

Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting 20 February 2013

1. Call to Order & Reading of Minutes

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant (RVAAP) was called to order by Tom Tadsen at 6:05 p.m. at the Shearer Community Center/Paris Township Hall, Ravenna, Ohio.

Mr. Tom Smith made a motion to suspend with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by George Tompkins. Tom Tadsen asked the board members if they had any additions or corrections to the minutes. No comment from the RAB members present. Tom Tadsen called the motion to question... "All those in favor please say 'Aye'. "All those opposed?" The motion carried, and Tom Tadsen announced the minutes were approved as printed.

Meeting attendance was recorded as 14 members present, 5 excused and 6 unexcused (Mr. Richard Poots, Mr. Jon Barber, Mr. Bill Miller, Ms Irene Glavies-Lutz, Ms. Nancy Taylor, and Mr. Howard Furl.)

2. General Business

The first order of general business - Tom Tadsen asked if May 22nd would be acceptable to have the next scheduled RVAAP RAB Meeting, 6:00 pm. In a show of hands by the RAB members, 22 May 2013 at 6:00 pm was chosen.

Tom Tadsen asked the board members if they had any recommendations on subjects to be covered for the next meeting. No response given.

Tom Tadsen - One thing is the progress on the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) OHARNG. That is pretty much going to be a given priority until that range is up and in operation. LTC Meade or his representative will be happy to provide that update. Any other subjects?

Tom Smith asked if LTC Meade would let them come and try the MPMG range out.

George Tompkins - Suggested an update on how well the guard is doing on the transition.

Tom Tadsen - Katie Tait is here as the Environmental Representative of the OHARNG and her seat has not been filled by somebody from the National Guard Bureau. The individual selected for this position, optioned out of the position and the whole process had to be started over again. After the job was announced again and in operation, there were budget cuts. Now they're looking for different funding sources and they think they have found a funding source for an employee to fill that position. Until then, Katie will be with us.

Tom Tadsen - These are 2 good subjects and if you think of any others please contact Debbie Dillon and if we come up with any other ideas we will ship them out by email and get your opinion on them and put it together.

Tom Tadsen - Before the presentation and as a reminder for those of us who have been here before, and those in the audience too, if you address the RAB or the presenter, please identify yourselves and where you are from. I'll start - Tom Tadsen, Community Co-Chair, Franklin Township - so from this point forward if everyone would do this it would be appreciated. We will have each presentation and then I'll entertain questions to the RAB and then to the audience. Once we are completed by that presentation, we will move into the second presentation and do the same thing. Once we have completed the question/answer period for that presentation, if there are other questions from the RAB members or the audience pertaining to subjects other than the two presentations, that would be an appropriate time to ask those questions than.

3. Presentation by USACE, Nathaniel (Nat) Peters II

Following the formal presentation, Tom Tadsen asked the RAB members to proceed with questions directed to Nat Peters. (To request a copy of the formal presentation please contact the undersigned).

Bill Steiner, Randolph Township – WBG has been dormant for some years. How was it determined if some of these projectiles did not go beyond the boundaries or are you confident this area is correctly defined?

Nat Peters – Pretty comfortable and from the historical records we have and aerial photos of the area that show the burn pads and stepping out to some areas, we found some contamination, We stepped out in the areas where contamination was found until we got to the outer edge. In terms of the munitions components, or things like that, most of the things burned there didn't go boom or fly for long distances. We do have some areas that have kickouts; this is a different kind of process. One slide not provided would have included more of this data.

Tom Tadsen – Go back to the slide of the map. Show ODA2 related to WBG, go down to the SW corner of WBG. Depending on what they were detonating in ODA2, could kick out munitions go to the burning ground? Go to ODA2. All activities were static burn at WBG, and from talking with quite a few technicians from that time period who worked there, there were a few, only 2-3 situations, where detonation occurred during the burning process.

Jay Abercombie, Suffield – Why were there data gaps from the original studies?

Nat Peters – There was a lot of data. Part of the data was used to determine what was safe for trainees for the current purpose. The critical need was to make the MK 19 range safe. The points to take in are aggregate and monitoring wells continue to do groundwater assessment and the MK 19 range is still available for restricted use only.

Tom Tadsen – Situation was when National Guard developed MK 19 range – the only area cleared was what was needed to operate the range – it had limited foot traffic to the target arrays. This new action will make the entire range operational.

LTC Meade – The new area (MPMG) requires disturbance for construction and maintenance. True, the new range will lie over the MK 19 range. Additional areas are being screened and cleared for construction, getting the best bang for the buck.

Sara Locke – Is the point of further investigation to have current restrictions removed for future use?

Nat Peters – Look at the levels there and risk of leaving it there and cost of taking it out (Focused on chemicals). The goal is set to dig down to 4ft BGS, but it still requires support from a UXO technician for MEC issues. Think we can dig to 1ft, but the goal is to be able to dig to 4ft BGS for each site.

LTC Meade – General construction could go beyond 1 ft. Deeper is better but UXO support would not be necessary.

Tom Tadsen – WBG will not be prepared for unrestricted land use. Eileen?

Eileen Mohr – The standard is from the surface to 13 ft. below ground surface for residential use. WBG will remain restricted.

Tom Tadsen – We won't see 13 ft. cleared of contamination, explosives and demolition debris especially now with the balance of budget cuts for the Army 5 year plan.

Jim Mayer, Garrettsville – Slide #4, Pads 61/61A, 67-70, were they the pads used to store soil on original range?

Tom Tadsen – Don't think so, those pads are located in the Northernmost lane.

Nat Peters – North end of the range.

Jim Mayer – Lane 1?

Nat Peters – Lane 1

Tom Tadsen – 40 mm grenades were discovered there that may not have been detonated.

Tom Tadsen – Any other questions for Dr. Peters?

Audience: no questions.

Tom Tadsen - Thank you Dr. Peters.

4. Presentation by PIKA International, Brian Stockwell

Following the formal presentation, the RAB members proceeded with questions directed to Brian Stockwell. (To request a copy of the formal presentation please contact the undersigned).

Tom Tadsen - Asked Brian to go back to the slide with the streambed. Bedrock, sediment and debris on far side, pretty clear channel and bed.

Brian Stockwell – Sand Creek was about 5 ft. deep, but typically runs shallow. It is 30 ft. from the top of the hill to the creek bed. It would take 100 year flood event to get it up to the high level.

Dorene Spicer, Paris Twp., - Where was original stream at?

Brian Stockwell – Shows the area, island and overflow.

Jay Abercombie – Is the photo from the South looking upstream?

Brian Stockwell – Yes.

Sara Locke – Out of curiosity, how did it go with the white phosphorous (WP) removal? Any problems?

Brian Stockwell – Not really, a couple of “puffs”.

Sara Locke – What was the degree of WP degrading?

Brian Stockwell – There was very little WP degrading. We will do 3 years of aquatic monitoring to confirm the stream quality is back to the original state.

Tom Tadsen – In event of 200 year storm and it wipes out all the shrubs/trees, what is the contractual responsibility?

Brian Stockwell – If it happens during this time frame funds are available to make the necessary repairs.

Jay Abercombie – The streambed was restored, why the reversal of the position by surface water for new channel to prevent flood in the middle of nowhere? Why does the Ohio EPA Division of Surface water want this?

Brian Stockwell – Originally, the channel ran right next to the slope and was really eroding it. We saw it as appropriate to maintain the whole slope area up and down from existing site – lots of trees were falling and eroding. This channel will pull the water away from here.

Jay Abercombie – Why not restore/stabilize one slope instead of two?

Brian Stockwell – Eventually in the old channel the vegetation would get washed out. Plantings alone are not enough to stop it.

Tom Tadsen – Slide #4 Shows how close to bottom. Lots of rockets and mortars contained there.

Tom Tadsen – Any other questions? Anyone here not familiar with Rocket Ridge? It became noticed because a white phosphorous grenade auto ignited and started a small fire. It was prohibited entry and UXO technicians found WP rounds. Then Rocket Ridge came into prominence as a cleanup site.

Dan Spicer – How long and when will work begin? Work should be completed in about 5 weeks. When is it going to be done?

BRIAN STOCKWELL – Work plan comments from the Ohio EPA came in today and we need to respond. We hope in the April/May time frame.

Dan Spicer – Done when?

Brian Stockwell – April time frame.

Tom Tadsen – One last chance for RAB.

No other questions were fielded from the RAB members or audience.

5. New Business

Tom Tadsen – asked if anyone here was able to attend the meeting last Monday at Windham regarding the D Block?

Tina and Gary Lemley - People from the audience had heard it and it was reported that the explosion was heard as far as Pricetown. Men were there at lunch and heard the explosion. It was nice to hear from more employees who were there and lived through it.

Tom Tadsen - Written procedures were not 100% perfect. People were trained and the loading/unloading process was hurried, most were tired and couldn't read. The research did say the igloo did the job that it was supposed to do.

Tom Tadsen – The explosion was contained and focused by the barrel portion of the igloo. The igloos were staggered 800 ft. apart east to west so that there were not sympathetic detonations. The researcher came to RVAAP and reviewed documents for his research. These bombs were constructed at another Army facility and someone on the production line screwed up and the hole in the fuse head was drilled with a larger drill bit. The safety pins when inserted did not fit properly but had some play in them. Someone boxed these up and they were shipped for World War II use. The boxes weighed 160 pounds each. After they were stacked they pushed the top box off. It struck the loading dock and in the shipment of the load some pins worked loose. That particular day, one pin came loose and caused the detonation.

Tina and Gary Lemley - At the meeting, some people asked about a memorial thing for this. Weeds have grown up by the area and it is out by the helicopters.

Tom Tadsen – We are trying to do a memorial and working out the size and location with OHARNG to lease, title, use property and get signatures on paper.

Eileen Mohr – I received this publication put out by a contractor with input from some State agencies called *How Well Do You Know Your Water Well?* There are a number of copies at the office and tells how to read well logs, has basic geology, etc. If anyone wants a copy please mark your name down on the list for me. I haven't read it; someone in the office liked it and thought it was decent.

Tom Tadsen - Since there was no further business or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Tom Tadsen – Which township would host the next RAB meeting – no response, he suggested Windham and asked Debbie Dillon to confirm this.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Dillon
RVAAP RAB Administrator