

FORMER LORING AIR FORCE BASE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

Appendix I



U.S. AIR FORCE

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Site Description

Location

Former Loring Air Force Base (AFB) is located in Aroostook County, at the northeastern tip of Maine. The base occupies 8,704 acres in the lower Aroostook River Basin. It lies approximately two miles northwest of the town of Limestone, eight miles northeast of Caribou, five miles west of the Canadian border at New Brunswick, Canada, and 410 miles north of Boston. The townships of Caswell and Connor border the base on the north and northwest, respectively. Land surrounding the base is primarily rural and agricultural.

Topography

The topography of the former base is gently rolling, with several brooks running through the terrain. The main base elevations range from 746 feet above mean sea level on the main runway to approximately 570 feet above mean sea level on the southwestern portion of the base. The climate in the area is a severe continental type, with frigid winters and cool summers. July is the hottest month of the year with an average daily maximum temperature of 76 degrees. The coldest month is January with an average minimum daily temperature of 0 degrees. Average annual precipitation is over 36 inches, which primarily occurs in summer and autumn. Snowfall averages 120 inches per season.

Limestone and Caribou are partially served by public water supplies, while Caswell and Connor rely on private wells. Limestone has designated Durepo Reservoir as a secondary water supply — and it is regularly used as a source of water. Some crops, mainly potatoes, may be irrigated with groundwater.

History

In 1946, the Strategic Air Command developed a plan for a global air force. The plan called for the Limestone Air Force Base to be built at the northeastern tip of the United States. The base became active in 1953 with the 42nd Bombardment Wing in residence. Renamed Loring Air Force Base in 1954, the base became the home to a series of state-of-the-art bombers and support aircraft. In 1955, the 42nd Air Refueling Squadron was activated. Starting in 1981, substantial renovations were made to the base, including the addition of a second runway. Base improvements continued through 1991 with the completion of a renovated alert facility, a new medical center, and a new maintenance facility and upgraded aircraft refueling.

Loring AFB was officially deactivated on September 30, 1994. Upon closure, responsibility for environmental cleanup at the base transferred to the Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA), now the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA).

Environmental Actions

Environmental actions and progress are broken down by those included in the 2006 BMP and each BMP update. These actions are summarized in the table at the end of this section.

Environmental Actions 2006 BMP

The objective of the BMP was to include the remaining 16 IRP and nine EC-CR sites with ongoing long term management or remedial action in a regional Performance-Based Remediation (PBR) contract to manage liabilities.

Environmental Actions 2007 BMP Update

The Installation was included in the North/East PBR contract. The environmental requirements are currently being addressed under a PBC that will expire on December 2011. The follow-on PBR has been awarded and will expire on June 30, 2020.

In May 2009 the Air Force entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Loring Development Authority of Maine for assuring a Long-Term Alternate Water Supply. This MOA transfers responsibility for this liability under the Operable Unit (OU) 12 ROD to the Loring Development Authority.

Environmental Actions 2010 BMP Update

The performance based agreement to develop and supply a long term viable water supply has been negotiated and implemented. The Loring program remains on track to execute a follow-on PBC at the end of the current contract which expires in Dec 2011. It is recommended that an objective for FY10 be included that states the BRAC Cleanup Team work to determine if modifications to the OU13 fishing advisory can be achieved. Data reported this spring from OU13 fish tissue sampling suggests improvements in polychlorinated biphenyl concentrations in fish sampled from the Little Madawaska River. If the Maine Department of Health concurs, the fishing advisory could be modified.

Environmental Actions 2011 BMP Update

PBR contract awarded 24 Jun 2011 with site closure as a primary objective. Baseline review of Compliance sites is underway. Options for addressing these sites will be included in the 2012 BMP update.

Completed Actions			
2006 BMP	2007 Update	2010 Update	2011 Update
Develop and award performance based agreement to develop a long-term viable water supply solution		Completed. Awarded performance based agreement to develop solution in FY09	
Aggressively negotiated optimization of the OU12 groundwater monitoring program to reduce the scope over the long-term	Completed in FY07		
Negotiate the payout for the establishment of a long-term viable water supply for the Loring Commerce Center		Completed in FY09	
In Progress Actions			
2006 BMP	2007 Update	2010 Update	2011 Update
Prepare a new regional or national PBR contract, which groups the remaining environmental contracts with other bases that have similar requirements		Include Loring in the Loring/Pease PBR contract. Moved to FY11	Completed in FY11. Loring in the Loring/Pease PBR contract through FY20
Engage the BCT to assess the potential to modify the OU13 fishing advisory on the Little Madawaska River		Prepare assessment	Complete baseline review of Compliance Sites

Community Background

Over the past four decades, Aroostook County's population has declined by approximately 30%. 2010 Census figures showed a population of 71,870. Studies indicate that the county's population growth during the 1950's was due to the establishment of Loring AFB, masking a pattern of outmigration that had already begun during that decade.

According to 2011 estimates, the population of Presque Isle was reportedly 9,692; Caribou listed 8,189 residents; and Limestone, the town nearest the base, slightly over 1,200 residents, which is a 26% decrease since the 2000 Census. In large part due to the closing of Loring AFB, Limestone estimates its 1995 population at approximately 2,000 to 2,500 residents, a population decrease of over 50%.

Community Involvement Overview

1970's - The Save Loring Committee was created in the 1970's when it was suspected that Loring would be closed. It was rejuvenated in 1990-91 when it seemed possible Loring would be on the list of bases to be permanently closed. The Save Loring Committee continued their efforts to keep the facility opened, even bringing a law suit against the government. Their efforts were unsuccessful and the group is no longer active. The committee worked closely with the communities and the Air Force throughout the BRAC hearings, until the legal action was dismissed.

1984 - Loring record search completed. 19 sites identified.

1988 - Remedial Investigation began.

1988-89 - Environmental Protection Meetings held at Loring.

1989 - Air Force established Technical Review Committee, a precursor to the current Restoration Advisory Board. Membership included the Wing and Base Commanders, environmental staff, regulators and about six area residents. This committee began meeting in May 1990 and met quarterly until it was replaced by the RAB.

Recommended Community Involvement Approach

Given the limited activity and substantial completion of clean-up efforts at this base, community involvement should be handled on a case-by-case basis. A majority of the public interest is expected to be isolated phone calls asking about a specific issue. Generally, these types of inquiries should be handled and documented by the BEC utilizing the following process.

This process will be initiated when a stakeholder contacts the BEC with a request for information. The request can be via phone call, mail, or electronic mail.

The BEC documents the request for information and pulls together the information necessary to respond. The response should also be carefully documented (Date/Time/Response/SH Name/Contact Information) and entered into the Administrative Record.

If the stakeholder is satisfied with the response, no further action is required. If the stakeholder still has questions or needs additional information, the BEC will schedule a meeting with the interested stakeholder to provide further detail. This meeting should also be documented and entered into the Administrative Record.

In some instances, a concern raised by a single individual may actually raise a point or issue that affects a larger population. In those instances, the BEC may choose to elevate the issue and implement other outreach techniques. The following table outlines various recommended techniques, tips for success, and pros/cons that can be used to determine which technique is most appropriate for a given situation.

Techniques	Tips for Success	Pros	Cons
Restoration Advisory Board	Define roles and responsibilities up front	Provides for detailed analyses for clean-up issues	General public may not embrace committee's recommendations
	Be forthcoming with information	Participants gain understanding of other perspectives, leading toward compromise	Members may not achieve consensus
	Use a consistently credible process		Time and labor intensive

Techniques	Tips for Success	Pros	Cons
	<p>Interview potential committee members in person before selection</p> <p>Use third-party facilitation</p>		
Information Repository	<p>Make sure personnel at location know where materials are kept</p> <p>Keep a list of repository items</p> <p>Track usage through a sign-in sheet</p>	<p>Relevant information is accessible to the public without incurring the costs or complications of tracking multiple copies sent to different people</p> <p>Can set up visible distribution centers for project information</p>	<p>Information repositories are often not well used by the public</p>
Fact Sheets/Newsletters/ Neighborhood Notices and Flyers	<p>KISS! Keep It Short and Simple</p> <p>Make it visually interesting but avoid a slick sales look</p> <p>Be sure to explain public role and how public comments have affected decisions</p> <p>Q&A format works well</p>	<p>Can reach large target audience</p> <p>Allows for technical and legal reviews</p> <p>Facilitates documentation of public involvement process</p>	<p>Only as good as the mailing list/ distribution network</p> <p>Limited capability to communicate complicated concepts</p> <p>No guarantee materials will be read</p>
Open Houses, Poster Board Sessions and Site Tours	<p>Someone should explain format at the door</p> <p>Have each participant fill out a comment card to document their participation</p> <p>Be prepared for a crowd all at once – develop a contingency plan</p> <p>Set up several stations so multiple people can view at once</p>	<p>Foster small group or one-on-one communications</p> <p>Ability to draw on other team members to answer difficult questions</p> <p>Builds credibility</p>	<p>Difficult to document public input</p> <p>Agitators may stage themselves at each display</p> <p>Usually more staff intensive than a meeting</p>
Public Notices	<p>Figure out the best days and best sections of the</p>	<p>Potentially reaches broad public</p>	<p>Expensive, especially in urban areas</p>

Techniques	Tips for Success	Pros	Cons
	<p>paper to reach intended audience</p> <p>Avoid rarely read notice sections</p>		<p>Allows for relatively limited amount of information</p>
Media Relations	<p>Fax or e-mail press releases or media kits</p> <p>Foster a relationship with editorial board and reporters</p>	<p>Informs the media of project milestones</p> <p>Press release language is often used directly in articles</p> <p>Opportunity for technical and legal reviews</p>	<p>Low media response rate</p> <p>Frequent poor placement of press release within newspapers</p>
Public Meeting	<p>Set up the meeting to be as welcoming and receptive as possible to ideas and opinions and to increase interaction between technical staff and the public</p> <p>Review all materials and presentation ahead of time</p>	<p>Participants here relevant information and have an open opportunity to ask questions and comment</p> <p>People learn more by hearing other's questions and comments</p> <p>Legal requirements are met</p>	<p>There is a potential for the meeting to escalate out of control because emotions are high</p> <p>It is challenging for facilitators to establish an open and neutral environment for all views to be shared</p>
Responsiveness Summaries	<p>May be used to comply with legal requirements for comment documentation</p> <p>Use publicly and openly to announce and show how all comments were addressed</p>	<p>Responsiveness summaries can be an effective way to demonstrate how public comments are addressed in the decision process</p>	<p>With a large public, the process of response documentation can get unwieldy</p>
Website	<p>A good home page is critical</p> <p>Each Web page must be independent</p>	<p>Reaches across distances</p> <p>Makes information accessible anywhere at any time</p>	<p>Users may not have easy access to the Internet or knowledge of how to use computers</p> <p>Large files or graphics can</p>

Techniques	Tips for Success	Pros	Cons
	Put critical information at the top of the page	Saves printing and mailing costs	take a long time to download
	Use headings, bulleted and numbered lists to steer user		
Speaking Engagements/ Outreach Meetings	Understand who the likely audience will be	Opportunity to get on the agenda	May be too selective and can leave important groups out
	Make opportunities for one-on-one meetings	Provides opportunity for in-depth information exchange in non-threatening environment	

Source: International Association of Public Participation. "Public Participation Toolbox," 2006.

Recommended Community Relations for Various Phases of Clean-Up Activities

The EPA provides guidance on how and when to involve the community in the environmental clean-up process. While very few activities are specifically prescribed by the letter of the law, the EPA has repeatedly made it clear that the intent of the law was to "provide every opportunity for residents of affected communities to become active participants in the process and to have a say in the decisions that affect their community."

The Air Force adopts the intent of the law and is committed to go above and beyond the letter of the law at each of the former eastern BRAC bases. The following table outlines the activities recommended by the EPA at various steps in the process. ***If an issue needs to be elevated***, the BEC can use this table as a tool to determine the most appropriate course of action given the issue raised. Additionally, AFRPA strategic communications staff can help ensure that the information is presented in easy to understand terms and that technical terminology is clearly and concisely communicated.

	Restoration Advisory Board	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	Website	Speaking Engagement/Outreach Mtgs
Preliminary Assessment/ Site Investigation			●	●		●	●	●	●					
Listing on the National Priorities List			●				●	●			●	●		
The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)	●		●	●	●	●							●	●
Proposed Plan (PP)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Record of Decision (ROD)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Remedial Design (RD)/ Remedial Action	●	●	●	●	●	●		●					●	●
Operation & Maintenance (O&M)	●	●	●		●		●	●			●	●	●	●
Deletion from the National Priorities List	●	●	●				●	●			●	●	●	●

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Superfund Community Involvement Handbook," 2005.

If a site is reopened as a result of the Air Force Accelerated Site Completion Program, community relations will need to be conducted for the appropriate phase as shown in the table above. For a more detailed description of each of the community relations strategy, please see the main document.

Administrative Record

The Administrative Record for this base can be found at <https://afarpaar.lackland.af.mil/ar/docsearch.aspx>. It includes historical documents and findings related to environmental clean-up activities.

ATTACHMENT 1: Stakeholder Database

BRAC'ed Base	Senator	Congressman	Governor	Town Government	City Council Members
Former Loring AFB	<p>Susan Collins (R) One Canal Plaza, Suite 802 Portland, ME 04101 Phone: (207) 780-3575</p> <p>Kevin Kelley Phone: (202) 224-2523 kevin_kelley@collins.senate.gov</p> <p>Olympia Snowe (R) 3 Canal Plaza, Suite 601 Portland, Maine 04101 Phone: (207) 874-0883</p> <p>Brandon Bouchard Phone: (202) 224-5344 brandon_bouchard@snowe.senate.gov</p>	<p>Michael Michaud 179 Lisbon Street Lewiston, ME 04240 Phone: (207) 782-3704</p> <p>Ed Gilman Phone: (202) 225-6306 ed.gilman@mail.house.gov</p>	<p>Paul LePage #1 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0001 Phone: (207) 287-3531</p> <p>Adrienne Bennett adrienne.bennett@maine.gov</p>	<p>Town Manager Donna M. Bernier Town Office 93 Main St. Limestone, ME 04750 (207)325-4704 tmanager@limestonemaine.org</p>	<p>Ward 3: Patrick E. Paradis Phone: (207) 623-9482 patrick.paradis@augustamaine.gov</p>

Additional Stakeholders

- Loring Development Authority
 Carl Flora / President and CEO
 154 Development Drive, Suite F
 Limestone, ME 04750
 (207) 328-7005
cflora@loring.org

Frank Bemis / Presque Isle
Chairman of the Board

ATTACHMENT 2: Media List

Loring AFB Limestone, ME - Brac 1991

Radio Station	POC	Position	Phone	E-mail
WQHR 96.1 FM	Mark Shaw	Operations Manager	(207) 769-6600	mark.shaw@cumulus.com
WBPW 96.9 FM	Mark Shaw	Operations Manager	(207) 769-6600	mark.shaw@cumulus.com
WCXU 97.7 FM	Douglas Christensen	News Director	(800) 660-9298	channelxradio@yahoo.com
WOZI 101.9 FM	Mark Shaw	Operations Manager	(207) 769-6600	mark.shaw@cumulus.com
WMEM 106.1 FM		Newsroom	(207) 941-1010	radionews@mpbn.net
WEGP 1390 AM	Pat Patterson	Chief Operations	(207) 762-6700	pat@wegp.net

TV Station	POC	Position	Phone	E-mail
WLBZ/NBC		Community Relations Office	(207) 942-4821	communityrelations@wlbz2.com
WLBZ/NBC		News Desk	(207) 942-4821	newscenter@wlbz2.com
WMEM/PBS		News Desk	(800) 884-1717	kshortall@mpbn.net
WVII/ABC	Brian Chalifour	Assignment Editor	(207) 945-6457	tv7news@wvii.com
WAGMDT/FOX8		News Desk	(207) 764 4461	news@wagmtv.com

Newspaper	POC	Position	Phone	E-mail
The Star Herald		Newsroom Staff	(207) 768-5431	starherald@nepublish.com
St. John Valley Times	Tory Bonenfant	News Editor	(207) 728-3336	tory.bonenfant@sjvalley-times.com
Aroostook Republican		Newsroom Staff	(207) 496-3251	republican@nepublish.com