



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Louisville District

Former Camp Ellis Military Reserve Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting an environmental investigation at the former Camp Ellis Military Reservation in Fulton County, Illinois. Camp Ellis was established as a World War II Army Training Center in 1943. Camp Ellis provided basic training and advanced unit training for engineer, medical corps, signal corps, and quartermaster troops. About 125,000 troops trained at the camp during the war. A Prisoner of War (POW) camp for 2,500 German and Austrian soldiers was later added to the reservation. Training at Camp Ellis reached its peak in June 1944; during this time, it sent units to the European and Pacific theaters. The engineer group stationed at Camp Ellis was disbanded in January 1945 and training that was conducted at the base by other units ended soon thereafter. The camp remained open, however, and its primary mission was changed to guarding the POWs. Some of the land that made up Camp Ellis was leased back to the local farmers as early as 1945. The camp was declared surplus in October 1945.

USACE is responsible for environmental restoration of some areas of the former Camp Ellis. Currently, USACE is conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study on the entire property.

As part of the environmental restoration process, the Department of Defense (DoD) encourages community involvement through Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs).

RABs provide a collaborative forum for the community, government agencies, and CRAA, to discuss and identify the most efficient and productive means to restore the environment.

USACE Louisville District welcomes public feedback regarding interest in establishing a RAB for the former Camp Ellis Military Reserve. Inquiries should be directed to Katie Newton, Louisville District Public Affairs Office, (502) 315-6773 by June 15, 2015.

The information repository, which contains additional project documents, is housed at the Easley Pioneer Museum in Ipava, IL. Additional information is available on the project website at: <http://bit.ly/CampEllisIL>.