



Announcement for Edwards Air Force Base

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is in the process of preparing a public health assessment for Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB). ATSDR has visited EAFB on several occasions and collected information, reviewed available site-specific data, and inspected areas where hazardous substances were released into the environment. Additionally, ATSDR met with U.S. Air Force staff as well as representatives of various federal, state and local health/environmental agencies. ATSDR *did not identify issues that posed an urgent public health threat.*

One critical step in our public health assessment of EAFB is community involvement. ATSDR believes that community involvement is invaluable and seeks community assistance and involvement. Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members and other members of the community can assist by identifying community health concerns related to releases of hazardous substances from activities at EAFB. ATSDR is in the process of reviewing newspaper articles, RAB minutes and other documents in the EAFB information repositories. Community members can also assist by identifying stakeholders that may have additional information about EAFB and its history. From our visits to EAFB and interactions with the community, ATSDR identified the following concerns that will be addressed in detail in the public health assessment.

What community concerns have been expressed?

- Are chemical contaminants in the EAFB and community drinking water supply systems at harmful levels?
- Are people living near Site 426, or others, likely to contact chemical warfare materials?
- Are people being exposed to harmful levels of dioxin in air released from the treatment system at Site 16?
- Could chemical releases contribute to childhood brainstem cancers in Rosamond?
- Could people be harmed by unexploded ordnance left over from past target practice?
- Could people be harmed from past pentaborane stockpile destruction?
- Are recreational users of Piute Ponds being exposed to harmful levels of contaminants in surface water/sediment?

When will ATSDR's public health assessment be ready for public comment? When will ATSDR staff visit with the community to give an update?

We expect to release the document in the fall of 2002. ATSDR had planned a visit in October 2001, but the recent national crisis caused postponement. ATSDR staff are planning a return trip in the spring of 2002 to provide community members an opportunity to speak one-on-one about their health concerns.

Who can I contact for information about EAFB?

You may contact the Health Assessor, Scott Sudweeks, or Community Involvement Specialist, Dawn O'Connor, by calling ATSDR's toll-free number at 1-888-422-8737. Written comments should be sent to: Chief, PERIS Branch, ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Rd., N.E., (Mailstop E-56) Atlanta, GA 30333

