



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (AFSOC)
CANNON AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO**

28 January 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR 27 SOW

FROM: 27 SOW/CC

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

1. In accordance with DoDM 4715.20, *Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Management*, Encl 3, para 16.c(3), this memorandum for record documents my decision not to establish a RAB for Cannon Air Force Base (CAFB) at this time. I based my decision on a determination that there is not sufficient and sustained community interest in establishing a RAB for the Air Force environmental restoration program (ERP) at CAFB.

2. A RAB is an opportunity for stakeholder involvement in the environmental restoration/cleanup process at Department of Defense (DoD) installations. 32 C.F.R. §202.1(b)(1). It is a forum for early and continued exchange of information and dialogue between DoD installations, regulatory agencies, tribes, and the community. 32 C.F.R. §202.1(b)(2). RAB members review progress, participate in dialogue with, and provide comments and advice to the installation's decision makers on environmental restoration matters; however, they do not make any decisions. 32 C.F.R. §202.1(b)(3). A RAB should be established when there is sufficient and sustained community interest, and any of the following criteria are met: the closure of the installation involves the transfer of property to the community; at least fifty local citizens petition the installation for creation of a RAB; federal, state, tribal, or local government representatives request the formation of a RAB; or the installation determines the need for a RAB. 32 C.F.R. § 202.2(a)(1)– (4). As noted above and in the RAB Rule, Handbook issued by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, sustained interest shows commitment from the community and is an important factor when deciding if a community is prepared to maintain a RAB during an installation's environmental restoration activities.

3. On July 25, 2025, CAFB disseminated RAB interest surveys to comply with the biennial solicitation requirement to gauge community interest in establishing a RAB for its ERP. On 6 August 2025, the solicitation period was extended to 6 September 2025 due to delays in publishing in the Eastern New Mexico News. The methods for conducting the surveys included an email announcement to the Field Representatives for Congresswoman Teresa Ledger-Fernandez and Congressman Ben Lujan (both of Congressional District 3), a staffer for US Senator Martin Heinrich, the Representatives from New Mexico House of Representatives Districts 63 and 64, and the Senators from New Mexico Senate Districts 7 and 27. An e-mail announcement was also sent to the Mayors and City Managers of Clovis and Portales, as well as to the Clovis County Commissioners. A notice of the survey was also published in *The Eastern New Mexico* newspaper. The surveys stated that the focus of a RAB would be on all ERP projects. The surveys specified the definition and purpose of a RAB and the level of

commitment expected of RAB members. A press release was put out to local media and published on the base Website and Facebook page. The RAB survey period closed on 6 September 2025.

4. Result of the 2025 surveys indicate little support for establishment for a RAB. Six people responded to the surveys via email. Of the six emails, three specifically expressed interest in PFAS, demonstrating there is little interest in the ERP projects on Cannon AFB. CAFB currently has strong public engagement on the PFAS investigation and is effectively addressing community concerns about transparency and oversight regarding the investigation. Each technical briefing and related developments are open to public comment, and questions and concerns are addressed in a public forum, where news media and the general public have access. Cannon AFB maintains an environmental portal for the PFAS investigation at <https://www.cannon.af.mil/Environmental/>, and all documents related to the project are available to the public through the AFCEC Administrative Record located at <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/>. There was no indication of any community interest in other ERP projects on CAFB besides the PFAS investigation project. However, the scope of a RAB's focus must be broader than one restoration site or activity to include all restoration activities on base. See 10 U.S.C. § 2705(f), 32 CFR 202.1(b), DoDM 4715.20, Encl 3, para 16.c, and DAFI 32-7020, *Environmental Restoration Program*, para 11.4. "Restoration activities" and "Restoration program" include more than one cleanup project or issue. A RAB will take away from the current PFAS engagement program, as it will divert resources away from the current programs and into the RAB. This is due to Federal Regulations that prohibit using federal/public funds to support duplicative efforts, and in this case, project outreach activities. Programs which risk discontinuation include project-specific meetings, and partnerships with regulators.

5. CAFB made a good-faith effort to determine whether or not there is sufficient and sustained interest in the community to establish a RAB through the level and breadth of interest solicitation via e-mail, and published notifications. Based upon this information, I conclude that there is not sufficient interest or need to support establishing a RAB at this time. .

6. CAFB will review community interest to establish a RAB at least every 24 months, while environmental restoration activities are still ongoing, per the *RAB Rule Handbook*, Office of the Secretary of Defense (March 2007), page 6; and DAFI 32-7020, para. 11.4.1.

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