

Minutes

General Meeting Ft McClellan Restoration Advisory Board February 8, 1999

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Conroy, Mark Anderson, Ike Brown, Barry Cox, Jerome Riser, Alan Faust, Mary Harrington, Jimmy Parks, Fernand Thomassy, Charles Turner.

BRAC CLEANUP TEAM (BCT) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Johnson, Ron Levy, Bait Reedy

CALL TO ORDER Mr. Conroy called the meeting to order at 6:30. He remarked on the number of attendees and, after calling roll, asked the audience to introduce themselves. In attendance were civilian contractors, Ft McClellan employees and one member of the church. Mr. Conroy asked for comments/approval of the minutes. Mr. Turner and Mr. Reedy each pointed out typographical errors. Corrections were made on the official record and repository copies. The minutes were then approved.

- II. PRESENTATION. Mr. Levy then introduced the guest speakers for the meeting. The first presenter was Mr. Hershal Chapman, Media Relations, Ft McClellan Public Affairs Office. Explaining that a public affairs office (PAO) is much like public relations in the civilian field; they try to bridge the gap between Ft McClellan and the public. He stated that openness was their watchword and if they did not know the answer, they would get it. He assured the RAB that Ft McClellan leaders were committed to informing the public of activities on the post. Touching briefly on various cleanup issues, including UXOs, he then brought up the topic of Eastern Bypass and turned the floor over to the other speaker for the evening, Mr. Bob DiMichael,

Mr. Bob DiMichael, Public Affairs Officer, Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Office, made his presentation. He reiterated Mr. Chapman's comments about openness and support of the Restoration Advisory Board. He gave a brief overview of his organization, its expertise and some of the projects being worked on throughout the nation. Mr. Conroy asked about the likelihood of recreational use of mountain property after base closure and Mr. DiMichael explained that current technology is not available to give 100% guarantee of clearance. He advised that future land use and the UXO investigation results be compatible and discussed the importance of safety awareness education and community awareness programs.

Responding to Mr. Reedy's query about the Corns' assistance in these programs, Mr. DiMichael discussed the various methods available such as brochures, videos and other information devices that could be developed along with assistance in establishing institutional controls. Mr. Parks asked when the contractor's technology demonstration would occur. Mr. David Skridulis, **UXO BRAC** Cleanup Team Member, confirmed that a site

representative of the general terrain had been selected, but it would probably be held later on in spring. Mr. Newman, an audience attendee, identified an area and cited an incident that occurred over fifty years ago that resulted in a boy's death and another boy's serious injuries. Mr. Levy responded to Mr. Newman and explained that particular area was scheduled for an engineering evaluation to discover what may be there and if contaminated, recommend cleanup.

- III. **OLD BUSINESS.** Ms. McKinney mentioned it had been several months since a quorum had been present. She reminded the RAB that there was an applicant file of prospective members and suggested the membership look at them and determine whether we should increase and/or replace some board members. At this point, Mr. Anderson announced his resignation due to relocation and a short discussion followed concerning bylaws and procedures. It was determined to review members' attendance records and the applicant file at the next meeting and select a replacement. The RAB discussed the high quorum requirement and Mr. Turner moved that the current bylaws' quorum requirements be suspended and a simple majority of a simple majority be imposed instead. It was unanimous. Mr. Turner stated he would make an amendment to the existing bylaws and bring it to the next meeting.
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS.** Mr. Levy informed the RAB that the Army had imposed a deferral in **FY 2000** of dollars associated with the cleanup at Ft McClellan. He explained that in the U7XO program, there was an inability to execute some work but no slow-down in current schedule is expected. Mr. Skridulis confirmed the statement. Several RAB members observed that the money might not be easily obtained in the out years and the cleanup program could be extended for several more years, thus delaying reuse. Based on discussion and concern from RAB members, a motion was passed that Mr. Conroy, in collaboration with Mr. Turner, write a letter to the legislative delegation informing them of this matter. Mr. Conroy asked, that at the next meeting, Mr. Levy bring any new information he might receive, such as what the cuts are going to be and how those will impact in the year 2000. And if possible, get a comparison to how it will affect any plans the JPA has in place. Mr. Levy stated he would share any information he received, but he did not expect to get any numbers by next month.
- V. **ADJOURNMENT.** After announcing the March 15th meeting would be held on Ft McClellan, and the RAB would review membership at that time, Mr. Conroy adjourned the meeting.