



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 633D AIR BASE WING
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS VA**

18 September 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: 633 ABW/CC

SUBJECT: No Establishment of a Restoration Advisory Board at JBLE-Eustis

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 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for Joint Base Langley Eustis – Fort Eustis (JBLE-Eustis). I based my decision on a determination that there is not sufficient and sustained community interest in establishing a RAB for Air Force Environmental Restoration Programs (ERP) at JBLE-Eustis.

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; though installations shall give careful consideration to the comments provided by RAB members, RABs are not decision-making bodies. 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 15 June 2025, JBLE-Eustis released the RAB assessment to gauge community interest in establishing a Restoration Advisory Board for its Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The methods for conducting the assessment included: announcement in a Daily Press release on 15 June 2025; emailed 28 individuals representing local government officials in Newport News, Hampton, York County and James County as well as Hampton Roads Planning District; six local Native American tribes including Catawba Indian Nation, Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Delaware Nation, Nansemond Indian Nation, Pamunkey Indian Tribe and Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe; Virginia Department of Historic Resources; Newport News Green Foundation; three community residents; the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and hard copies posted in the JBLE-Eustis Housing Office, Anderson Field House, King Pinz Bowling Center, and Groninger Library, Newport News Grissom Library, and in Spanish at three local Latino businesses. The assessment stated the focus of a RAB would be on all ERP projects. The assessment clarified the definition and purpose of a RAB and level of commitment expected of RAB members. The RAB assessment concluded on 11 July 2025. In total, three responses were received. This demonstrates the community is not sufficiently interested in a RAB.

4. The community members that responded had no specific issues of concern for the JBLE - Eustis ERP. The respondents included a City of Hampton representative, a York County representative, and one community member. Community outreach will continue with these respondents.

5. Based on this information, I conclude there is not sufficient interest from the local community to form a RAB. JBLE-Eustis made a good-faith effort via multiple avenues of communication with the local community to inform stakeholders of the opportunity to participate in a RAB and determine whether there is sufficient and sustained interest in the community to establish a RAB. At the conclusion of the assessment, only three people responded with their contact information, despite JBLE-Eustis' effort to reach the on-post and surrounding community. Based on these factors, I conclude there is not sufficient and sustained interest from the community at this time to establish a RAB.

6. JBLE-Eustis will review community interest to establish a RAB at least every 24 months, while environmental restoration activities are still ongoing, per DAFI 32-7020 DAFGM2025-01, Environmental Restoration Program, para. 11.4.1.

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