Lewis Mr. Len Fuchs Ms. Amber Cargile</b>
7:15 p.m.	<b>Program updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental updates</li></ul>	<b>Ms. Michelle Lewis Mr. Steven Willis</b>
8:30 p.m.	<b>Meeting wrap-up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review action items for next meeting</li><li>• Call for agenda items for next meeting</li><li>• Propose next RAB meeting date: <b>Feb 21, 2012</b></li></ul>	<b>Ms. Michelle Lewis Mr. Len Fuchs Ms. Amber Cargile</b>
9:00 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Ms. Michelle Lewis Mr. Len Fuchs</b>



## Minutes and Action Items

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- Review August 2011 RAB meeting minutes
- Action Items from August 2011 RAB meeting

Presented by:  
Ms. Amber Cargile  
Cargile Communications

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## **Environmental Updates: Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a)**



Presented by:  
Ms. Michelle Lewis, AFCEE  
Mr. Steven Willis, URS Corp



## **Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403) SI/MEC Clearance**

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- .50-cal un-fired shells discovered in Oct 2003 by ADEQ.
  - AFCEE and URS performed site walk in Aug 2007 and confirmed presence of munitions debris on the ground at PNDA.
  - Phase I Investigation (Jan 2009): included a geophysical survey and visual site inspection. Various munitions debris discovered on ground. Phase I did not include intrusive actions.
  - Phase II Investigation (Jul 2010): discovered munitions debris, small amounts of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), empty Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS) bottles; and installed security fence and safety signs.
    - 37 acres designated as Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) site XU403.
    - 34 acres were cleared and determined to need no further action.
    - 3 acres were designated as XU403a and identified for additional investigation.
  - Phase III Investigation (Jul 2011): MEC removal for XU403a; work suspended due to discovery of intact CAIS bottle with residue.
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## **Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) SI/MEC Clearance**

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### ■ Phase III

- Completed detector-aided visual surface clearance over XU403a (see site map next slide).
  - Removed munitions debris and MEC from surface.
  - Removed metallic debris that would interfere with subsurface geophysical survey.
- Completed comprehensive grid-based geophysical survey.
- Began subsurface MEC identification, removal, and disposal.
- Fieldwork suspended after discovery of intact CAIS bottle with residue.
- Army's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives (CBRNE) team destroyed CAIS bottle and contents.



## Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) *SI/MEC Clearance Site Map*



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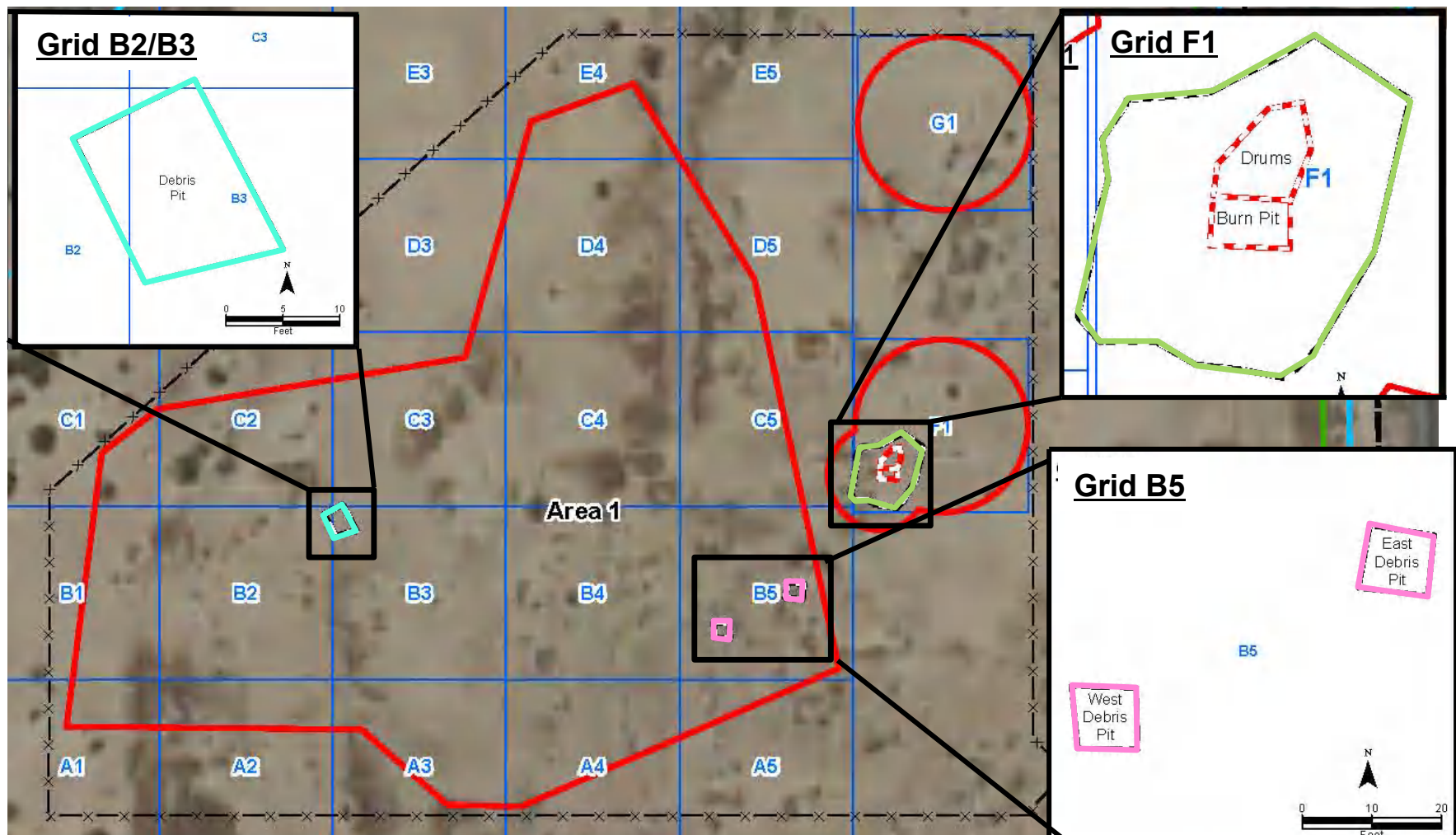
## **Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) SI/MEC Clearance**

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- Phase III (continued)
  - MEC turned over to the City of Mesa Police Department bomb squad.
  - All remaining metallic debris inspected and certified as safe.
  - Munitions debris shipped to certified vendor for disposal.
  - Cultural resources:
    - Completed field monitoring.
    - Preparing cultural resource report for State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
    - Preparing artifacts for curation.
  - Preparing project report.



## Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) Debris Pits







## **Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) SI/MEC Clearance**

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- **Burn Pit – Grid # F1 (15' x 15' x 3')**
  - Geophysical survey identified high concentration of buried metallic material.
  - Excavation identified multiple metal drums.
    - A fuel odor was observed from a deteriorated drum.
    - Low levels of hydrocarbons (approximately 5 ppm) were confirmed using a photoionization detector (PID).
  - Further excavation identified evidence of burning, .50-caliber munitions debris, empty ammunition boxes, flares, and other debris.
  - Excavation suspended prior to completion due to CAIS bottle discovery in Grid B2/B3 debris pit.
  - Open pit backfilled with clean soil to ensure safety.



## Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) *SI/MEC Clearance (Photos)*

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**Grid # F1 pit excavation**



**Excavated debris piled on plastic**



## **Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) SI/MEC Clearance (Photos)**

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**Grid F1 Burn Pit - Ammo Box walls**



**Ammo Box in Grid # F1**



**Steel Sheeting (One Wall in Pit)**



## **Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) *SI/MEC Clearance***

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- Debris Pits – Grid # B5 (West Pit: 8' x 6' x 1.5' & East Pit: 6' x 3' x 2')
  - Geophysical survey identified two areas with high concentrations of buried metallic material.
  - Excavation identified burned .50-caliber munitions debris.
  - Excavation completed and open pits backfilled with clean soil.





## **Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) *SI/MEC Clearance (Photos)***

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**.50-caliber munitions debris  
concentrated in Grid B5 pit**



**Munitions debris removed from Grid B5 pit**



## Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) *SI/MEC Clearance (Photos)*



**Four drums (2,329 lbs) of munitions  
debris removed from the site**



**Munitions debris identified in Phase III**

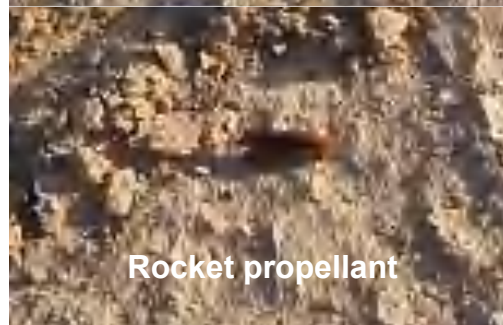


## Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) *SI/MEC Clearance*

- MEC Discoveries
  - Four blasting caps.
  - Various pieces of solid rocket propellant.
  - 14 signal flares.
  - All MEC turned over to the City of Mesa Police Department bomb squad.



Blasting cap



Rocket propellant



MEC items turned over to  
Mesa PD Bomb Squad



Signal flares



Signal flares



## **Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a) SI/MEC Clearance**

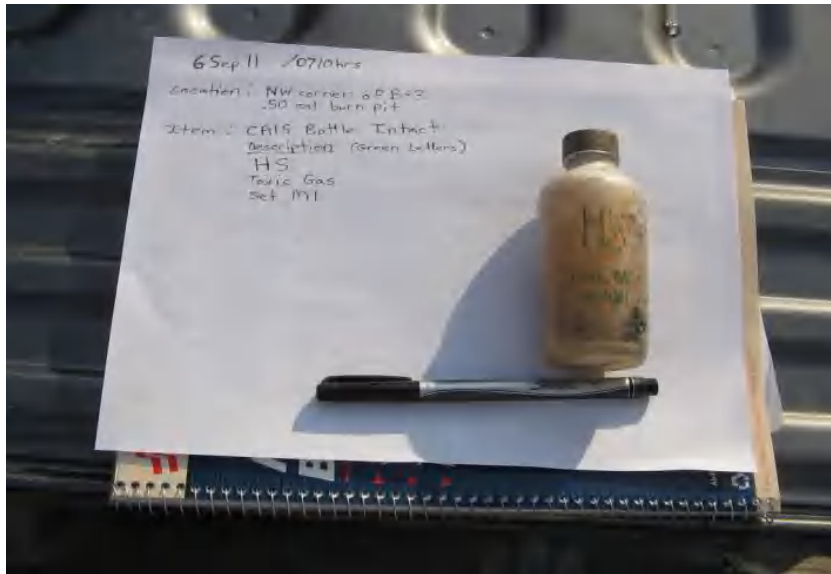
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- Debris Pit – Grid # B2/B3 (10' x 10' x 1')
    - Geophysical survey identified high concentration of buried metallic material.
    - Excavation identified burned .50-caliber munitions debris.
    - Intact CAIS bottle with cap containing residue discovered.
      - CAIS kits used from World War II to late 1950s for training.
      - 3.5 ounce bottles contained mustard agent used in decontamination training.
      - US Army manages all chemical agent disposal.
        - Army's CBRNE team destroyed bottle and neutralized contents using self contained unit.
        - Entire unit shipped to certified facility for incineration.
    - Air monitoring conducted during operations - no releases to environment occurred.
    - Excavation suspended and pit covered with plastic without backfilling.
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## Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a)



**Recovered CAIS bottle**



**Structure erected to conduct operations**



## Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a)

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### ■ Cultural Resources

- Cultural resources monitoring conducted during investigation.
- Approximately 55 bone fragments identified as cremated human bone.
  - Nondestructive osteological analysis completed.
  - All but one were located on the ground surface.
  - No evidence of in place burial.
  - Gila River Indian Community and other potentially affiliated tribes consulted.
  - All handling of bone fragments is being conducted in accordance Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- Over 900 artifacts collected including pottery sherds, flaked stone, possible ground stone, unidentifiable animal bone fragments, glass, and ceramic. Artifacts will be curated at the Pueblo Grande Museum.



## Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a)

### ■ Current Site Conditions

- Pre-existing security fence around Parcel N.
- Secondary fence installed around XU403a.
- Danger signs (English and Spanish) installed on secondary fence.
- Soil stockpiles from pit excavations covered with plastic.
- Grid B2/B3 excavation covered with plastic.





## **Parcel N Debris Area (MMRP Site XU403a)**

### ***Follow-On Actions***

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#### ■ Future Activities

- Prepare Phase III project report
- Future activities under Army Corps of Engineers contract
  - Prepare Chemical Safety Submission
  - Prepare Work Plan
  - Continue munitions debris and MEC investigation/removal
  - Conduct CERCLA sampling
  - Prepare project report

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## **Environmental Updates: LF004 Off-Site Well Installation**

Presented by:  
Ms. Michelle Lewis  
AFCEE

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## LF004 Off-Site Well Installation



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## **Public Affairs Transition**



Presented by:  
Amber Cargile, Cargile Communications



## Public Affairs Transition

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- Amber Cargile resigning
- New community coordinator Scott Johnston
  - Phone: 916-878-9622
  - E-mail: [sjohnston@napkincomm.com](mailto:sjohnston@napkincomm.com)



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## **Meeting Wrap-Up**



Presented by:  
Ms. Michelle Lewis/Mr. Len Fuchs,  
RAB Community Co-Chairs  
and Amber Cargile, Cargile Communications



## Meeting Wrap-Up

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- Review Action Items
- Call for agenda items for next RAB meeting
- Schedule next RAB meeting
  - Proposed date February 21, 2012
- Meeting adjourned

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## **Meeting Adjourned**



**FINAL PAGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

**FINAL PAGE**