



Fact Sheet

December 2001

Corps forms Southwestern Proving Grounds Restoration Advisory Board, holds first meeting

Nine local volunteers have been selected to serve on a Restoration Advisory Board for the investigation and cleanup of property that was once part of Southwestern Proving Grounds.

Paul Henley, Stan James, Patricia Rhoads, Patricia Rowe, Ronnie Smith, Teresa Smith, Gale Temple, Danny Watson and Danny Woolfolk were chosen to serve on the advisory board.

In addition to the local volunteers, Margaret Morehead of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Noel Bennett of the Environmental Protection Agency Region IV and Shannon Miller of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality will serve on the RAB.



RAB members, along with members of the public, met for the first time in September.

Next RAB meeting set

The next Restoration Advisory Board for Southwestern Proving Grounds will be 6:30 p.m., Dec. 12 in the Washington Room of the Super 8 Motel located at I-30 and Arkansas Highway 4 in Hope.

During the meeting, RAB members will learn more about ordnance items that have been found on the site during previous phases of the project. They also will learn more about institutional controls. These are safety measures that are put in place to keep people from coming in contact with unexploded ordnance.

Members of the public are invited to attend.

The first RAB meeting was held Sept. 12. The RAB developed a mission statement and operating procedures and elected Pat Rhoads to serve as the community co-chairperson. RAB members also learned about the study of the former Southwestern Proving Grounds and the federal budget process.

Minutes from the first RAB meeting can be viewed online at www.swl.usace.army.mil/projmgmt/swpg.html.

Why establish a RAB?

A RAB helps improve public participation by giving the community a voice in the investigation and cleanup of former defense sites. RAB members are community liaisons and will be available to meet with community members and groups and talk about work at the site. Members of the RAB will attend regular meetings that will be open to the public, and they will serve a one- to two-year term.

Under the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program,
(See "RAB formed," on back.)

RAB formed

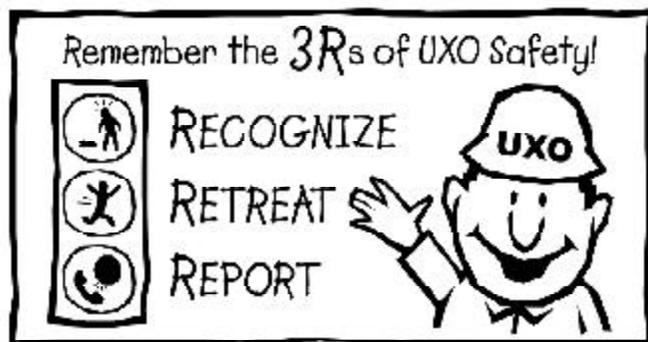


Linda Joslin, RAB facilitator leads a discussion about community concerns to help them develop a mission statement.

the Corps of Engineers has spent more than \$6 million since 1994 investigating and cleaning up portions of the former Southwestern Proving Grounds. More than 6,900 ordnance items have been removed from about 500 acres located near residences.

Since cleanup of the entire proving ground is estimated to cost in excess of \$230 million, cleanup is being done in phases as funding becomes available.

Since the project began, much more information



Questions? Want to be added to the mailing list?

**Contact Project Manager
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has been gathered at the site during the cleanup actions. So, the Corps is re-looking at the current Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis Study to see if improved technology or techniques could save money and increase efficiency.

This restudy could result in new recommendations and cost estimates that will be coordinated with the affected public. The RAB will be responsible for reviewing the recommendations and providing their input.

Southwestern Proving Ground closed shortly after World War II ended, and the 78-square-mile property was sold to numerous private owners. About half of the property contains unexploded ordnance ranging from small arms ammunition to grenades, artillery shells, rockets and bombs.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages and executes the FUDS program, which investigates and cleans up properties that were formerly owned, leased, possessed, or operated by the Department of Defense. The former Southwestern Proving Ground is eligible for environmental investigation and cleanup assistance under the FUDS program subject to the availability of funds.

Spotlight on helpful web sites

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District

www.swl.usace.army.mil/projmgmt/swpg.html

This is the homepage for the Little Rock District, the local Corps of Engineers district managing studies at the former SWPG. This site gives you a good overview of the district's work. This site is updated regularly, so check back often.

Project Information Retrieval System:

<http://pirs.mvr.usace.army.mil/>

This is the address for the Project Information Retrieval System. The system is maintained by Rock Island District and it allows real-time retrieval of documents generated by the Corps of Engineers in support of its projects and programs.

To get information on Southwest Proving Grounds, click on FUDS projects, click on the alphabetical listing, click on "S" then scroll down to Southwest Proving Grounds.

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