

**Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)  
Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2007**

**1. Call to Order & Reading of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Community Co-Chair Tom Tadsen at 6:02 p.m. at the Freedom Township Hall, Freedom Ohio.

Tom Tadsen introduced Tom Lederle as the U.S. Army Co-chairman for the Restoration Advisory Board.

Mr. Thomas Smith made a motion to suspend with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walter Landor. 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.

Secretary Christy Esler took a visual attendance with 17 members present, 4 excused and 2 absent (Mr. Jay Abercrombie and Mr. James DiPaola)

**2. General Business**

The first order of general business, Tom Lederle announced that Mark Patterson is returning to the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant and as the U.S Army Co-chairman for the RAB on October 29, 2007.

Tom Tadsen discussed the two vacant at large RAB member seats. Tom asked each applicant present to please address the board and explain why they would like to be considered. Mr. Robert McDonough, Mr. Bill Steiner and Mr. George Tompkins were all present and addressed the board members. Tom Tadsen read Mr. Richard Poots, Ms. Laura Duncan and Mr. Ronald Duncan's interest survey to the board since they were unable to personally attend.

Mr. Thomas Smith, RAB Member asked permission to recommend Mr. George Tompkins to the RAB members. Ms. Eileen Mohr, Ohio EPA asked for the minutes to show she abstains from voting due to her position.

Tom Tadsen asked the audience for a witness to count the ballots with Christy Esler. Ms. Tina Lemly volunteered and witnessed the ballot tally.

Tom Tadsen introduced and welcomed the newly appointed county commissioner member positions, Mr. Jon Barber as the Portage County Commissioners' Representative and Mr. John Millea as the Trumbull County Commissioners' Representative.

Tom Tadsen announced the results of the voting. Tom welcomed Mr. Bill Steiner and Mr. George Tompkins to the RVAAP Restoration Advisory Board. Mr. Bill Steiner and Mr. George Tompkins joined the rest of the RAB members at the head table.

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Tom Tadsen asked Tom Lederle to please speak about the newly developed issue of the remaining slabs at the Load Lines. Tom Lederle announced that the funds have been approved to remove the slabs. Tom Tadsen asked Tom Lederle if this was an approved and funded action. Tom Lederle said that the funds were approved. Tom Tadsen explained how exciting this news will be to the National Guard and thanked Tom Lederle and Mark Patterson for all their work to get this accomplished.

Tom Tadsen asked the members if there was any additional business. The members did not have anything additional at this time.

Tom Tadsen introduced Joann Bartsch from URS as the presenter for this evening.

**3. Presentation on the Review of the Military Munitions Response Program SI Work Plan & Comment Resolution Process, Ms. JoAnn Bartsch, URS Corporation.**

After completion of the formal presentation, the RAB members proceeded with questions directed to Ms. JoAnn Bartsch. (To request a copy of the formal presentation please contact Christy Esler, RAB Administrator).

Tom Tadsen asked what the immediate action response is if someone finds what appears to be a piece of unexploded ordnance. JoAnn Bartsch- That would be considered an immediate danger to health. A piece of unexploded ordnance (UXO), high concentrations (visually observe) that rarely occur but it is still possible. Immediately call the Facility Manager to report. (Mark Patterson)

Eileen Mohr (Ohio EPA) - added that several individuals need to be notified. IDLH, which stands for Immediate Danger to Life & Health. Eileen explained when they arrive on a site a UXO Technician walks ahead of us. Health & Safety is taken very seriously; we all follow procedures to ensure our safety. Ohio EPA has stop work authority that we would invoke if safety procedures were not followed on a job site.

JoAnn Bartsch- added that the Final Work Plan (WP) section outlines 5 basic responses and covers exactly what Eileen just described.

Tom Tadsen questioned JoAnn about 2 sites where training ordnance items were found. An unfused inert mine left behind after training defined one site as potentially harmful to human health.

JoAnn Bartsch- Stated that, under the MMRP, both sites were considered operational ranges. Tom Tadsen asked if this site would be considered in the future a no further action site? JoAnn said that it would be reinvestigated under the MMRP.

Tom Tadsen- Explained that URS Corporation is the RVAAP RAB Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) provider and does a outstanding job.

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Tom Smith asked Tom Tadsen since he has been around the arsenal for many years, have you ever heard of wildlife triggering UXO?

Tom Tadsen- said with the amount of wildlife within the fence you would expect so but there are no confirmed reports.

Tom Tadsen said the Open Demolition Area 2 (ODA 2) is a dangerous area with no wildlife-triggered incidents. Even though such an incident is possible, this area is fenced off with signs and locked gates. Hunters are not permitted to enter ODA 2.

Tom Lederle added that Rocket Ridge had an incident of a white phosphorus rifle grenade igniting. The ignition may have been triggered by wildlife. This type ordnance item is susceptible to corrosion and when exposed to open air it will burn and ignition occurred. Crews several hundred meters away heard the blast and report the incident.

Nancy Taylor asked where Rocket Ridge is located at RVAAP.

Tom indicated the location on the RVAAP map on the wall, and stated that there was no immediate hazard to the public. Nancy Taylor asked about the stream. Tom said that the stream is Sand Creek. There will be a two step process. Sand Creek will be investigated and the Army will install a wire mesh system that will allowed water to flow, but catch any UXO. The second step of the MMRP action will remove the UXO.

Tom Smith asked if Sand Creek exits RVAAP.

Eileen Mohr (Ohio EPA) - said approximately 4 ½ miles to the exit point, East of Windham.

Tom Tadsen- These are soft shell explosives, not hard, steel bodied explosives. They pose a significant potential risk to workers. It is very difficult to ensure that flares, rockets, rifle grenades and artillery rounds have been completely detonated.

Tom Smith asked if these UXO items from Rocket Ridge are heavy enough not to go down stream. Tom Tadsen said that with a flood like in 2003 it would be possible for them to move downstream.

Tom Tadsen mentioned that there has only been one other incident during the summer when white phosphorus was exposed and burned.

Tom Lederle added that this exposure was caused by erosion.

Nina Miller- Couldn't more be exposed?

Tom Lederle- The investigation will determine the potential.

Tom Tadsen – The MMRP document indicates there are many areas of interest.

Tom Smith – Is the plan to explode all of them or inspect?

Tom Lederle Some areas are very obviously UXO, but the UXO Technicians will determine safety levels.

Tom Smith asked do they become more volatile over time. Tom Tadsen answered yes.

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Tom Lederle-, The reason we detonate or blow 40 mm grenades in place is because this is the most dangerous piece of unexploded ordnance we have.

Tom Tadsen explained that the 40 mm grenade must rotate 18 times before it arms. There is no way to tell if it turned 14 or 18 times. UXO Technicians make that call in the field. They determine if this ordnance goes through a flashing furnace to burn out the residual then send it to a scrap yard. UXO Technicians certify the material as safe for a smelter.

James Mayer said that the Rocket Ridge incident was ½ mile away from the workers. And that he read about this in the Record Courier and the Akron Beacon Journal so it was highly published. Tom Tadsen added that it was also in the Newton Falls Villager.

Tom Tadsen asked for any additional questions prior to the scheduling of the next meeting.

John Mayer asked about the Interest Survey Procedures.

Christy Esler and Tom Tadsen explained the procedure and explained that the surveys are kept on file indefinitely. When a RAB position becomes available Christy contacts all of the persons with surveys on file to find out if they are still interested. The public can find an interest survey on the back table tonight, on rvaap.org or by contacting Christy Esler at 330-358-2920.

Tom Tadsen announced the next meeting will be November 28, 2007 at Paris Township Hall, 6pm. due to Thanksgiving

Howard Furl asked if he could make a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Irene Glavies Lutz seconded the motion.

Since there was no further business or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Esler  
Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant  
Restoration Advisory Board Administrator