

**Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)  
Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2008**

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

The meeting was called to order by Community Co-Chair LTC Tadsen (Ret.) at 6:03 p.m. at the Freedom Township Hall, Freedom Ohio.

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. LTC Tadsen (Ret.) asked the board members if they had any additions or corrections to the minutes. No comment from the RAB members present. LTC Tadsen (Ret.) called the motion to question..."All those in favor please say 'Aye.' All those opposed?" The motion carried, and LTC Tadsen (Ret.) announced the minutes were approved as printed.

Secretary Christy Esler took a visual attendance with 20 members present, 1 excused and 4 absent (Mr. Jay Abercrombie, Mr. Jon Barber, Ms. Rebecca Carter and Mr. Howard Furl)

**2. General Business**

The first order of general business, LTC Tadsen (Ret.) welcomed Mr. Richard Poots as the newly appointed RAB Member. The 2007 RVAAP Installation Action Plan was mailed out to all RAB members. If anyone would like an electronic copy or hard copy please meet with Christy after tonight's meeting.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) congratulated Ms. Rebecca Carter; she was honored at the Portage County Township Associate meeting and presented with an award for her 24 years of service as the former Randolph Township Fiscal Officer. Article/picture was in the Record Courier on March 8.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) discussed the comment cards received at the November 2007 meeting. The first card submitted was by Laura Duncan, Middlefield Ohio Resident and she asked why a ground water expertise was not present at the meeting. Todd Fisher presented at the November meeting and he is employed by the Ohio EPA and was in the ground water division. Todd Fisher is also a hydrologist and believes all questions were answered at the meeting or following the meeting by Todd.

Comment #2 submitted was by Ronald Duncan, Middlefield Ohio Resident. The comment asked why the communication regarding meetings has diminished over the years. LTC Tadsen (Ret.) explained to the audience that the mailings are sent out 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. These meetings are also announced by a News Release in local newspapers and also announced on the rvaap.org web site. Mr. Duncan's mailing was sent this time via certified letter to ensure its arrival to his address on file.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) asked the members if there were any additional business items. The members did not have anything additional at this time.

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LTC Tadsen (Ret.) introduced Major Edward Meade from the Ravenna Training & Logistics Site as one of the presenters for this evening.

**3. Presentation of the Ravenna Training and Logistic Site Future Development, Major Ed Meade, Base Operations Supervisor.**

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

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) asked if other agencies use the training facility.

MAJ Meade- Yes absolutely, Western PA (National Guard) uses the facility often and there has been a large increase in Marine Corps Reserve units using the site. We are continuously growing.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) fielded questions from the RAB Board Members.

Mark Patterson asked how many man days of training took place at RTLS last year.

MAJ Meade said about 81,000. We have had 1,500 soldiers at a time for 30 day stints and that is expected to increase during the summer of 2009.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.)- Will the deployment of National Guard troops to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo impact these numbers? MAJ Meade- Yes, Deployment is a significant impact.

James Mayer asked if the National Guard used a priority list similar to the methods in the past regarding clean up for Areas of Concern (AOCs). MAJ Meade answered by saying negative, they look at it for the earliest possible date we would need to use the area.

James Mayer said so this was based on location not composition.

MAJ Meade- Yes, based on potential sites for training usage.

No additional questions were fielded from the members. LTC Tadsen (Ret.) asked the public for any questions directed to Major Ed Meade.

Julie Smeiles (The Weekly Villager) – 1,500 soldiers at a time for 30 days is this in addition to the regular training schedule?

MAJ Meade- Yes, RTLS can only accommodate what the training land will safely handle. If we accommodate a larger number of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsman, then we will. Some units have schedules for using RTLS a year in advance.

Julie asked if weather would dictate the use of tents v/s barracks etc.

MAJ Meade- Yes, but they have all stayed in tents before.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) added that the Marines don't want to stay in buildings.

Bob Downing (Akron Beacon Journal) - What about the economic cost of growth?

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MAJ Meade- The current projected amount of 26 million dollars. 1 million dollars was committed by Congressman Ryan's office with state matching funds. The surrounding communities (Portage County, Windham and Newton Falls) will also benefit through the economic impact of trainees using area vendors and establishments. This is the first step towards the utility infrastructure. The master planner is estimating a total of 125 million dollars for completion of the entire project, but this is still unconfirmed.

There is nowhere else in Ohio can this type of training be done. The sacrifice was made by many families some 60 years ago so this land could be utilized by the government. This development is the opportunity at hand for the future (for the National Guard and the communities in the surrounding area).

Karen Steiner (Randolph Resident) - Would other units train here from PA? And if so would they pay for the usage?

MAJ Meade- There is a national agreement in place within the National Guard that other National Guard units would train at National Guard sites without cost. Equipment is an exemption; in this case a charge would be incurred but it is minimal. The Army Reserves incur a cost when they use the facility. The logistical piece that benefits the surrounding communities is that when units arrive in this area they use local vendors for services.

**4. Presentation of Load Line 2, 3 & 4 Slab Removal Project Update, Brian Stockwell, PIKA International, Project Manager.**

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

Mark Patterson said that the project planning stages started in 1999 by Irv Venger, RVAAP Industrial Specialist. The planning stages have taken 9 years to finally get to this point.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) - referred Brian Stockwell back to his presentation and asked why there could be a possibility of explosives?

Brian Stockwell (PIKA International) - Explained that during the production at the melt pour lines, when pouring into kettles there is a possibility that this liquid leaked. So there is a possibility that bulk explosives could have spilled out onto the floor. They also would spray areas with steam into floor drains. The sumps could also have leaked.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.)- So there could have been a crack in the concrete? Brian- said that it is a possibility.

Nancy Taylor (RAB Member) - I noticed in the slides, the workmen do not have any personal protective equipment on. What about their exposure?

Brian Stockwell (PIKA International) - The workmen are not present when the excavator is tearing up the concrete slabs – only after completion of the work.

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Dan Spicer (RAB Member) - Is the concrete being recycled?

Brian Stockwell (PIKA International) - Yes, the concrete is being sized and recycled.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) - Is this being used on site?

Brian Stockwell (PIKA International) - This concrete is not being used on site, however in the past the National Guard has used this material as road base.

James Mayer (RAB Member) - The slab removal- is that below grade?

Brian Stockwell (PIKA International) - The Scope of Work (SOW) is to remove slabs to grade. The elevated slabs will be brought to 1ft. below grade or completely removed.

James asked about the pipe lines – floor drains.

Brian said that detonation cord was inserted and flashed prior to demolition commencement.

James - what was the base material in the pipeline?

Brian- That is steel.

No additional questions were fielded from the members. LTC Tadsen (Ret.) asked the public for any questions directed to Brian Stockwell.

Julie Smeiles (The Weekly Villager) - Is it very unlikely that you will find bulk explosives?

Brian Stockwell (PIKA International) - Yes, as a result of the wash out operations there is a high possibility we will encounter stained soils.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.)- At some other Army Ammunition Plans, residual TNT / Comp B was found in pockets, so the Army is proceeding cautiously, and working to insure proper clean up.

Irv Venger (RVAAP Industrial Specialist) - Bulk explosive deposits were largely prevented by good records and housekeeping procedures. Odds are slim that we will find any bulk explosives.

Brian Stockwell (PIKA International)- Explained they have started at Load Line 4 and have completed 7 to 8 buildings so far, and zero bulk explosives have been found.

**5. Presentation of Load Line 2, 3 & 4 Sampling of Soils Beneath Floor Slab Project Update, JoAnn Bartsch, URS.**

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

Nancy Taylor (RAB Member) - Does rain or snows compromise the sample results?

JoAnn Bartsch (URS) - We dry the samples and the soils under the slabs are covered if they exceed the cleanup levels. The soil is sampled within seven days.

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No additional questions were fielded from the members. LTC Tadsen (Ret.) asked the public for any questions directed to JoAnn Bartsch.

Julie Smeiles (The Weekly Villager) - The sample area seems to be very small. Will there be a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of sampling. What about the triggers?

JoAnn Bartsch (URS) - The initial sampling is what we are conducting now and then there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> round. We flag the area if the initial results exceed the cleanup levels.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.)- Added that they are conducting Jenkins colorimetric testing for explosives. This type of test saves laboratory costs and time as well.

Nancy Taylor (RAB Member) - How accurate is this type of testing.

JoAnn Bartsch (URS) - Accurate enough to make an excavation decision, and in the meantime the samples go to the lab to determine correlation. We randomly select samples and send them to the lab.

Bill Krimmer (Paris Township Resident) - In the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of sampling will you be testing for all six DNT isomers as Badger Army Ammunition Plant (in Wisconsin) is doing?

JoAnn Bartsch (URS) - Full suite will be conducted but at this time I am not sure which isomers are included in the full suite.

Bill Krimmer – Badger is sampling because they were unsure of the exact breakdown of isomers and their toxicity. <sup>i</sup>

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) asked for any additional questions prior to the scheduling of the next meeting.

LTC Tadsen (Ret.) announced the next meeting will be May 21, 2008 at Windham Township Hall, 6pm.

Since there was no further business or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Esler  
Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant  
Restoration Advisory Board Administrator

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<sup>i</sup> State:

The Army contacted Doctor Thomas Jenkins concerning Bill Krimmer's question about DNT isomers at RVAAP. Dr. Jenkins recently retired from the Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research Laboratory as a senior researcher. His response in the following email explains why the Army will sample only for the 2,4 and 2,6 DNT isomers rather than all six.

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Dr Thomas Jenkins email to Ms. Cindy Ries, dated March 27, 2008:

“Badger produced DNT and the issue of the various isomers is relevant there. Also during the synthesis of TNT, isomers of DNT are produced as impurities. However, during the processing and purification step, the unsymmetrical isomers (namely the 2,3 and 2,5 and 3,4, and 3,5 isomers) are removed. Only a small portion of the 2, 4 and 2,6 isomers remains as an impurity (less than 1% of the TNT). These two isomers are target analytes in Method 8330. The purified TNT is what was used at the Ravenna load and pack facility. The amount of the other isomers is below detection.

At Badger, this is not the case because they produced DNT, and the other isomers were there in much greater abundance.”