



Remedial Investigation Field Work

Former Lockbourne Air Force Base
Areas of Concern 17, 18, 19, 94, and 103

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet gives an overview of upcoming field work to be conducted as part of ongoing environmental restoration of the former Lockbourne Air Force Base (AFB), now used by Rickenbacker International Airport (RIA). The field work will help determine the limits of contamination found adjacent to the RIA taxiway. Results of the field investigation will determine if anything needs to be done to protect human health and the environment.

SITE OVERVIEW

Environmental restoration at the former Lockbourne AFB has been under way since 1986. The current investigation focuses on “areas of concern” (AOCs) on and adjacent to an active RIA taxiway. Four of the five sites lie close together and are designated AOCs 17/18/19/103. AOC 94 is located to the north (Figure 1).

The former central machine shop area comprises AOCs 17/18/19/103, which included the Base Engineer’s Shop (Building 530, AOC 17), Base Engineer’s Maintenance and Inspection Building (Building 532, AOC 18), Engine Cleaning Building (Building 535, AOC 19), and Battery Maintenance Facility (Building 531, AOC 103). Operations at the four buildings likely involved the use of solvents and cleaners. AOC 94 was formerly the Precision Maintenance Laboratory (Building 247). Only the Base Engineer’s Maintenance and Inspection Building remains. The other buildings were demolished before 1999.

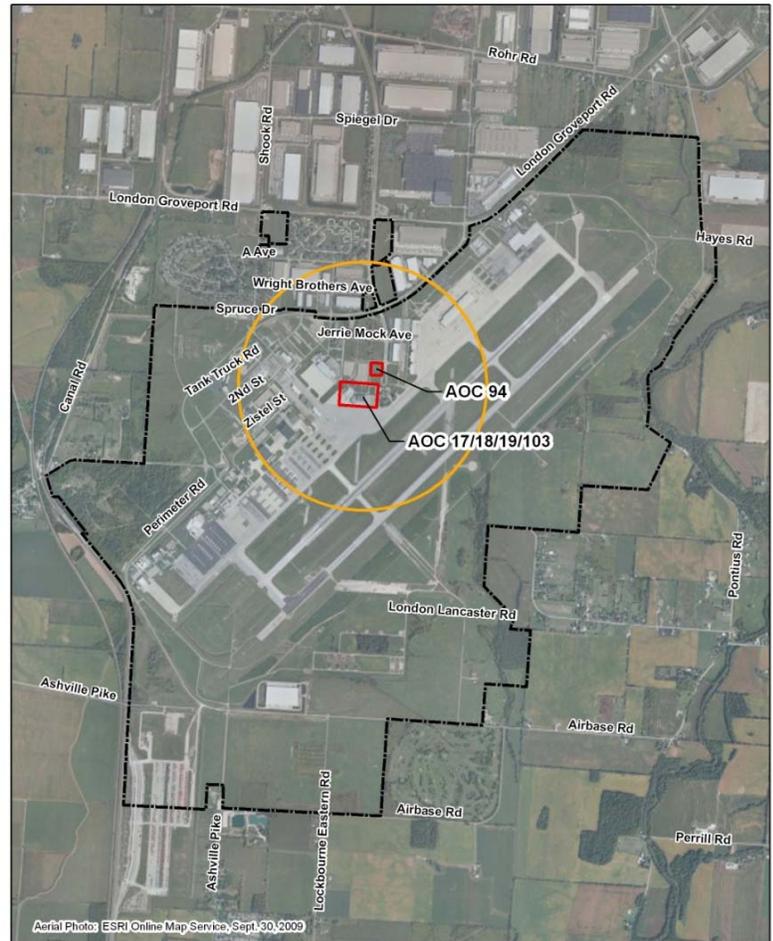


FIGURE 1
AOC Location Map
Former Lockbourne AFB, Columbus, Ohio

Site Background

The Lockbourne AFB is a formerly-used defense site (FUDS) in Columbus, Ohio. The property was used as a training base for B-17 and glider crews from 1942 to 1949, and later became an Air Force Strategic Air Command Base and then a Tactical Air Command Base. It was transferred to the Ohio Air National Guard in 1980 and renamed the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. In 1984, 1,640 acres (of the original 4,370 acres) were conveyed to the Rickenbacker Port Authority, which renamed the site Rickenbacker International Airport and established a passenger terminal. Rickenbacker Port Authority merged with the Columbus Airport Authority in 2003, forming the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, which owns and operates the airport.

The Department of Defense is responsible for evaluating and cleaning up Department-generated environmental contamination at FUDS properties. The U.S. Army oversees the FUDS program for the Defense Department. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the evaluation and cleanup of these properties. The Corps of Engineers is responsible for environmental restoration of some areas of the former Lockbourne AFB. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency provides regulatory oversight.

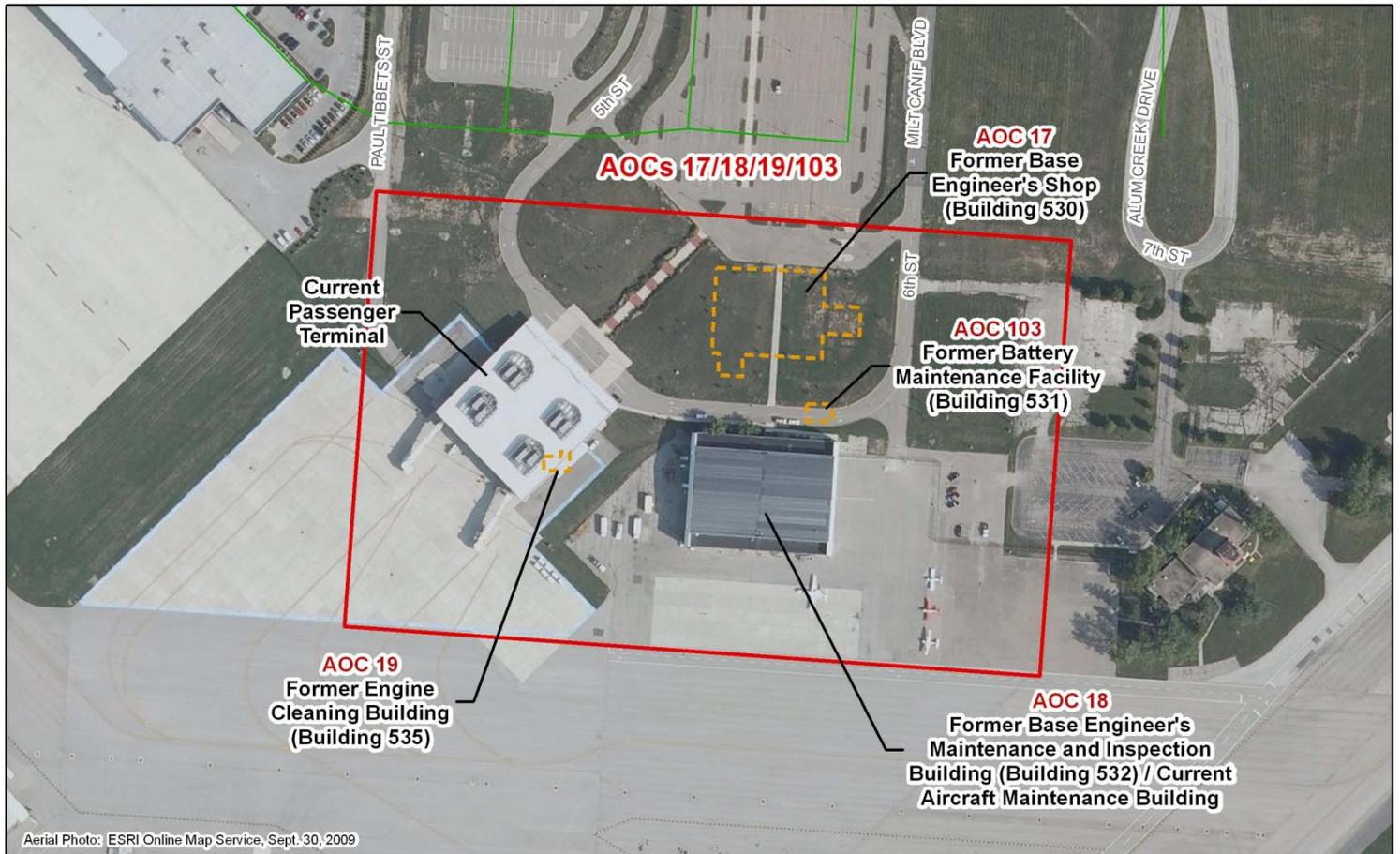


FIGURE 2
AOCs 17/18/19/103 Layout
 Former Lockbourne AFB, Columbus, Ohio

The RIA passenger charter terminal was constructed over the footprint of AOC 19 after 2001. AOCs 17, 103, and 94 now consist of grass- and pavement-covered areas. The building at AOC 18 is used for aircraft maintenance. This group of AOCs is adjacent to a broad tarmac (Figures 2 and 3).

Thus far, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has conducted Phase I and II site inspections at AOCs 17/18/19/103 and 94. Results concluded that a remedial investigation was needed.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION PURPOSE

The purpose of a remedial investigation is to evaluate the nature and extent of the contamination and to determine whether contaminants pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. For AOCs 17/18/19/103, additional sampling of soil, indoor air, and groundwater is needed. Past contamination likely occurred from surface spills of degreasing solvents. If treatment is needed, the evaluation of treatment options will include green and sustainable remediation criteria. For AOC 94, data will be collected about the habitat of the upland sandpiper to determine whether further ecological assessment is required.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION FIELDWORK

Remedial investigation field work is expected to begin in April 2013 and will take place over the next 12 months. The following activities will be conducted:

Habitat Assessment for Upland Sandpiper

—The habitat assessment will be conducted at AOC 94 to assess the presence or absence of upland sandpiper habitat as well as the presence or absence of the bird during breeding season. Based on results of the habitat assessment, an ecological risk assessment may be conducted at AOC 94 to evaluate the potential for contamination to affect the environment.

Visual Ecological Receptor Survey

—A visual receptor survey will be conducted to assess ecological features and conditions of the AOCs and to determine the presence or absence of important ecological resources. A literature search will be followed by a site visit to document visual signs of contaminants onsite or offsite.

Background Study and Soil

Characterization—It is unclear whether polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals detected in soil during the site inspection are the result of a spill, or whether they are present in the environment as a result of natural or human activities in the area. Therefore, a background study will be conducted to assess whether PAH and metals concentrations at AOCs 17/18/19/103 are above the range of typical levels found across the airport.

Groundwater Characterization—Solvents contain chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs), which were detected in groundwater at AOCs 17/18/19/103. Field work during the remedial investigation will obtain data regarding the extent of CVOCs in the groundwater onsite, identify areas of high concentrations of CVOCs, evaluate movement of CVOCs in the groundwater, and assess potential for the CVOCs to degrade either naturally or with treatment. Tests will be conducted to study the physical characteristics of the upper water-bearing zone at the site. Results will help define whether the contaminants are migrating and aid in the evaluation of treatment technologies.

Vapor Sampling—Vapor or gas samples will be collected to assess the potential for CVOCs in groundwater to migrate through the soil and to affect air quality in current or future buildings at AOCs 17/18/19/103.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The results of investigative sampling will determine the next steps. If needed, a feasibility study will be conducted to identify and evaluate cleanup options to address contamination that may pose a risk to human health or the environment.



LEGEND

- Red outline: AOC Site
- Yellow dashed outline: Former Building

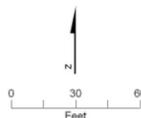


FIGURE 3
AOC 94 Layout

Former Lockbourne AFB, Columbus, Ohio

How Do I Get More Information?

The Corps of Engineers will hold annual public meetings and issue fact sheets such as this one to update the public on environmental restoration work at the site. The next public meeting will be held in Fall 2014 and will be advertised in local newspapers and on the Corps of Engineers' website.

For more information, please visit the website at <http://bit.ly/Lockbourne> or contact:

Katelyn C. Newton
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
502-315-6773
katelyn.c.newton@usace.army.mil

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOUISVILLE DISTRICT
Katelyn C. Newton
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059