

In the mid-1980s, the Department of Defense (DoD) established Technical Review Committees to enable community representatives to review and comment on technical documents pertaining to environmental cleanup efforts. In 1994, DoD extended the idea of community participation to all interested parties and opened meetings to the public as recommended by the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee by establishing Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs). RABs now provide communities affected by Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) activities at active installations, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) installations, and Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) with the ability to discuss, evaluate, and exchange information in an open forum.

RABs encourage public participation in the restoration process and establish a direct link of communication between DoD and other interested parties such as federal, state, local and tribal agencies, community members, and regulators. DoD focuses on including people of diverse backgrounds, interests, and occupations within the locally affected community in the cleanup process.

Progress

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2006, DoD promulgated a final rule governing the operations of all RABs (hereafter, the RAB Rule). The rule, which was published in the *Federal Register* on May 12, 2006, outlines RAB establishment, composition, funding, operation, adjournment, and dissolution and applies to all RABs regardless of establishment date. To ensure that all viewpoints were discussed, DoD solicited feedback from the public during the public comment period that occurred during the rulemaking process, in addition to federal, state, and local regulators. The RAB Rule, which was developed in accordance with 10 U.S.C. §2705(d)(2)(A) that required the Secretary of Defense to develop regulations governing RABs, provides

communities and individuals with a framework for participating in the environmental restoration process. The rule is available on the Defense Environmental Network & Information eXchange (DENIX) Web site at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/News/OSD/RAB/rabrul.html>.

During FY2006, several new changes were reflected within the rule regarding the operating procedures of RABs based on member comments and DoD approval. The most significant of these changes are those which outline mechanisms for adjourning and dissolving RABs.

The Structure of RABs

RABs are composed of representatives from communities, local groups, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and state, tribal, and local governments who review and comment on documents and participate in the planning of environmental restoration projects at the installation or FUDS property.

RABs are co-chaired by an installation representative and a community representative. The co-chairs are responsible for developing the RAB's operating procedures, mission, and goals specific to each installation; and for ensuring the facilitation of dialogue between DoD, regulators, and members of the local community on installation environmental restoration issues.

Community RAB members are volunteers who live or work in the affected area of environmental restoration activities and reflect diversity within the community. These members are responsible for reporting activities and progress back to the surrounding community. Other agency or government members are included as participating members, as appropriate.

RAB Status and Expenditures

Since their inception, the number of RABs has remained fairly consistent, but the number of participating installations may change from year to year as some RABs are established and others are adjourned or dissolved, as shown in Figure O-1.

DoD policy requires that RABs be created or reestablished following evidence of sufficient and sustained community interest. As stated in the RAB Rule, DoD requires the Installation Commander at installations without RABs to reassess community interest in a RAB every 24 months. This requirement ensures that communities that change their interests are extended opportunities to participate in the cleanup process through establishment of a RAB, if appropriate. Circumstances that point to such interest or otherwise indicate the need for a RAB may include:

- The closure of an installation involving transfer of property to the community
- Fifty or more citizens petitioning for a RAB
- A request from a federal, state, or local government body to form a RAB
- An installation's decision that a RAB is necessary upon reviewing media coverage, correspondence files, consultation with relevant community members and government officials, and evaluation of public notices placed in local newspapers or on installation Web sites.

An Installation Commander may disband a RAB through adjournment or dissolution when there is a lack of community interest, there is no longer a need for a RAB, or the RAB is no longer fulfilling its intended purpose of providing advice and community input to installation decision makers. Examples of all these instances may include:

- All environmental restoration activities have been completed, or the remedies are in place
- RAB goals have been completed as defined by the operating procedures
- Transfer of property out of DoD control and environmental responsibilities are assumed by the transferee.

If an established RAB adjourns or dissolves but environmental restoration is ongoing, the installation's commanding officer will ensure sufficient stakeholder input continues to be collected as stated by the community relations plan—a site-specific plan which addresses cleanup actions and

Figure O-1

RABs Established or Disbanded in FY2006

Installation Name	FFID	Action
Army		
Camp Pedricktown	NJ221402227000	Disbanded
Vint Hill Farms Station	VA321382093100	Disbanded
Fort Monroe	VA321582060300	Established
Fort Pickett	NJ221352275200	Disbanded
Fort Ritchie	MD321182489000	Disbanded
Hamilton Army Airfield	CA921402303800	Disbanded
Tobyhanna Army Depot	PA321382089200	Disbanded
Navy		
Keyport NUWC	WA017002341900	Disbanded
McGregor NWIRP	TX617002470800	Disbanded
Carderock NSWC	MD317002468600	Disbanded
Air Force		
Altus AFB	OK657152404500	Disbanded
North River Radio Relay Station	AK057302868500	Established
FUDS		
Demarcation Bay	AK09799F250100	Disbanded
West Virginia OW	WV39799F346100	Disbanded

identifies the needs of the public throughout the process. This guideline also applies to communities without RABs where sufficient and sustained community interest does not exist to establish a RAB.

In FY2006, DoD reported 312 total RABs across all DoD Components, as shown in Figure O-2. Figures O-3 and O-4 break down the total number of RABs by Component into BRAC and active installations and FUDS properties. Figure O-5 shows the number of RABs that are funded by both Environmental Restoration (ER) and BRAC accounts. Installations that are in close proximity and share similar restoration issues affecting the same communities can opt to create joint RABs to facilitate cleanup activities; these joint RABs are detailed in Figure O-6.

DoD provides administrative financial support to establish, operate, and support RABs to ensure that both installations and RABs have access to the tools and resources necessary to make the partnership operate effectively.

Figure O-2

Total Number RABs by Component

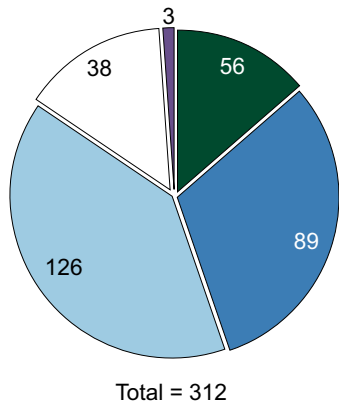


Figure O-3

Total Number of RABs at BRAC Installations

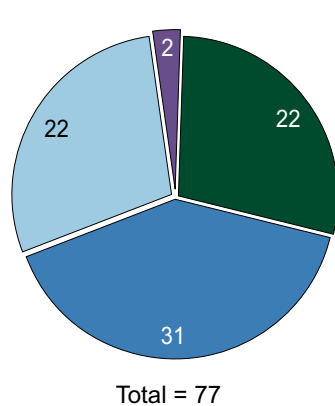


Figure O-4

Total Number of RABs at Active and FUDS Installations by Component

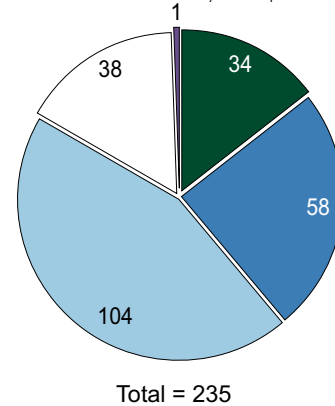
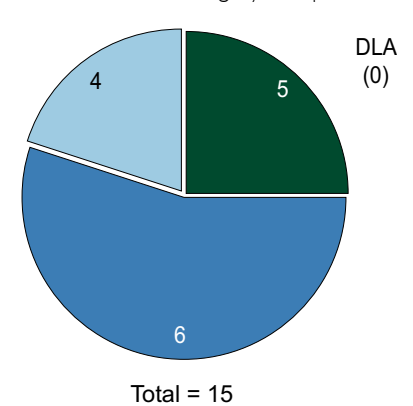


Figure O-5

Total Number of RABs receiving both ER and BRAC funding by Component



■ Army ■ Navy ■ Air Force ■ FUDS ■ DLA

Figure O-6

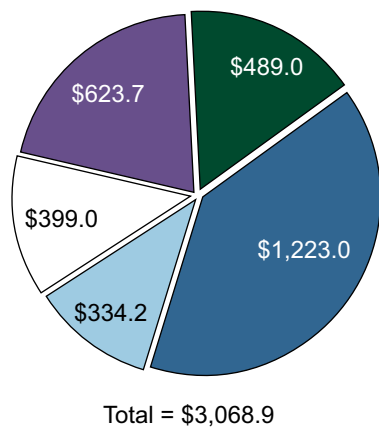
Joint RABs
(as of September 30, 2006)

Installation Name	Shared Installation(s)/Component(s)
Army	
Camp Edwards	Air Force
Navy	
Anacostia NS	Washington Navy Yard
North Island	Coronada NAB
Point Mugu NAWS	Port Hueneme NCBC
Jacksonville NAS	Jacksonville FISC
Pensacola NAS	Pensacola PWC
Guam NAVFAC	Guam NCTAMS WESTPAC, Guam COMNAV Marianas, Guam FISC, Guam NSRF, Guam NAVAC, Guam PWC
Pearl Harbor NSY	Pearl Harbor NSB, Pearl Harbor NS, Pearl Harbor PWC, Pearl Harbor FISC, Pearl Harbor Inactive Ship Detail, Camp H.M. Smith Oahu, Barbers Point NAS
Wahiawa NCTAMS EASTPAC	Lualualei NAVMAG
Yorktown NWS	Williamsburg FISC Cheatham Annex
Lowry AFB ARMFORAITC	Air Force
Alameda NAS	Oakland FISC Alameda Annex
Charleston NSY	Charleston NS, Charleston FISC, Charleston NRC, Charleston FMWTC
Point Barrow NARL	Air Force, Army
Puget Sound NSY	Puget Sound FISC, Puget Sound Naval Hospital Bremerton

Figure O-6
 Joint RABs
 (as of September 30, 2006)

Installation Name	Shared Installation(s)/Component(s)
Air Force	
Air Force Plant 4	Carswell AFB, Navy
Air Force Plant 44	Tucson Air National Guard, Tucson International Airport
Barter Island LRRS	Bullen Point SRRS
Bellows AFS	Marine Corps
Galena Airport	Campion AFS, Kalakaket Creek RRS
Patrick AFB	Cape Canaveral AFS
Spokane International Airport	Four Lakes Comm Air Guard, Fairchild AFB
Chena River	Eielson AFB, FUDS
Malmstrom AFB	Great Falls International Airport (Montana Air National Guard [120th FW])
Grissom ARB	Grissom AFB
Hickam POL	Wake Island, Johnston Atoll, Kaala AFS
Homestead ARB	Homestead AFB
King Salmon Airport	Naknek Recreation Camp I and II
Point Barrow LRRS	Point Lonely SRRS, Navy, FUDS
Seymour Johnson AFB	Dare County
Gunter AFB	Maxwell AFB
Shaw AFB	Poinsett
March ARB	March AFB
Willow Grove AFR	Navy: Willow Grove NAS
Eglin AFB	Hurlburt AFB, Hurlburt Field
Oliktok Radio Relay Station	FUDS
FUDS	
Manning Point DEW	Brownlow Point DEW, Collinson Point DEW, Griffin Point DEW, Nuvagapak Point DEW (Bar A)
Larson AFB	Air Force
Point Barrow Radio Station	Navy: Icy Cape DEW Station (Liz-B), Peard Bay DEW (Liz-C) Cape Simpson DEW-POW-A, Kogru DEW (POW-B), Elson Lagoon

Figure O-7
FY2006 RAB Expenditures by Component (thousands)



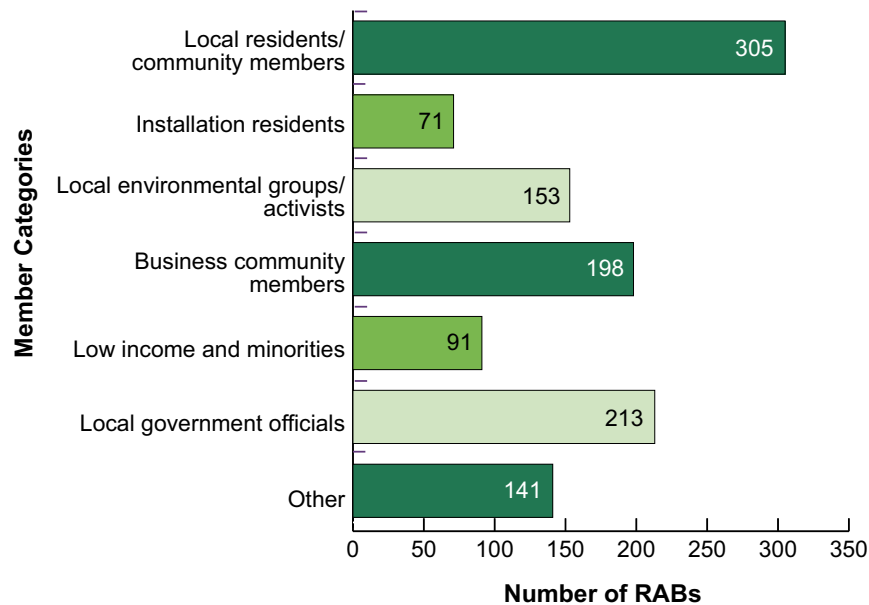
Funding is also provided for activities such as member selection, maintenance and mailing of RAB materials, meeting logistics, site-specific training, and costs associated with procuring facilitators or translators when needed. In FY2006, the Components spent \$3.1 million on the administrative costs of RAB operations. Figure O-7 shows FY2006 RAB expenditures for each Component.

FY2006 Member Representation

A RAB's mission is to bring together individuals who represent the community as a whole; embrace diverse interests and occupations; and incorporate these ideas into the restoration decision-making process. Since the initial formation of RABs, every installation with a RAB has worked to ensure that the community's interests are well represented.

Since FY2004, installations have reported RAB representation from community members, installation residents, local environmental groups, the business community, low-income and minority groups, and local government officials. Figure O-8 shows the number of RABs that have participating members in each category in FY2006. Although there are 312 RABs reported for FY2006, only 305 reported participation within "local residents/community members." This discrepancy may be due in part because members may identify themselves within other categories.

Figure O-8
RAB Community Membership in FY2006
(participation per category)¹



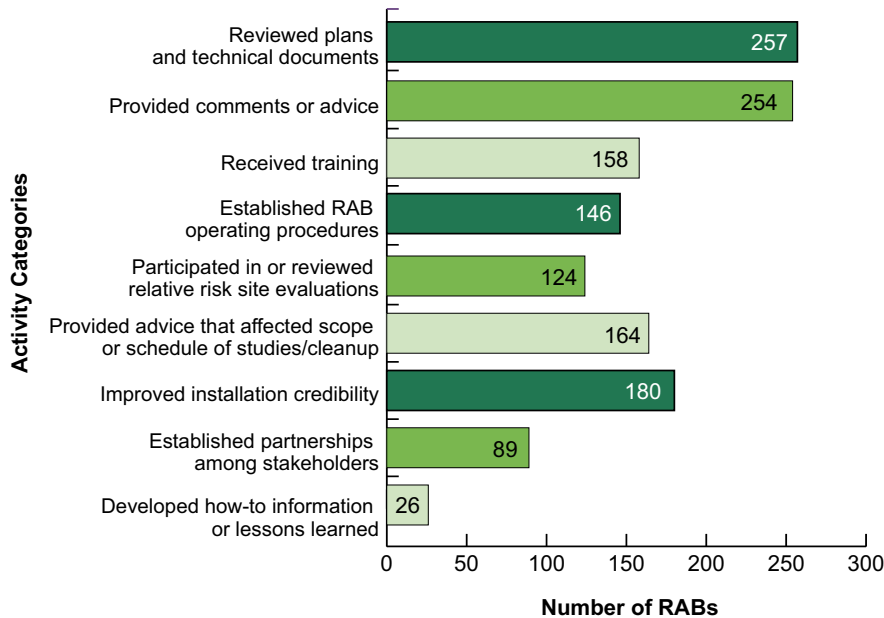
RAB Activity in FY2006

RAB members typically participate in several activities, including reviewing cleanup plans and technical documents, providing comments and advice on restoration issues, and improving community understanding and support for the DERP. RAB involvement in these activities helps DoD conduct more timely and cost-effective restoration by identifying issues of concern early in the process. This reduces potential communication problems that could delay restoration. Figure O-9 shows the FY2006 primary activities of RAB participation.

¹ RABs may report membership in more than one category.

Figure O-9

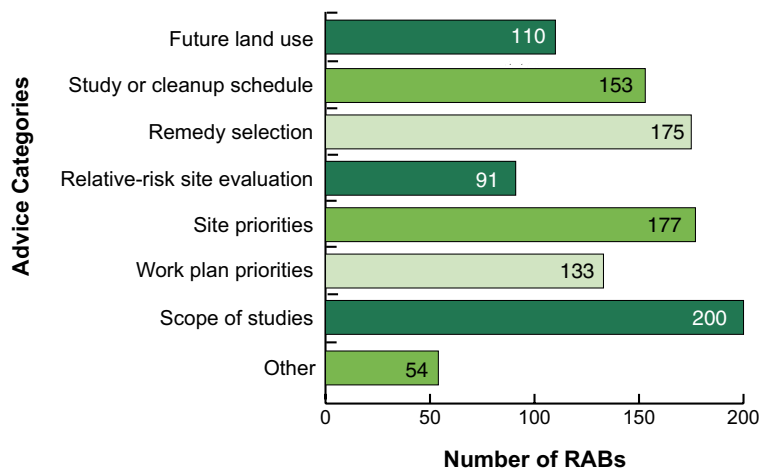
Primary Activities of RAB Participation in FY2006
(participation per category)¹



¹ RABs may participate in more than one activity.

Figure O-10

Advice provided by RABs in FY2006
(participation per category)¹



¹ RABs may provide advice in more than one category.

Advice from RABs

Installations report that RABs improve the restoration process by providing advice to the installation commanders that can significantly affect the scope or schedule for environmental study or cleanup. RAB members have also shared technical knowledge that helped installations develop cost-saving remedies. The advice provided by a RAB usually falls into the following categories:

- Scope of environmental studies
- Site prioritization
- Remedy selection
- Future land use
- Site study or cleanup schedule
- Work plan priorities
- Relative-risk site evaluations.

While the RAB does not provide consensus advice, the installations depend on the advice provided to determine the best course of action in their cleanup plans. Figure O-10 shows the types of advice provided by RABs in FY2006.

TAPP Program

DoD recognizes environmental restoration issues arising at an installation can be complex and may hinder a community's understanding and acceptance of an installation's efforts. To assist communities with understanding and evaluating technical issues, and to facilitate meaningful community involvement, DoD developed the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) program for RABs. This program provides RABs with support for independent technical advice to assist in clarifying specific scientific and engineering issues that arise when reviewing restoration activities and documents. These issues may include reviewing proposed remedial technologies, interpreting health and environmental effects data, and reviewing restoration documents. With this knowledge, RABs and community members can gain a better understanding of the environmental issues at their installation—increasing community trust, confidence, and meaningful involvement in environmental restoration activities.

TAPP funding is limited to \$25,000 per year, or one percent of the total cost of completing environmental cleanup at the installation, whichever is less. TAPP funding is capped at \$100,000 over the lifetime of the installation's cleanup program. DoD has developed a publicly available TAPP handbook (available at https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/Cleanup/CleanupOfc/Documents/TAPP/tapphandbk_contents.html) to provide RABs with information on all facets of the TAPP program. This guidance document informs communities of the benefits and availability of assistance and contributes to the overall success of RABs. The FY2006 TAPP awards are listed in Figure O-11.

Figure O-11
RABs Awarded TAPPs in FY2006

RAB	TAPP Award
Army	
Aberdeen Proving Ground	\$25,000
Picatinny Arsenal	\$25,000
Ravenna AAP	\$25,000
Badger AAP	\$25,000
Navy	
Alameda NAS	\$25,000
Calverton NWIRP	\$25,000
Air Force	
Camp Romanzof LRRS	\$24,972
Kelly AFB	\$6,625
Lowry AFB	\$9,000
DLA	
DSC Philadelphia	\$25,000
FUDS	
Buckey Field	\$25,000
Plum Brooks OW	\$25,000