

**FINAL**

**Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting  
September 6, 2023**

**1. Call to Order**

The Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant (RVAAP) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting (Site Tour) for the Installation Restoration Program was called to order by Ms. Sarah Lock (Paris Township), Community Co-Chair, at 5:06 p.m. Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center (CJAG), Building 1037, 8451 State Route 5, Ravenna OH 44266.

Of the current 23 RAB members, the meeting attendance was recorded as 10 RAB members present, 2 excused absences and 11 unexcused absences.

After attendance was taken, Ms. Lock inquired if enough RAB members were present for a quorum. The 10 RAB members present were not enough for a quorum.

Ms. Katie Tait (Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG)) introduced the following visitors:

- Ms. Heidi Griesmer, Ohio National Guard Deputy Director of Communication, Public Affairs Office
- Ms. Nicole Walworth, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Mr. Travis McCoun, USACE
- Ms. Megan Oravec, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)
- Mr. Nicholas Roope, Ohio EPA

Ms. Lock thanked the visitors for attending.

Mr. Kevin Palombo (Ohio EPA) announced that he was retiring, and this would be his last RAB meeting. He thanked everyone and gave his best wishes for continued success for the RAB. His replacement at the next RAB meeting will be Nicholas Roope (Ohio EPA). Ms. Lock thanked him for his contribution and wished him well on his upcoming retirement.

**2. RAB Member Site Tour**

Those present visited the following sites:

- Open Demolition Area 2 – Remedial Investigation Field Work Update
- Group 8 Munitions Response Site – Remedial Action Field Work Update
- New Monitoring Well Installation Update near Load Line 1.

At the conclusion of the site tour, the RAB returned to Building 1037.

To request materials handed out during the Site Tour, please contact the RVAAP RAB Administrator at (330) 872-4107, [angela.cobbs@chenegars.com](mailto:angela.cobbs@chenegars.com) or visit the Public Participation tab at [www.rvaap.org](http://www.rvaap.org).

Ms. Katie Tait (OHARNG) gave a brief summary of further improvements at CJAG, including the demolition of some old buildings. She stated that the demolition was needed to make way for new construction.

Ms. Lock asked if there were any questions that were not addressed during the site visit. Mr. Roope asked a question about where to find all the monitoring wells on the installation. Mr. Kevin Sedlak (National Guard Bureau (NGB)) responded that information concerning monitoring well locations is available on the RVAAP public website, as well as much more information, including historical and current information about the installation.

Mr. Kevin Palombo (Ohio EPA) is retiring, and Mr. Sedlak presented him with two sandstone cores, one from the Sharon Conglomerate Formation, as a retirement gift. Mr. Palombo thanked everyone and said that it was an honor and a pleasure to work with everyone. He said he was very proud of everything that has been accomplished at the facility.

This concluded the RAB Site Tour portion of the meeting. Ms. Lock then opened the discussion to general business.

### **3. General Business**

The first order of business was scheduling the next RAB meeting. Ms. Lock proposed that the next meeting would be on 17 April 2024 at 6pm. The location is to be determined. She suggested that one possible agenda item might be a short basic geology/groundwater presentation as a review. Ms. Lock said that there will also be a membership update. Since a quorum was not present for this meeting, the RAB was not able to approve the last three RAB meeting minutes from April 20, 2022, November 9, 2022, and April 19, 2023. Ms. Lock will review the current RAB Operating Policy and see if there is a way to have the meeting minutes approved via email.

LTC Shaun Robinson (Army Co-Chairman) provided an operational update for CJAG. He did a quick overview of the past 5 years, the mandate that he received from General Harris, and installation's accomplishments. The Automated Record Fire (ARF) Range is open. The Multipurpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range is 95% complete. CJAG hopes to have trained over 50,000 soldiers this year. CJAG has also now provided training to military members in all branches (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard). CJAG is a premier training site for the Army and other branches of the military. The installation was renamed from Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant (RVAAP) to Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center (CJAG) several years ago. This was not intended to dishonor the history/memory of what was done here but was done to reflect the change of mission at the facility going forward. LTC Robinson stated that the main mandate he was given by General Harris was to pull the curtain back and show the public what really goes on at CJAG.

Ms. Lock stated that while the RAB members attendance seems to be declining and the public's interest seems to have dropped off significantly, she attributed it to all that has been accomplished at CJAG. She was grateful for the interest and the participation of the past and present RAB Members. She noted that 80% of the restoration/cleanup of this installation has been completed.

Mr. Thomas Tadsen (Franklin Township) asked about the status of a museum (which was proposed several years ago) and Ms. Tait stated that at this time there were no plans to move forward on that project. She let everyone know that there is a Cultural Resource Manager that works at CJAG and across the State of Ohio. It was asked if anyone has any interest in putting a memorial on the back of the sign that you see as you leave the base. Ms. Tait said that the OHARNG has been successful at erecting historical markers (with Ohio History Connection approvals) at other facilities, and this may be a good way to honor the history of the facility.

There was discussion about looking to find out ways to capture living histories. Ms. Lock said she would investigate it.

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Lock at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Cobbs, RVAAP RAB Administrator