

Updated: July 14, 2000

[\[Next\]](#) [\[Previous\]](#) [\[Site Overview Contents\]](#)
[\[Region 9 Waste Home\]](#) [\[Region 9 Home\]](#) [\[Superfund Home\]](#) [\[EPA Home\]](#) [\[Site Info Home\]](#) <http://www.epa.gov/region09/comments.html>

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE

GUAM

EPA ID#

GU6571999519

EPA Region 9

City:

County: Yigo

Other Names:

[Click here for interactive site area map](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click on a category below or scroll down the page.

- [Site Description and History](#)
 - Maps
 - Images
 - [Threats and Contaminants](#)
 - Description
 - Environmental Data
 - [Cleanup Approach](#)
 - Response Action Status
 - [Environmental Progress](#)
 - [Potentially Responsible Parties](#)
 - [Site Documents and Reports](#)
 - [Community Involvement: Public Meetings, Newsletters, and Fact Sheets](#)
 - [Site Repositories/Library Sources](#)
 - [Contacts](#)
 - [Miscellaneous Information](#)
-

SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

Description: Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB) is a 20,000-acre site located in the city of Yigo on the northern end of the island of Guam. Operational since 1940, AAFB's main purpose has been to provide support for Strategic Air Command operations. Hazardous substances associated with AAFB operations include solvents such as trichloroethane (TCE) and paint thinners; dry cleaning fluids and laundry products; fuels such as JP-4 and gasoline; pesticides; antifreeze; aircraft cleaning compounds; and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These substances are found in unlined landfills, drum storage and disposal areas, chemical storage areas, fire training areas, waste storage areas, the laundry facility, and industrial and flight line operations. AAFB is located in a karst limestone terrain. The Northern Guam Lens is a Sole Source Aquifer underlying the site. This aquifer supplies drinking water to at least 50 percent of the area residents; approximately 40,200 people draw drinking water from wells located within a four-mile radius of the site. Groundwater sampling by the Air Force indicates the presence of heavy metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Not all contaminants can be directly linked to AAFB operations, and background levels have not been determined for metals. An estimated 34,000 people live within a four-mile radius of the site; 3,400 military personnel, 600 civilians, and 4,000 dependents live, work, or attend school on AAFB.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 02/07/92

Final Date: 10/14/92

Deleted Date:

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

Some of the areas where hazardous wastes are stored are inadequately contained and located near sinkholes; therefore, they constitute a threat to groundwater. Groundwater sampling indicates the presence of heavy metals, such as lead and chromium, and VOCs including TCE, toluene, and tetrachloroethane. Surface areas, including unlined landfills and chemical storage areas, are contaminated with VOCs, PCBs, fuels, and pesticides. People could be at risk by ingesting or coming into direct contact with contaminated groundwater. There are 23 endangered species living near or on the base, which currently is being considered for designation as a wildlife and marine preserve.

CLEANUP APPROACH

When the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) was originally negotiated for the facility, the site was going to be addressed in seven stages: initial actions and six-long term remedial phases focusing on the cleanup of different portions of the site. AAFB and the regulatory agencies are currently in the process of renegotiating the cleanup approach in order to expedite the investigation and potential remediation. This will facilitate one of the goals of the project which is to excess land to the Government of Guam as quickly as possible. The Agencies are scheduled to complete FFA schedule negotiations by October 1996.

Response Action Status

Initial Actions: Closure of the main base landfill in accordance with the requirements of the Resource Recovery and Restoration Act (RCRA) was completed in 1994. Landfill closure included the construction of a cover over the landfill.

Entire Site: An investigation of the source of base contamination began in early 1993 and is expected to be completed in 2001.

Basewide Groundwater: This investigation was scheduled to begin in 1996 to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination throughout the base.

Two Landfills and Three Waste Piles: The nature and extent of contamination posed by the waste piles was scheduled to be investigated during 1996. The landfills were expected to be investigated in 1998.

Fire Land Disposal and Laundry Complex: The investigation of the contaminants at these site areas began in 1994. Based on the results of this investigation, appropriate cleanup remedies will be selected.

Four Storage and Ten Land Disposal Areas: The investigation of these areas was scheduled to begin in 1995.

Two Storage and Eleven Land Disposal Areas: The investigation of the nature and extent of contamination at these areas is scheduled to begin in 1995.

Site Facts: AAFB is participating in the Installation Restoration Program, a specially funded program established by the Department of Defense (DOD) to identify, investigate, and control the migration of hazardous contaminants at military and other DOD facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

Immediate threats to the health and safety of the nearby population and environment have been reduced by the construction of the landfill cover. Further investigations will assess the nature of contamination and the effectiveness of the initial actions at the Andersen Air Force Base site.

POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Potentially responsible parties (PRPs) refers to companies that are potentially responsible for generating, transporting, or disposing of the hazardous waste found at the site.

Online information about the PRPs for the site is not yet available.

SITE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Administrative Records: Online versions not yet available

Records of Decision: Online versions not yet available

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Public Meetings:

Newsletters and Fact Sheets: Online versions not yet available

SITE REPOSITORIES/LIBRARY SOURCES

The public information repositories for the site are at the following locations:

The most complete collection of documents is the official EPA site file, maintained at the following location:

RFK Memorial Library
Mangilao

Nieres M. Flores Library
Agana

Superfund Records Center
Mail Stop SFD-7C
95 Hawthorne Street, Room 403
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 536-2000

**Enter main lobby of 75 Hawthorne street, go to
4th floor of South Wing Annex.**

CONTACTS

EPA SITE MANAGER: Mark Ripperda
ADDRESS:
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E-MAIL ADDRESS:

**EPA COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT
COORDINATOR:** Viola K. Cooper
ADDRESS:
PHONE NUMBER: 1-800-231-3075
E-MAIL ADDRESS:

**PUBLIC INFORMATION
CENTER:** (415) 744-1500
E-MAIL ADDRESS: r9.info@epamail.epa.gov

STATE CONTACT:
ADDRESS:
PHONE NUMBER:

PRP CONTACT:
ADDRESS:
PHONE NUMBER:

COMMUNITY CONTACT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

After Hours (Emergency Response)

**State Environmental Protection Agency
(800) 852-7550**

**US Environmental Protection Agency
(800) 424-8802**

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

PACIFIC ISLAND(S): GU

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 01

EPA ORGANIZATION: SFD-8-3

[\[Next\]](#) [\[Previous\]](#) [\[Site Overview Contents\]](#)

[\[Region 9 Waste Home\]](#) [\[Region 9 Home\]](#) [\[Superfund Home\]](#) [\[EPA Home\]](#) [\[Site Info Home\]](#) <http://www.epa.gov/region09/comments.html>