



Beale AFB Restoration Advisory Board Celebrates 30-Year Anniversary

The Beale Air Force Base (AFB) Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was established in 1996 and turns 30 years old this year. Beale AFB leadership extends their deepest appreciation to RAB members past and present, some of whom have served on the RAB for the entire 30 years. Current RAB members and their number of years of service are:

- 30 years (founding members): John Allard, Marcus Bole, and Joan Saunders
- 20 to 25 years: John Nicoletti and Sandy Saunders
- 15 to 20 years: Mark Carlson and Gordon Stevens
- 1 to 5 years: Larry Kleinecke

We would also like to acknowledge past RAB members, including Curt Aikens, Joy Ames, Edward Bolton, Lee Bright, David Browne, Bill Calvert, Chuck Carver, Phil Chechowitz, Marcele Christofferson, John Eachus, Phillip Graham, Jason Hemsmyer, Ernest Kenter, Vernon Kuska, Hillary Miller, Ted Nichols, Clark Pickell, John Reigel, Brock Smith, Hal Stocker, Maggie Teague, and Kyle West. We sincerely apologize if we missed any names from our 30-year history, but please know that your valuable contribution to the RAB and the ERP is not forgotten.

The Beale AFB RAB has been invaluable to the Department of the Air Force (DAF) mission and the surrounding community. Beale AFB leadership greatly appreciates RAB members for their voluntary service, their partnership in community engagement and environmental stewardship, and their enduring commitment to ensuring transparency and facilitating dialogue. The current RAB members will be acknowledged during the next RAB meeting, which will be held on May 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the One Stop Center for Business and Workforce Development, 1114 Yuba Street, Marysville.

Importance of the RAB to the Environmental Restoration Program

The Beale AFB ERP began in 1984, to address past releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants that may pose risks to human health or the environment. Federal laws and regulations require community involvement during site investigation and cleanup activities. The purpose of this

requirement is to make sure the public is informed and involved, public concerns are heard, and public comments are considered when final decisions are made on environmental cleanup projects. The Beale AFB RAB provides an opportunity for RAB members and other community members to become actively involved in decisions regarding site cleanup activities, and the RAB can convey issues and concerns to the Beale AFB ERP team and regulatory agency representatives from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

What Is the Function of a RAB?

The Beale AFB RAB, in addition to several other RABs across the DAF, was established in 1996 to foster community involvement in the ERP, which addresses past releases of hazardous substances. RAB members meet with the DAF, DTSC, and RWQCB representatives to hear presentations about the status of the environmental cleanup activities at Beale AFB. RAB members provide input about environmental cleanup decisions and actions and serve as community liaisons by sharing what they learn with members of the local community. The RAB has been a crucial communication between the DAF and the community.

The Beale AFB RAB remains active, interested, and engaged, meeting up to four times a year for formal gatherings and tours of ERP activities occurring on-base. Newsletters summarizing recent ERP activities are sent twice a year via email to members on the mailing list, and the RAB frequently supports other community activities, such as the Beale AFB Air & Space Expo held last year.

Interested in Learning More?

Anyone living within 35 miles of Beale AFB or its geographically separate unit, Lincoln Receiver Site in Lincoln, California, is welcome and encouraged to attend RAB meetings and consider applying for RAB membership. Applications are accepted at any time. RAB members serve on a volunteer basis without compensation but are an integral part of the ERP at Beale AFB.

Information about upcoming RAB meetings, directions on how to sign up for the RAB email mailing list, points of contact for questions about the RAB, and a link to the RAB membership application form are provided on the final page of this newsletter.

Optimized Remediation Contract Welcomes New Staff to the Team

The Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) team welcomes two new faces to the Beale AFB team:

- **Chris Beard**, Restoration Project Manager with the U.S. Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC)/ Environmental Restoration Technical Support Branch
- **Jessequa Parker**, Environmental Geology Lead with the Geotechnical Engineering Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Sacramento District

Mr. Beard is a registered California Professional Geologist with 21 years of experience working both in the private sector and federal government. He grew up in California and joined the military at age 17. He received his Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in geology from Chico State University. He enjoys being outdoors, spending time with family, and would love to visit North Africa someday.



Chris Beard, new Beale AFB ERP team member.

Ms. Parker is a registered California Professional Geologist with environmental remediation experience. She grew up in Japan and Alaska and received separate B.S. degrees in natural science and geology from the University of Alaska.

Mr. Beard and Ms. Parker look forward to working with the ORC team and engaging with the Beale AFB community at upcoming RAB meetings.

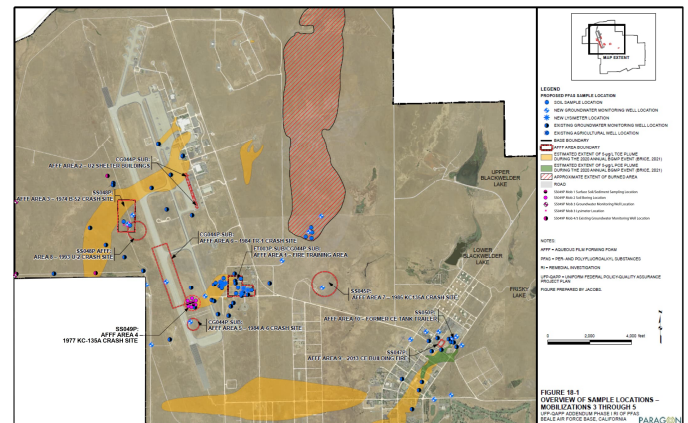
Phase I Remedial Investigation of PFAS: Update

Overview

The Phase I remedial investigation (RI) of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) kicked off at Beale AFB in fall 2021. The contract is managed by USACE Sacramento District, together with AFCEC. The work included in the Phase I PFAS RI will be completed by a team of consultants led by Paragon Professional Services, LLC, with support from Brice Environmental Services Corporation and Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.

PFAS are a large family of compounds, including perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS). In 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued provisional health advisories for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water, and in 2016, they established lifetime health advisory values. In 2024, EPA announced enforceable maximum contaminant levels for six PFAS chemicals (including PFOA and PFOS) in drinking water and risk-based screening levels for 15 PFAS chemicals (including PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS) in drinking water and residential soil.

The DAF is responding to PFAS releases attributable to DAF mission-related activities. An initial assessment in 2010 determined that aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) containing PFOS and PFOA may have been released at fire training areas, emergency response locations, and aircraft crash sites.



Beale AFB PFAS RI AFFF areas site map.

Map includes site, sample, monitoring well, and lysimeter locations that were addressed throughout the PFAS RI, from 2023 to 2025. (click on the image to enlarge)

The goal of the project is to characterize the nature and extent of PFAS in soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater related to environmental releases of AFFF. Seven sites (CG044P-SUB, FT003P-SUB, SS045P, SS047P, SS048P, SS049P, and SS050P) containing 10 AFFF release

areas at Beale AFB were identified during previous investigations. Analytical results from those investigations confirmed the presence of PFAS in surface sediment, surface water, soil, or groundwater. Two of the seven PFAS RI sites are near the Civil Engineering Building in the Cantonment Area, and the remaining five sites are near the flightline or in the western portion of Beale AFB at crash sites, hangar buildings, or fire training areas.

Fieldwork

Nine field mobilizations were completed from 2021 to 2025 and included analytical sample collection of surface water, sediment, soil, pore water,¹ and groundwater. Field mobilizations also included the installation of monitoring wells and lysimeters.



Images of fieldwork and sampling activities.

The following fieldwork activities were carried out from 2021 to 2025:

- Five surface water, 5 surface soil, and 18 sediment samples were collected from four of the seven sites where wetland features are present.
- Six off-base surface soil samples were collected.
- From 64 soil borings across the seven sites, 245 soil samples were collected.
- Installation and sampling of 33 on-base and nine off-base monitoring wells occurred across the seven sites.
- At 61 existing on-base and 8 existing off-base groundwater wells, samples were collected from across the seven sites.

- Vertical aquifer sampling was conducted at three locations near the flightline, and 16 groundwater samples were collected.
- Nine lysimeters (instruments used to measure pore water) were installed at two of the seven sites, and 15 pore water samples were collected from the lysimeters.

Results

Results of the PFAS RI are as follows:

- **Surface Water.** PFOA and PFOS were detected above the drinking water standard of 4 nanograms per liter (ng/L) in surface water at two sites.
- **Sediment and Soil.** PFOA and PFOS were detected in sediment and surface soil above risk-based residential soil levels of 0.070 microgram per kilogram ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) and 0.63 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, respectively, at three sites. No PFAS were detected in surface soils outside of the Beale AFB boundary. PFOS was detected above its risk-based residential soil level of 0.63 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ in surface and subsurface soils at three sites. PFOA was detected above its risk-based residential soil level of 0.070 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ in surface soil at one site and in subsurface soil at two sites.
- **Monitoring Wells.** PFOA was detected above the drinking water standard of 4 ng/L in 69 on-base monitoring wells at five sites. PFOA was detected above 4 ng/L in three monitoring wells outside of the Beale AFB boundary. PFOS was detected above the drinking water standard of 4 ng/L in 53 on-base monitoring wells at five sites. PFOS was detected above 4 ng/L in two monitoring wells outside of the Beale AFB boundary. PFBS was detected above the drinking water standard of 600 ng/L in 11 on-base monitoring wells at one site.
- **Groundwater.** PFOA in groundwater was observed above the drinking water standard of 4 ng/L at three boring locations near the flightline. PFOS in groundwater was observed above the drinking water standard of 4 ng/L at one boring location near the flightline.
- **Pore Water.** PFOA was detected above the drinking water standard of 4 ng/L in pore water from seven lysimeters at two sites. PFOS was detected above the drinking water standard of 4 ng/L in pore water from seven lysimeters at two sites. PFBS was detected above the drinking water standard of 600 ng/L in pore water from three lysimeters at one site.

¹ Pore water is water trapped within the microscopic spaces (pores) between particles of soil and sediment. Even when the soil appears dry, these pores can still hold thin films or droplets of water that may contain dissolved minerals or contaminants. Pore water differs from groundwater in that the pore spaces between soil particles in groundwater are completely filled (saturated) with water.

Looking Ahead

One more field mobilization will be conducted in April 2026 to sample groundwater and pore water from 18 on-base and off-base wells and three lysimeters. Following that event, all nine lysimeters will be decommissioned, and preparation of the Phase I PFAS RI Report will begin.

Restoration Advisory Board Meetings and Tours

You are cordially invited to attend the public meetings and tours of the Beale AFB RAB. **The next RAB meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2026**, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the One Stop Center for Business and Workforce Development, Second Floor, 1114 Yuba Street, Marysville, California. **Please stay tuned to your email for updates.**

To find out more about the RAB at Beale AFB, to be placed on the email mailing list, or to inquire about becoming a RAB member, please contact either of the following individuals:

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 Restoration Program Manager, AFCEC/CZOW
 (530) 634-2606
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Additional Information

The membership application for the Beale AFB RAB is available by clicking on the following link or typing the link address into your web browser:

<http://www.beale.af.mil/Portals/110/Beale%20RAB%20Membership%20Form%202025.pdf>

The Beale AFB Community Involvement Plan is available by clicking on the following link or typing the link address into your web browser:

<http://www.beale.af.mil/Portals/110/CIP%20Environmental.pdf>

The Beale AFB Environmental Information webpage is available by clicking on the following link or typing the link address into your web browser:

<http://www.beale.af.mil/Information/Units/Environmental-Information/>

