



# The Sites and Operable Units at Travis AFB: An Introduction

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*This updated fact sheet is one of a series prepared for RAB members about the Travis Air Force Base (AFB) Environmental Restoration Program (ERP).*

The purpose of the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) at Travis AFB is to clean up contaminated sites. A logical approach to accomplishing this is to place similar sites into a group, known as an Operable Unit (OU). This fact sheet clarifies the difference between the sites and OUs at Travis AFB.

### WHAT IS A SITE?

The ERP defines a *site* as a discrete area where contaminants may have been released to the environment and that is tracked in an Air Force database. Travis AFB currently has 32 sites in

the database, five of which are at off-base locations.

The number of sites can be increased if other areas with contamination are discovered. Areas where contaminants may have been released but have not been validated as sites are called *areas of concern (AOC)*. All sites and former AOCs have been investigated to determine if they are contaminated. Contaminated areas have been identified as ERP sites, and cleanup efforts have or are being addressed. Those locations without contamination require no further action. Travis AFB has no remaining AOCs.

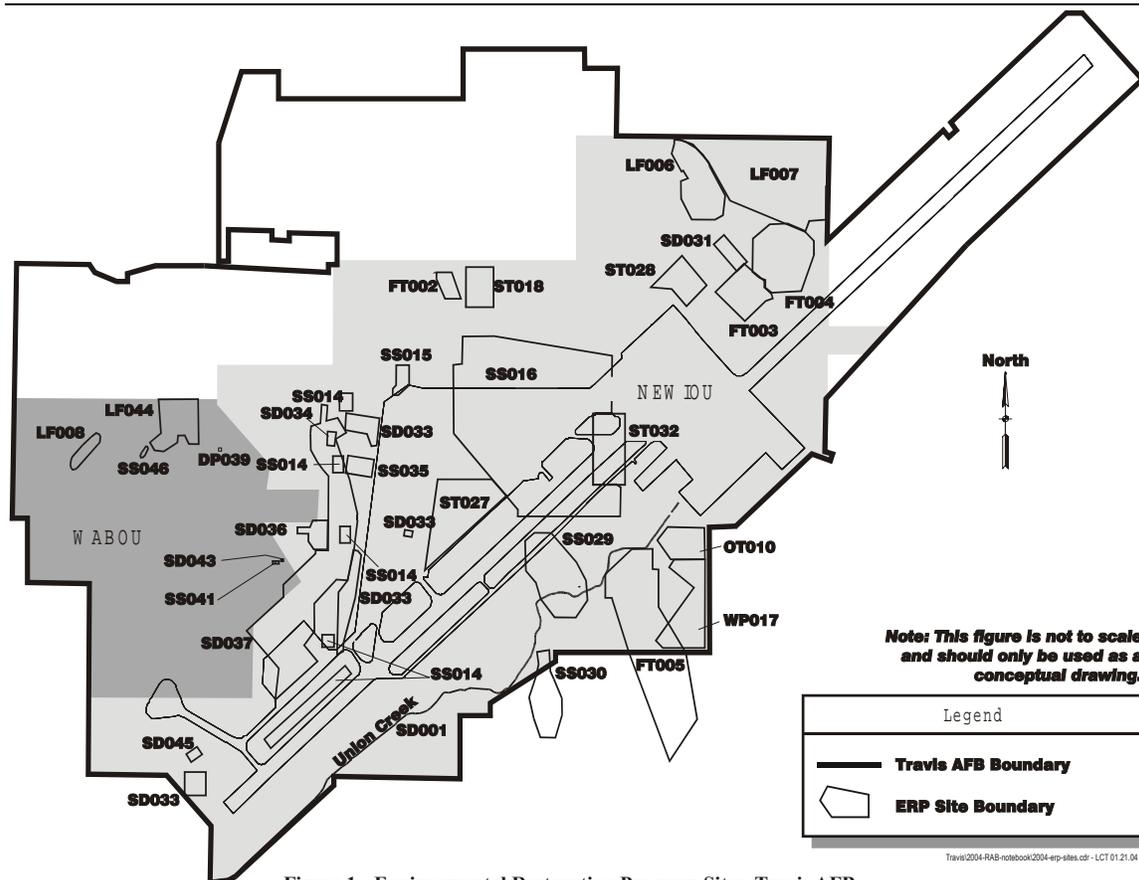


Figure 1 - Environmental Restoration Program Sites, Travis AFB

Most of the sites on Travis AFB (Figure 1) can be categorized as one of the following types: Spill areas, landfills, fire training areas, or sludge ponds. Contaminants in these sites are typically solvents, fuels and oils.

**THE OPERABLE UNITS**

An OU is a geographical area that is being investigated as one entity. Travis AFB was treated initially as a single OU with one comprehensive cleanup schedule. However, the process of addressing environmental concerns can be complex, and the more complex the OU, the more complex this process becomes. To better manage its investigative and cleanup activities, the Air Force and the regulatory agencies divided Travis AFB into four geographic OUs in 1993.

The OUs at Travis AFB were delineated based on the geography and the types of operations in each area. The North OU (NOU) for example, encompasses the two largest landfills on base. Two OUs were areas of industrial operations (the East Industrial [EIOU] and the West industrial [WIOU]). The fourth OU, the West/Annexes/ Basewide OU (WABOU, pronounced “waboo”), encompasses undeveloped land on base as well as off-base areas.

In 1996, the NOU, EIOU and WIOU became one operable unit due to similarities in Chemicals of Concern (COCs) in each OU. The combined OUs has been renamed the North, East, West Industrial Operable Unit (NEWIOU).

Each OU has its own schedule. Work on the OUs is closely coordinated but is focused on the needs of the individual OUs.

**THE NEWIOU**

- Size: Approximately 2,290 acres

- Location: Eastern and West-central portions of Travis AFB
- Sites: Two municipal landfills, Union Creek storm sewer system, four fire training areas; Sanitary Waste Treatment Plant (STP) sludge disposal area; solvent spill area; oil spill area; STP inactive oxidation ponds, spill areas at two gas stations, Jet Fuel Spill Areas, and the TF33 Test Stand Area.

**THE WABOU**

- Size: Approximately 700 acres on base.
- Location: Southwestern corner of Travis AFB, plus several off-base annexes
- Sites: Heavy equipment training area; two pesticide sites; former small arms range; grazing management units; and off-base sites.

**WHAT WORK IS TAKING PLACE IN THE TWO OUS?**

Each OU has undergone Remedial Investigation (RI), Feasibility Study (FS) and Proposed Plan (PP) phases. The WABOU completed its Soil Record of Decision (ROD) late in 2002 and conducted a number of Remedial Actions (RAs) in 2003. The RI effort characterizes the types of contaminants (if any) at a site and their concentrations. If contaminant concentrations exceed regulatory criteria and/or pose a risk to human health or the environment, then the site is evaluated in a Feasibility Study. If a site requires an expedited action, a removal action may be undertaken. Such was the case at the Storm Water Outfall A along Union Creek and the Tower Area Removal Action (TARA) where the need to remove TCE from the groundwater was identified. These actions are described in other fact sheets prepared for the RAB.

Figure 2 shows the cleanup schedule at Travis AFB.

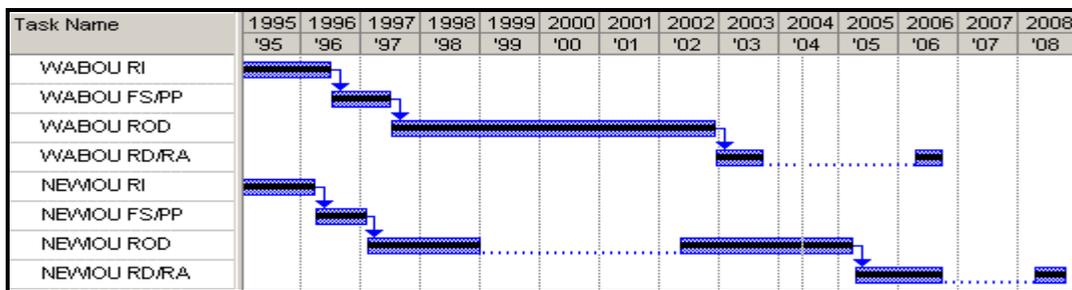


Figure 2 – Schedule of ERP activities in the Operable Units at Travis AFB