

Subject	Meeting #9 - Barnes Air National Guard Base (ANGB) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)		
Prepared by	Johannah Phelan /Jacobs		
Location	Westfield Athenaeum WebEx Meeting	Date/Time	October 24, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
RAB Members	Additional Meeting Participants		
Col David Halasi-Kun/Barnes ANGB, Base Co-chair	Chris Brown/National Guard Bureau (NGB)		
Kathleen Hillman, Community Co-chair	Jennifer Baker/Barnes ANGB		
Mary Ann Babinski	Col Sarah Sinclair/Barnes ANGB		
Chris Clark	Amy Brand/Jacobs		
Kristen Mello	Johannah Phelan/Jacobs		
Mary O'Connell (WebEx)	A full list of attendees is provided in Attachment A.		
Jane Oskin			
Caprice Shaw, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)			

The Barnes ANGB RAB Meeting No. 9 was held on October 24, 2024 at 1800 at the Westfield Athenaeum and via WebEx. The following notes provide a summary of discussions during the meeting and are not intended to serve as a transcript or further explain information provided during the meeting. A copy of the presentation is attached in **Attachment B**.

- 1 The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. with the RAB facilitator, Amy Brand/Jacobs, welcoming participants. Amy presented the agenda, provided an overview of meeting guidelines and how to use the WebEx meeting platform, and then invited the Base Co-chair and Community Co-chair to provide opening remarks.
- 2 Col Halasi-Kun and Kathleen Hillman welcomed meeting participants.
- 3 There were no comments on the meeting minutes for RAB Meeting #8 in July 2024; meeting minutes were approved.
- 4 The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2025.
- 5 A RAB member application from Sandy Gil was received and the RAB voted unanimously to approve her as a new RAB member. Sandy has chaired multiple organizations and has strongly advocated for community litter cleanup campaigns. She is an educator. .
- 6 The Technical Advisory for Public Participation (TAPP) grant was discussed. The FY24 TAPP grant is focused on gaining a better understanding of the health implications of site contaminants and exposure scenarios. It was awarded to Chloeta (<https://www.chloeta.com/>), a Native American owned company in Oklahoma City that focuses on infrastructure and the environment. Lillie Keener is the project manager and introduced herself during the meeting. Chloeta will present their findings at the April 24, 2025 meeting.
- 7 Chris Clarke asked about the selection criteria used for awarding the FY24 TAPP grant. Information on Chloeta and their qualifications can be provided to the RAB.
- 8 Chris Brown is working on getting funding for the FY25 TAPP grant; however, the government is operating under a continuing resolution. The FY25 TAPP grant will focus on co-

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- contaminants, the Unified Federal Policy Quality Assurance Project Plan (UFP-QAPP), state and federal cleanup standards, and the implication of each of these items.
- 9 In discussion about the FY25 TAPP grant, the RAB brought up that different areas of the Base have undergone different treatments. They are hoping for a holistic remediation approach and wants to avoid spending money on remediation that does not account for other previous treatments. The RAB asked if it is common practice to consider previous treatments. ANG clarified that previous treatments are considered during the Feasibility Study. The RAB is concerned that treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) could be affected by other previous treatments which could impact the remediation strategy. Changes from PFAS will be captured when the fate and transport is better understood; this is studied as part of the Remedial Investigation (RI). The RAB would like the FY25 TAPP to help with their understanding of co-contaminants, the effects of past treatment, and how those may affect the remediation strategy for PFAS. Chris Brown indicated that he had a better understanding of the scope and intent of the FY25 TAPP which would help him with in moving forward with the grant.
- 10 Kristen Mello provided a list of questions to ANG.
- 11 Amy reviewed the purpose of the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) and Chris Brown began the presentation on the status of the ERP (slide 18). Site 2 at Barnes ANGB is a former underground storage tank site. Remediation included soil excavation. Immobile non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) remains at the site. It has been removed to the extent practicable. The site has been cleaned up to the extent practicable, and now an area use limitation needs to be added to the lease agreement. If the property changes ownership, then ANG is responsible for the final cleanup. This will be included in the area use statement that is part of the lease amendment.
- 12 Caprice Shaw with MassDEP asked if ANG was filing an “activity use limitation” on the property and if they were following the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) process.
- 13 Chris Clark pointed out this this is a good example of how the presence of NAPL could change how PFAS acts within the environment.
- 14 Chris Brown then provided an update on the PFAS Remedial Investigation. The QAPP should be available for review by MassDEP and the RAB in January 2025 with a 30-day review period scheduled. MassDEP would like to see the RAB’s comments and questions on the QAPP. ANG and Jacobs will coordinate getting the QAPP out to all RAB members. RAB members will then about two weeks to review and either provide comments to ANG in writing or have a call to coordinate – ANG will coordinate getting RAB review comments and providing them to MassDEP. The RAB and MassDEP agreed to have an exchange of comments approximately 2 weeks before final comments are due. The specific schedule will need to remain somewhat flexible. It was noted that the QAPP should not be made available to the public until it is Final.
- 15 RI data will be collected through an iterative process. Amanda Martin, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) explained overall contents of the QAPP and how the iterative process works to go back and collect additional data as needed. For example, they added a contingency for stormwater sampling to the QAPP. Once sufficient data is collected, then a determination will be made on the need for sampling stormwater discharge points to determine if they may be contributing to surface water contamination.
- 16 The field work is tentatively scheduled for April 2025.
- 17 The RAB asked if there could be a presentation on the QAPP at the January 2025 meeting. ANG agreed to do a refresher on the QAPP with recommendations on sections for review. The

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- RAB would like to see a bulleted list summarizing the sampling plan in a manner that is understandable for non-technical community members. The community deserves to have the information explained in a manner they understand, especially since there had been a delay in the submittal.
- 18 The RAB asked the following questions with regard to private wells impacted with PFAS.
- a. Who is paying for testing?
 - b. Will this change in the future?
- 19 Caprice Shaw with MassDEP responded that they recently hired a deputy director. She then explained that there are point of entry treatment systems (POETS) at 8 properties. These were installed based on the sampling completed in 2017-2018. A state contractor performs the quarterly monitoring and maintenance checks. Each unit has 2 carbon filters and some have ultraviolet treatment. Samples are collected at the influent, mid-point between the two in-line filters, and the effluent. The POETS are operating well and there has been no-breakthrough in the effluent. Bottled water is provided if needed. The responsible party has not been identified.
- 20 The RAB asked how long will it be before it is determined if PFAS in those private wells is coming from the Base? This is the purpose of the RI, to establish the source. The RI will include sampling off base and will enable the ANG to determine whether it possible to “connect the dots” from the base to the impacts in those private wells. Once the RI “connects the dots” and demonstrate that the downgradient impacts are from the base, then the DoD can take action.
- 21 Did some of the homes with private wells get retested since PFAS limits have been lowered? Caprice replied that MassDEP is not revisiting previously tested locations at this time. The new drinking water limits are being considered. Mary Ann Babinski also asked whether private wells that were not tested before are being tested now, especially as we know groundwater moves around. Or is ANG and DEP only focusing on the ones that have POET systems? Caprice explained that when the standard went from 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to 20 ppt, they revised some of the properties to see if there was a detection at that level. She also explained that, while EPA has lowered the standards, the state still uses 20 ppt. They are looking at EPA standards and will be making a decision on whether to change the state standards; they have up to two years to decide. RAB members asked whether the State might still go back and re-sample some private wells, since the standards are changing and the wells were last sampling in 2018. Caprice agreed to take this issue back to her management for additional discussion and provide a response to RAB members by email which will also be captured in the responses to action items in the meeting summary.
- 22 Caprice explained that they have not seen much change in the concentrations of PFAS in the influent of POETS. She said that if they notice a specific change in detections, then they would know that they need to reconsider their sampling.
- 23 Kristen Mello asked (through written questions) whether any of the private wells being monitored by MassDEP have been tested with a non-targeted PFAS analysis to identify as many potential PFAS compounds as current technology and available analytic standards allow? Caprice responded that the state currently regulates 6 PFAS compounds, but samples collected from the POETS are analyzed for PFAS using method 537.1, for 18 (may now be more) different PFAS and for arsenic and bacteria at some properties. MassDEP follows EPA guidelines, and the new guidelines may add new PFAS analytes to the state’s list.
- 24 Kristen asked if DEP or DoD are working on a list of PFAS precursors to analyze. Her concern is that people may drink precursors and then when the body metabolizes those, they may turn into the regulated compounds. Asked whether DoD will be analyzing precursors and if no, then

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why not. Chris Brown replied that the methods are listed in the QAPP. Kristen asked whether analytes can be added to the QAPP and indicated that there are many PFAS precursors are found in AAAF. Whitney Sauve from USACE explained that sampling Method 1633, which is what will be included in the QAPP, will capture many of the major precursors that they are talking about and the results will be presented in the RI. There are 40 compounds included in Method 1633. Kristen asked whether they would be able to see the actual data, not just a summary or graph, and Whitney confirmed.

- 25 Kristen indicated that she understands that there are many PFAS precursors that cannot be regulated but indicated that only sampling for 6 PFAS isn't sufficient. Caprice Shaw indicated that she can bring this back to her department, and that we can definitely have more discussion about this issue in the future. Caprice also clarified that when she says she has to "bring this back" it isn't that she doesn't want to answer but that some issues have to be taken to her supervisor.
- 26 The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) has updated the TAPP website.
- 27 In his closing remarks, Col. Halasi-Kun, base co-chair, reminded the team that AFFF was used on base but was very strictly controlled when used and that it was for critical lifesaving firefighting situations. AFFF has been removed from all the equipment on the Base and is in storage awaiting transport off-base to an approved facility. Col Halasi-Kun will notify the RAB when it has been removed from the Base.
- 28 Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Action Items

- 1 ANG will provide more information on Chloeta and their qualifications to the RAB.
- 2 ANG and Jacobs will distribute the QAPP to all RAB members and DEP when it is available.
- 3 ANG will coordinate getting RAB review comments and providing them to MassDEP.
- 4 At the next RAB meeting, ANG will present a "refresher" on the QAPP with recommendations on sections for review. ANG will provide information, preferably in a bulleted list, that summarizes the sampling plan in a manner that is understandable for non-technical community members
- 5 Caprice Shaw will talk to her management about whether private wells should be re-sampled. She agreed to provide a response to RAB members by email which will also be captured in the responses to action items in the meeting summary.
- 6 Caprice Shaw will talk to her management to convey the RAB's concern about testing for precursors. This discussion may be continued in future RAB meetings.
- 7 Col Halasi-Kun will notify the RAB when all AFFF has been removed from the Base.

Attachment A
RAB Meeting Attendees (in person and online*)

Apell	Jennifer	USACE
Babinski	Mary Ann	RAB Member
Baker	Jennifer	Barnes ANGB
Barton	Andrew	SRS Battelle JV
Barzyk	Tom	BB&E
Brand	Amy	Jacobs/RAB Facilitator
Brown	Chris	National Guard Bureau/Restoration Program Manager
Clark	Chris	RAB Member
Folan	Dan	USACE
Freihofer	Keith	National Guard Bureau
Gil	Sandi	Community member
Greenberg	Grace	USACE
Goff	Drew	
Griffin	James	SRS Battelle JV
Halisi-Kun	Col. David	Barnes ANGB/Base Co-Chair
Hillman	Kathleen	RAB Member/Community Co-Chair
Keener	Lillie	Chloeta
Jasiulevicius	Justin	Chloeta
Leslie	Karla	Parsons
Lewis	Robert	National Guard Bureau
Martin	Amanda	USACE
Mello	Kristen	RAB Member
Narcisi	Michael	USACE
O'Connell	Mary	RAB Member
Okscin	Jane	RAB Member
Phelan	Johannah	Jacobs
Sauve	Whitney	USACE
Shaw	Caprice	MassDEP
Simpson	E	
Sinclair	Col Sarah	Barnes ANGB
Williams	Wendell	ANGRC
Unidentified Callers (5)		Not all those participating online can or choose to be identified.



Barnes Air National Guard (ANG) Base Restoration Advisory Board Meeting #8 October 24, 2024

FINAL



Agenda



- 6:00 PM Agenda Review and Meeting Logistics
- 6:10 PM Welcome and Introductions
- 6:15 PM RAB Business
- 6:45 PM Environmental Restoration Program Status Update
- 7:10 PM Public Questions and Comments
- 7:25 PM Closing Remarks
- 7:30 PM Adjourn



Meeting Logistics

Amy Brand

Jacobs

RAB Facilitator



Meeting Guidelines



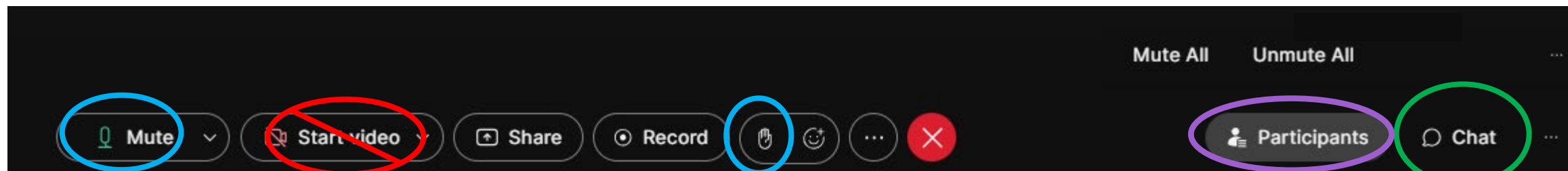
- RAB Members
 - Ask questions at the end of each topic
 - Raise hand to be called on to speak
 - Introduce yourself so that everyone (in room and online) knows who is speaking
 - Please observe a 2-minute limit to enable other RAB members to participate.
- Public Participants
 - Hold questions to the end of the meeting
 - In the room, raise hand and introduce yourself when called on
 - Online, submit questions through the “chat feature”
 - Questions will be read and addressed at the end of the meeting



Webex Basics – Computer Access Participants



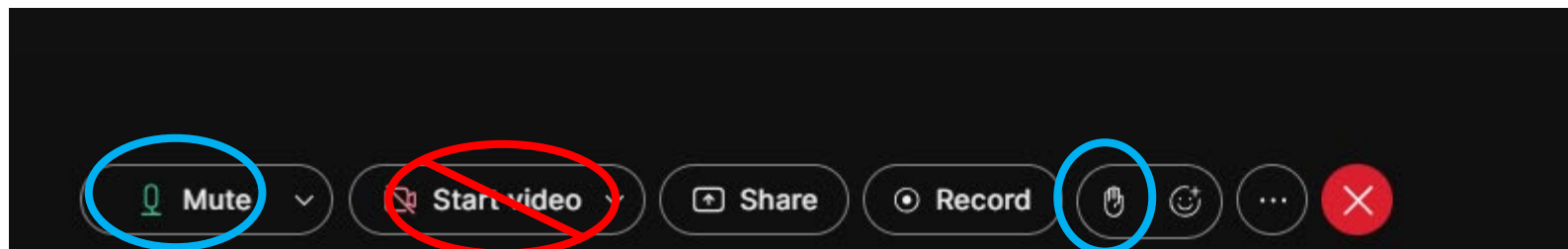
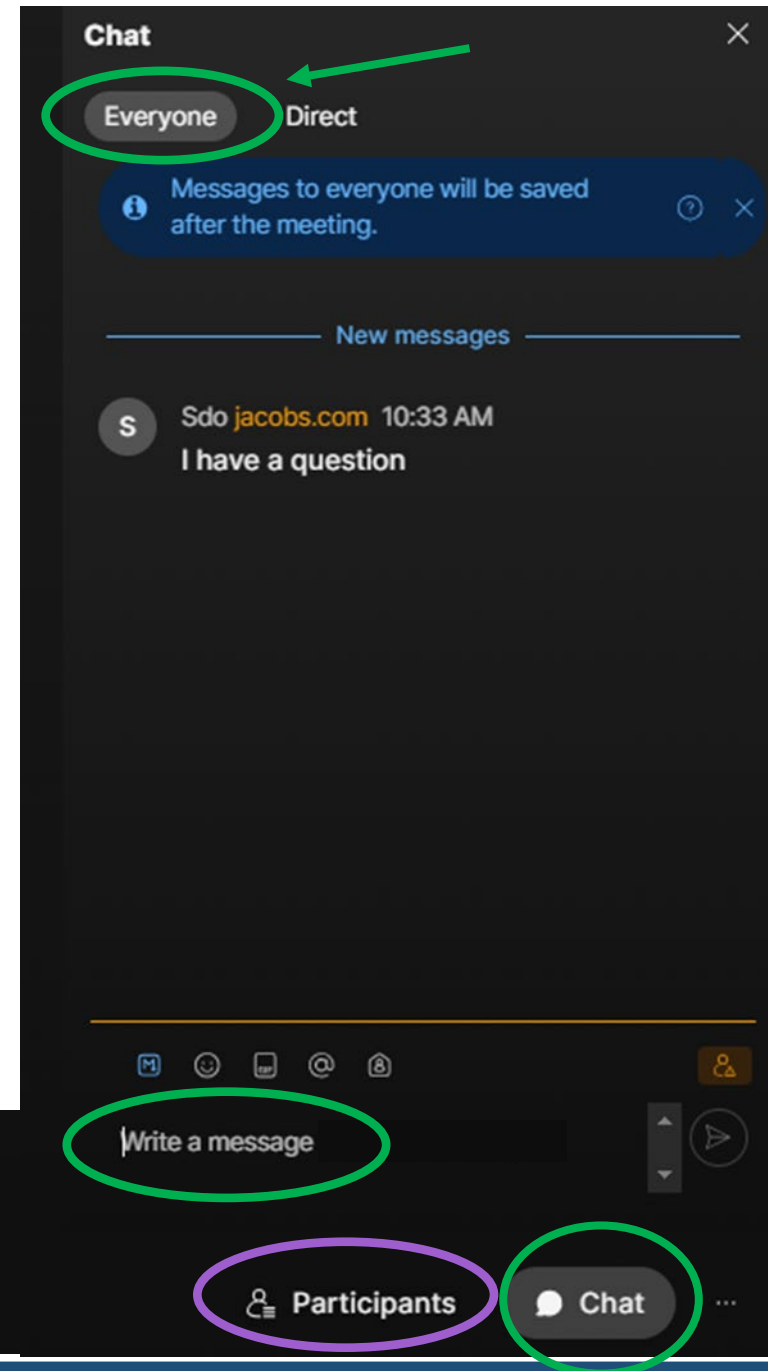
- Video – **Turn OFF** – presentation will be on screen
- Participants – On the lower right, click on **Participants** to open panel
- To ask a question:
 - RAB Members - **Raise hand** to be called on to speak, **unmute** yourself when called on
 - Public participants – Use the **Chat feature**
- Trouble? Call or text 407-744-4273





Webex Basics – Computer Access Participants

- Video – **Turn OFF** – presentation will be on screen
- Participants – On the lower right, click on **Participants** to open panel
- To ask a question:
 - RAB Members - **Raise hand** to be called on to speak, **unmute** yourself when called on
 - Public participants – Use the **Chat feature** to type your question, type message to **EVERYONE**, click on “**Write a message**”, hit enter
- Trouble? Call or text 407-744-4273





Webex Basics – Telephone Participants



- Follow along on slide presentation (emailed or download from 104th Fighter Wing website at <https://www.104fw.ang.af.mil/About/Restoration-Advisory-Board/>)
- Use your phone mute button when not speaking
- Dial *3 to raise hand to be called on to speak after the presentation
 - Unmute and identify yourself when asking a question or making a comment



Welcome and Introductions

Col. David Halasi-kun

Kathleen Hillman



Welcome and Introductions



Air National Guard Team

Col. David Halasi-kun (Base Co-Chair)

Christopher Brown, National Guard Bureau

Jennifer Baker, 104th FW Environmental Coordinator

Contractors: BB&E, Jacobs (Amy Brand, RAB facilitator)

Community RAB Members

Kathleen Hillman, Community Co-Chair

Mary Ann Babinski

Chris Clark

Kristen Mello

Mary O'Connell

Jane Okscin

Representative Kelly Pease

Dawn Thomas

Senator John Velis

Regulatory Contact

Caprice Shaw, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)



Welcome and Introductions

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Team

Amanda Martin, Project Manager/ Technical Lead

Grace Greenberg, Risk Assessor

Jennifer Apell, PhD, Project Chemist

Mike Narcisi, Wetland Ecologist/Soil Scientist

Dan Folan, PhD, PG, LSP, Geologist/Hydrogeologist

Whitney Sauvé, PE, Environmental Engineer

SRS-Battelle JV Team (USACE Contractor)

Andrew Barton, Battelle, Project Manager

James Griffin, SRS, Alternate Project Manager



RAB Business

Amy Brand

Jacobs

RAB Facilitator



Meeting Summaries

- Draft meeting summary from RAB Meeting #8 (July 2024)
 - Emailed to the RAB October 3 – any comments?
 - Draft posted on the 104th FW website:
<https://www.104fw.ang.af.mil/About/Restoration-Advisory-Board/>



Upcoming Meetings

- Dates
 - Agreed on fourth Thursday of the month, every 3 months: January, April, July, October
 - Adjustments to be made when needed
 - Upcoming meetings: January 23 or 30, 2025 (discuss)
 April 24, 2025
 July 24, 2025
 October 23, 2025



Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Grant

- FY24 TAPP Grant (#2)
 - RAB members voted by majority to pursue a TAPP focused on gaining a better understanding of health implications of site contaminants and exposure scenarios
 - Project awarded September 2024
- FY25 TAPP Grant (#3)
 - RAB members voted by majority to pursue a TAPP focused on site co-contaminants, the UFP-QAPP, state and federal clean up standards, and the implications of each
 - Currently pursuing funds assurance for FY25 funds



FY25 TAPP Grant (#3)

7. PROJECT TYPE *(Data Interpretation, Training, etc.)*

Interpreting Technical Documents and Data, Providing Education for RAB members, Assist RAB members understanding UFP-QAPP and its Implications

8. PROJECT PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION *(State anticipated goals of project and relate to increased understanding/participation in restoration process at the installation. Include descriptions, locations, and timetables of products or services requested.)*

Purpose:

To help RAB Community Members better understand:

- the history and potential interference interactions of site ~~co-contaminants~~,
- the work plan proposed in the UFP-QAPP and the implications of state cleanup levels and proposed federal regulations,
- the likely consequences of the work proposed in the UFP-QAPP, etc.

to better prepare us for the RI work plan review.

Description:

Review site historical site contamination reports from MassDEP and Dept of Defense supplementary to the work performed for 2022 TAPP project.

Provide Community RAB member education regarding site ~~co-contaminants~~, the UFP-QAPP, state and federal cleanup standards, and the implications of each.

Prepare findings in a ~~summarized~~ report.

Present findings at a future Barnes ANGB RAB meeting.

9. STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY *(Refer to eligibility criteria in 32 CFR Section 203.10 and 203.11 of TAPP rule. Note other sources that were considered for this support and state reasons why these sources are inadequate.)*

This project is listed as eligible under § 203.10 (1) Interpret Technical Documents.

Upon completion of the 2022 Barnes RAB TAPP project Community RAB Members had additional questions regarding other historic contamination at and around the Base and how those ~~co-contaminants~~ and their cleanup methods might affect the PFAS contamination and its remediation efforts. Residents and these and other experts have already been donating their time and talents toward educating us about this contamination, our exposure, and its potential effects for years. The complexity and volume of work is overwhelming for what spare time can be donated and we need to pay for their time in an official capacity to achieve this goal of RAB education and readiness so that we can be full participants at the table. We cannot speak clearly on the implications of the proposed remediation and work plan without understanding the full implications of the co-occurring contamination and the remediation efforts previously performed at the Base.



RAB Member Discussion



- Please raise your hands and unmute yourself when recognized.
- Introduce yourself at the beginning of your question or comment.
- Please limit questions to 2 minutes to give other RAB members an opportunity to participate.



Environmental Restoration Program Status Update

Christopher Brown
National Guard Bureau



Environmental Restoration Program

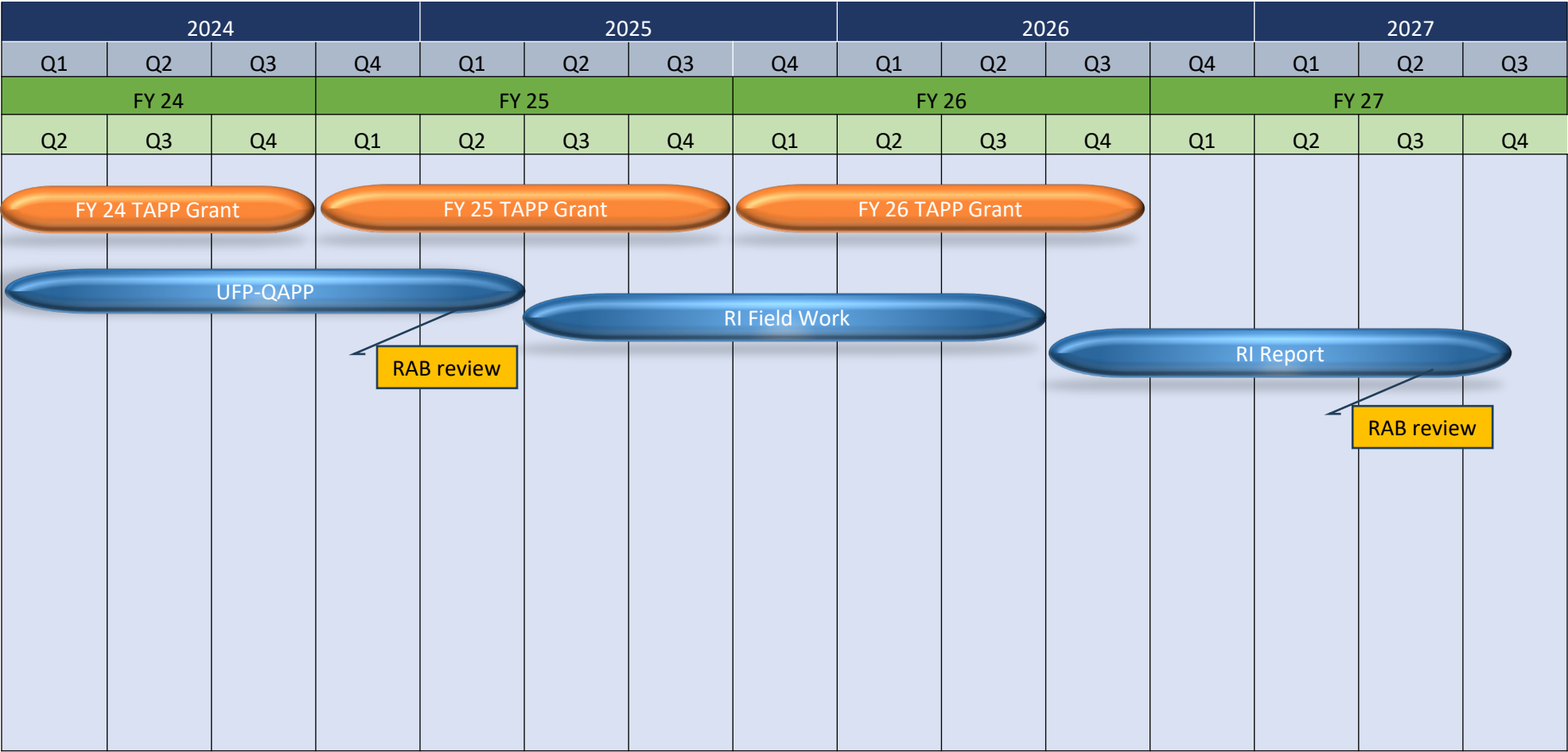


- Site 2 Current Status
 - Long term monitoring, working towards a Permanent Solution Statement (PSS)
 - A Lease Amendment will be required to incorporate conditions
- PFAS Remedial Investigation (RI)
 - Uniform Federal Policy-Quality Assurance Project Plan (UFP-QAPP), January 2025
 - Start of field sampling activities, Spring 2025





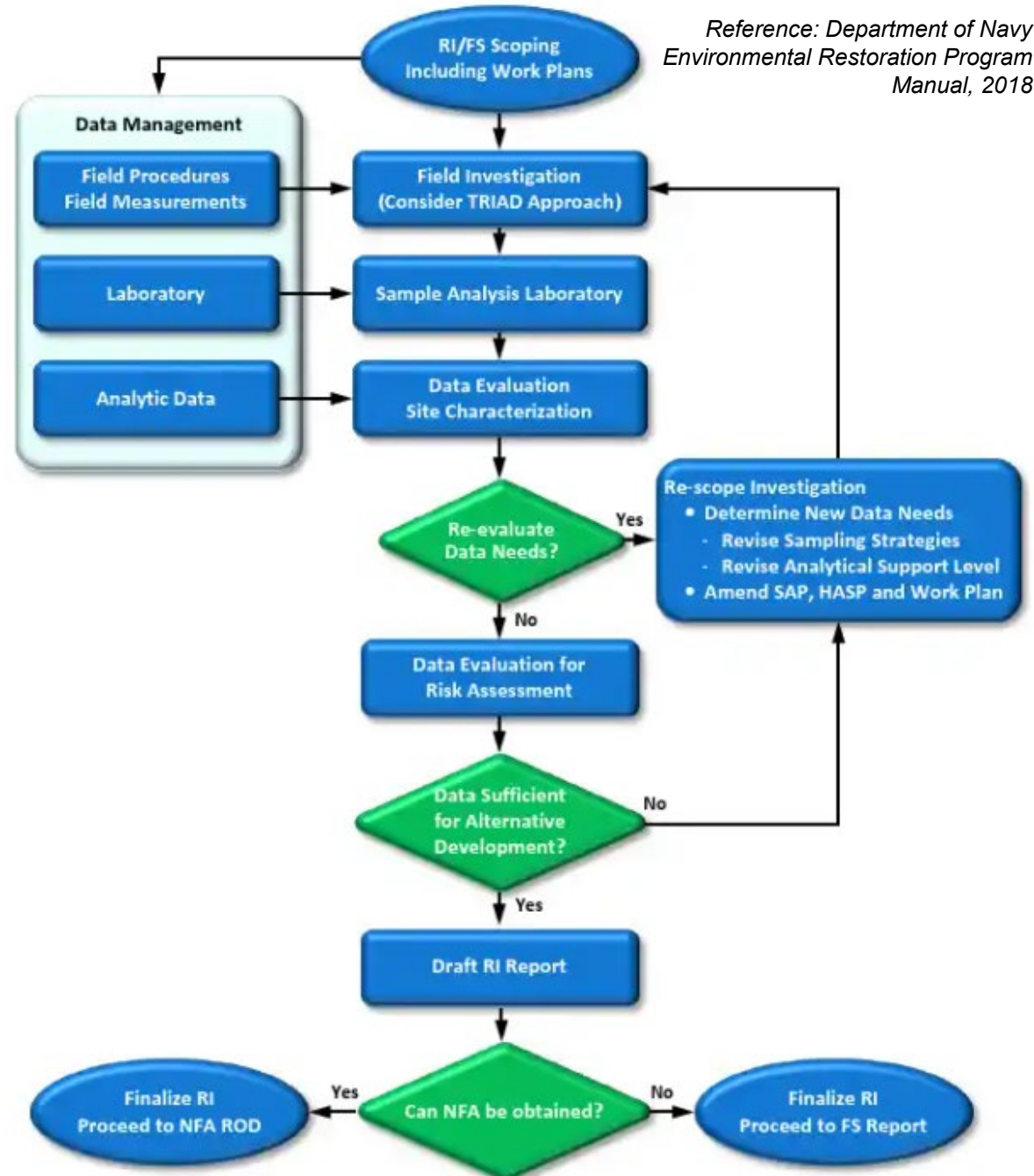
Barnes Restoration Calendar





PFAS Remedial Investigation (RI) Updates

- Iterative approach
 - Additional data needs determined based on evaluation of initial results
 - If data gaps are identified, more data will be collected
- Example: Stormwater sampling contingency added to the UFP-QAPP
 - If there is an increase in PFAS concentrations in the surface water samples downgradient of the stormwater discharge point(s), compared to the upgradient surface water PFAS concentrations, then stormwater samples will be collected





RAB Member Discussion



- Please raise your hands and unmute yourself when recognized.
- Introduce yourself at the beginning of your question or comment.
- Please limit questions to 2 minutes to give other RAB members an opportunity to participate.



Public Questions and Comments



In person: Raise hand to be recognized

Online: Submit questions using the written Q&A feature



Contact Information



104th Fighter Wing, Barnes Air National Guard Base

Base Co-Chair
Commander
Col. David Halasi-kun

Environmental Manager
Ms. Jennifer Baker

Public Affairs Manager
Jay Hewitt
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Jerry.hewitt@us.af.mil

Community Co-Chair

Kathleen Hillman khillman179@gmail.com

National Guard Bureau

Program Manager
Mr. Christopher Brown
(240) 612-7275
christopher.brown.261@us.af.mil

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Caprice Shaw
(413) 540-6253
Caprice.shaw@mass.gov



Websites for More Information



Environmental Restoration Program at 104th Fighter Wing

- General and Links to PFOS/PFOA Information: <https://www.104fw.ang.af.mil/About/Environmental/>
- Restoration Advisory Board: <https://www.104fw.ang.af.mil/About/Restoration-Advisory-Board/>

Relative Risk Site Evaluation (RRSE)

- Barnes RRSE: https://www.104fw.ang.af.mil/Portals/5/Barnes_RRSE%20Fact%20Sheet%20and%20Scoring%20Summaries_211215.pdf
- RRSE Primer: https://www.denix.osd.mil/references/dod/policy-guidance/relative-risk-site-evaluation-primer/RRSE_Primer_Summer1997.pdf

104th Fighter Wing Environmental Administrative Record

- <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/Search.aspx> (Select ANG radio button, select Barnes, and click on search)

MassDEP PFAS Information

- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

Westfield Water Department PFAS Information

- <https://www.cityofwestfield.org/672/PFCs-Information-Updates>

RAB Rule Handbook and Information on Technical Assistance for Public Participation

- <https://www.denix.osd.mil/rab/home/>

Air Force Response to PFOS and PFOA

- <https://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/>



Closing Remarks

Kathleen Hillman
Col. David Halasi-kun



Adjourn