



## George Air Force Base Installation Restoration Program

October 1996

### FACT SHEET #10

#### STATUS OF OF SEDA LANDFILL REMOVAL ACTIVITIES AT GEORGE AIR FORCE BASE

George Air Force Base (George AFB) has been undergoing a variety of removal activities under the Department of Defense (DOD) Installation Restoration Program (IRP) and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) programs. One of the main goals of the George AFB environmental program is to transfer George AFB land parcels to the community in a timely and orderly fashion. A condition for parcel transfer is that interim removal measures designed to protect human health and the environment are underway. This Fact Sheet outlines the activities underway at the Southeast Disposal Area (SEDA) (Figure 1). These activities are anticipated to begin in September 1996 and be completed in December 1996.

#### REGULATORY PROCESS

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) was enacted by Congress in 1980. CERCLA was designed to respond to situations involving the past disposal of hazardous substances. As such, it complements the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) which regulates on-going hazardous waste handling and disposal.

In 1986, CERCLA was extensively amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). SARA added many provisions to CERCLA and clarified much of what was unclear in the original act and specifically addresses Department of Defense (DOD) sites. CERCLA's major emphasis is the cleanup of inactive hazardous waste sites and the distribution of cleanup costs among the parties who generated and handled hazardous substances at these sites. CERCLA details the procedures and standards which must be followed in remediating these sites.

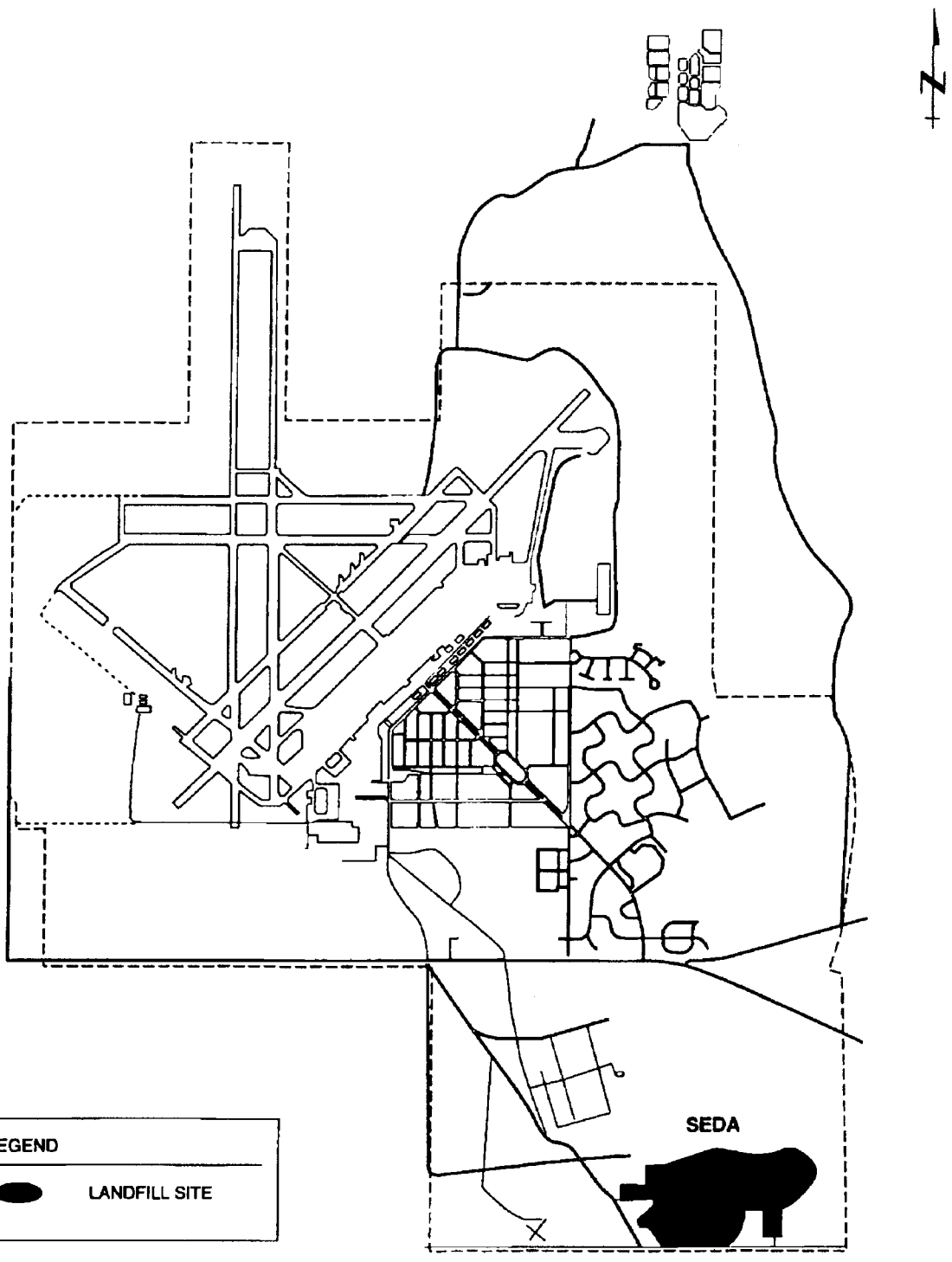
As a result of a United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) assessment, and subsequent placement of George AFB on the National Priorities List (NPL) in February 1990, a new Feasibility Study (FS) (JMM, 1993) was prepared (1) to summarize and reassess the earlier FS activities performed prior to George AFB being placed on the NPL and (2) to update the documentation of the investigation to be consistent with current USEPA guidance

published in 1988. The USEPA guidance (Guidance for Conducting Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies Under CERCLA) was developed to reflect the new emphasis and provisions of SARA and incorporates aspects of new or revised guidance on technical and management initiatives designed to streamline the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) process (USEPA, 1988).

CERCLA specifies requirements for activities and documents related to the remedial activities. These activities and documents include: RI/FS, proposed plan, record of decision (ROD), remedial design/remedial action (RD/RA), and operation and maintenance (O&M). The past, current, and proposed activities for these sites are presented in the following sections.


#### BACKGROUND OF LANDFILL SITES AT GEORGE AFB

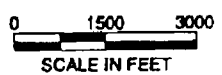
Twenty-eight landfill and disposal sites were investigated as part of the IRP. Investigation results indicate 14 sites require no further action (NFA) because landfill constituents that could pose a threat to human health or the environment were not found. Within the SEDA, there are nine sites adjacent to each other. One SEDA landfill site (RW-09) was investigated separately because the material at the site (low level radioactive waste such as vacuum tubes) was restricted solely to the RW-09 site area. Over 4,000 cubic yards of soil and debris were excavated from areas identified by investigation as having had landfilling activities in the past. All excavated materials were mechanically sized and screened for radioactivity. All materials excavated were sampled for laboratory analysis. Analytical data indicated that radioactivity was consistent with that found in background soils outside the site, with two exceptions. The two exceptions had concentrations of thorium above background, but within recognized limits for naturally occurring radioactive materials. The small, button-sized radioactive source was packaged and shipped to a fixed laboratory for testing and appropriate disposal. The investigation and removal activities for Site RW-09 were discussed in detail in Fact Sheet #7. Previous studies at RW-09 were inconclusive in confirming the physical presence or absence of radioactive materials with the RW-09 area.



**LEGEND**

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 **LANDFILL SITE**



10/98/06



**MONTGOMERY WATSON**  
Walnut Creek, California

**GEORGE AIR FORCE BASE**  
**SEDA LANDFILL SITE LOCATION MAP**

**Figure**  
**1**

The investigation, taken together with resulting analytical and screening, provided a clear understanding of the areas suspected to have contained radioactive materials. The location of only a very few radioactive materials indicated that large-scale disposal of radioactive waste at RW-09 did not occur. The study report recommended that Site RW-09 be closed in conjunction with the other landfills. The Site RW-09 area will be closed as part of the SEDA.

The boundaries and contents of the landfills (SEDA) were defined by a review of historical records and by additional remedial investigations. The remedial investigation findings at each landfill are summarized below.

Nine sites (LF-07, LF-08, LF-11, DP-10, RW-09, WP-40, SS-52, DP-15, DP-33, and DP-34) comprise the SEDA. Information on investigation findings at RW-09 are presented in Fact Sheet #7. For the remaining sites, solid materials encountered during the remedial investigations included rubble, construction debris, burned debris, a few crushed drums, and numerous linear trenches where combustible material including domestic refuse was burned and covered with native soil. Soil samples results indicated the presence of low level dioxins, one pesticide (4,4-DDE), toluene, petroleum hydrocarbons and metals were detected in surface and in subsurface soils to a depth of 15 feet.

#### REMOVAL ACTIONS AT THE LANDFILL SITES

Interim removal actions at landfills are conducted in order to minimize present and future environmental risks and to facilitate expected reuse of the property. In agreement with the Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) including the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the United States Air Force (USAF), interim removal actions are proposed for the SEDA sites.

The SEDA proposed removal action consists of: rehabilitation (restoration) of the existing soil cover (correct for erosion and removal of surface debris); grading or cutting of the surface to a reduced slope of 1.5 to 25 percent to promote surface runoff and decrease infiltration of surface water into the refuse; installation of drainage ditches above the landfill to prevent surface water from running onto the landfill sites; installation of site perimeter fencing to control site access; and re-establishment of native plant species on the graded surface.

Standard health and safety precautions will be performed to reduce dust and monitor for air emissions. Instrumentation will be used to assess the dust levels and organic vapor emissions. Action levels were established based on OSHA standards. These action levels are not anticipated to be exceeded during field activities at the site. Details regarding health and safety procedures are presented in detail in the "Closure and Post-Closure Plan for DP-03, DP-04, LF-12, LF-14, and the Southeast Disposal Area, Technical Plan and Quality Program Plan" (Montgomery Watson, 1996).

#### Record of Decision

As discussed above, the major milestones in the CERCLA process

include the following: RI/FS, proposed plan, ROD, RD/RA, and O&M. After completion of the RI/FS, EPA issues a ROD, which sets forth EPA's selected remedy and the factors which led to the selection. The ROD will include responses to public comments on the remedy selected by EPA. Once issued, the ROD will be placed in the administrative record supporting EPA's action at the site. The public is invited to comment and participate in each milestone in the CERCLA process.

The removal actions chosen for the landfill sites will be documented when the ROD is finalized. The ROD will require five-year reviews. At the end of each five year period, a site review will be conducted, and the regulatory agencies will assess the effectiveness of the remedial program for each site.

#### CONTINUED MONITORING OF THE LANDFILL AREAS

Removal actions at each site require routine annual monitoring of the groundwater beneath the sites. Environmental monitoring of groundwater will be conducted annually beginning in September 1996 to assess whether contaminants have migrated into the environment. Further action at the site will be considered (continued monitoring, additional remedial measures, or no further action) after a five-year period. Site access and land use restrictions will be in place during the five-year monitoring period.

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Community Relations Plan (CRP) was completed in 1991 for George AFB by International Technology Corporation (IT) following USEPA guidance (IT, 1991). Consistent with the CRP, the USAF established a Technical Review Committee (TRC) which was composed of the USEPA, DTSC, RWQCB, and representatives from adjacent communities. The TRC met on a quarterly basis to provide community representatives with up-to-date information on recent milestone events. In January 1994, George AFB established the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) which replaced the TRC. The RAB meets on a quarterly basis and the meetings are open to the public. The RAB is designed to act as a focal point for environmental exchange between George AFB and the public.

The RPMs are responsible for informing the public about releases and actions taken, answering questions, and notifying immediately affected citizens, State and local officials, and when appropriate, civil defense or emergency agencies. George AFB is responsible for establishing and maintaining the administrative record and this administrative record is available to the public.

#### SUMMARY

The USAF is addressing the issue of interim removal actions at the SEDA landfill areas at George AFB. In agreement with the regulatory agencies, surface grading, drainage controls, and maintenance or installation of a soil cover will be conducted. Access to, and use of, the sites will be restricted. The chosen removal action for the SEDA site will be documented when the ROD is finalized. However, closure activities will be completed prior to signing the ROD. All sites will undergo a site review after five years of groundwater monitoring at which time further actions at the sites (if any) will be recommended.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO COMMENT ABOUT THE IRP**

The Air Force encourages the public to visit the information repositories listed below and become more knowledgeable about the environmental studies at George AFB. If you or someone you know would like to be placed on a mailing list to receive further information about the George AFB environmental cleanup program, please send your mailing address to

Robert Sommer  
Chief, Environmental Programs  
Department of the Air Force  
AFBCA/OL-C, Building 321  
13436 Sabre Blvd.  
Victorville, CA 92394-5000  
(619)246-5360 Fax (619)246-3315

Public awareness and involvement contribute to sound decisions that better protect public health and the environment. If you would like to comment or require additional information about the IRP process, contact the Chief Environmental Programs at George AFB or any of the resources listed below.

24-Hour EPA Hotline  
1-800-231-3075

Juan Jimenez  
California EPA (DTSC)  
245 West Broadway, Suite 350  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4444  
(310)590-4919

Ms. Marsha Mingay  
Public Participation Specialist  
Office of Military Facilities  
Southern California Regional Operations  
Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC)  
245 West Broadway, Suite 350  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4444

Jehiel Cass  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board,  
Lahontan Regional Office  
15428 Civic Drive, Suite 100  
Victorville, CA 92392  
(619)241-7408

James Chang  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Stop H-9-1  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415)744-215

**INFORMATION REPOSITORIES:**

George AFB Environmental Library  
AFBCA/OL-C, Building 321  
13436 Sabre Blvd.  
Victorville, CA 92394-5000

Adelanto Branch  
San Bernardino County Public Library  
11744 Bartlett Avenue  
Adelanto, CA 92301

Victorville Branch  
San Bernardino County Public Library  
15011 Circle Drive  
Victorville, CA 92392

Please add me to the GAFB IRP Information Mailing List

Mailing Coupon:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

This mailing coupon is a public record and can be obtained through a Public Records Act Request.

**FINAL PAGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

**FINAL PAGE**



**GEORGE AFB  
CALIFORNIA**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD  
COVER SHEET**

AR File Number 1095