



Environmental Investigation at Former Lockbourne Air Force Base: Areas of Concern 17, 18, 19, 94, and 103

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History

The Lockbourne Air Force Base (AFB) is a formerly used defense site (FUDS) in Columbus, Franklin, and Pickaway counties in Ohio. The former AFB has been known by several names since its origin as the Northwest Training Center of the Army Air Corps. In 1942, it was renamed for the nearby town of Lockbourne and became the Lockbourne Army Air Base. It was renamed Lockbourne AFB in 1948 and redesignated as Rickenbacker Air Force Base in 1974.

The property primarily was used as a training base for B-17 and glider crews from 1942 to 1949. In 1951, the base became a Strategic Air Command Base and in 1965, 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 (RIA) 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 RIA.

History of Environmental Investigations

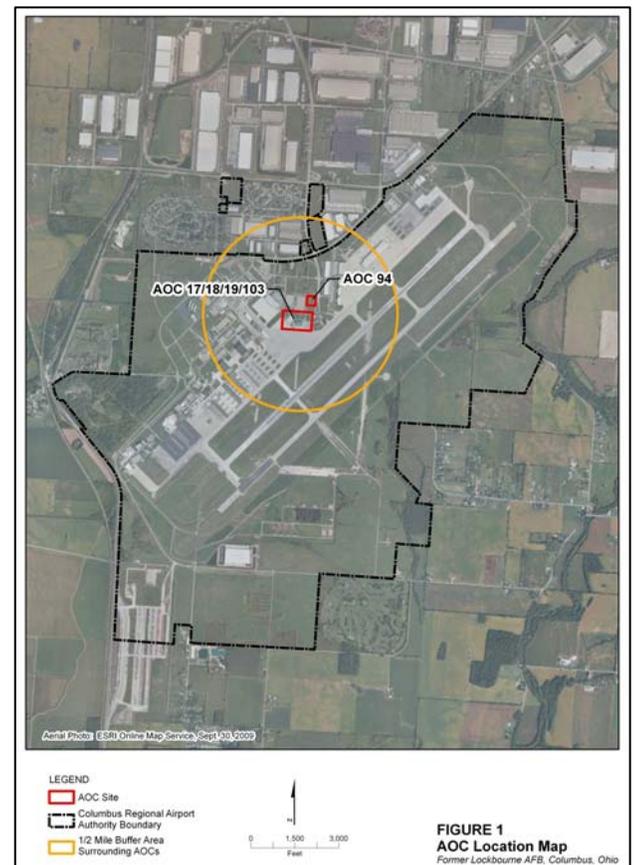
The Department of Defense is responsible for evaluating and cleaning up Department-generated environmental contamination at FUDS properties. The U.S. Army oversees the FUDS program for the Defense Department. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) manages the evaluation and cleanup of these properties.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

Environmental restoration at the former Lockbourne AFB has been under way since 1986. Current investigations will focus on five areas, known as “areas of concern” (AOCs). These AOCs are located on and adjacent to an active RIA taxiway. USACE and its contractor, CH2M HILL, are in the planning phase to conduct the environmental investigations of those areas.

Five “Areas of Concern”

Four of the five sites lie close together and are designated AOCs 17/18/19/103. The other site, located somewhat to the north, is called AOC 94 (Figure 1).

AOCs 17/18/19/103 comprise the central machine shop area, 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. Of the four facilities, only the Base Engineer’s Maintenance and Inspection Building remains. The other buildings were demolished before 1999. The RIA passenger charter terminal was constructed over the footprint of AOC 19 after 2001.



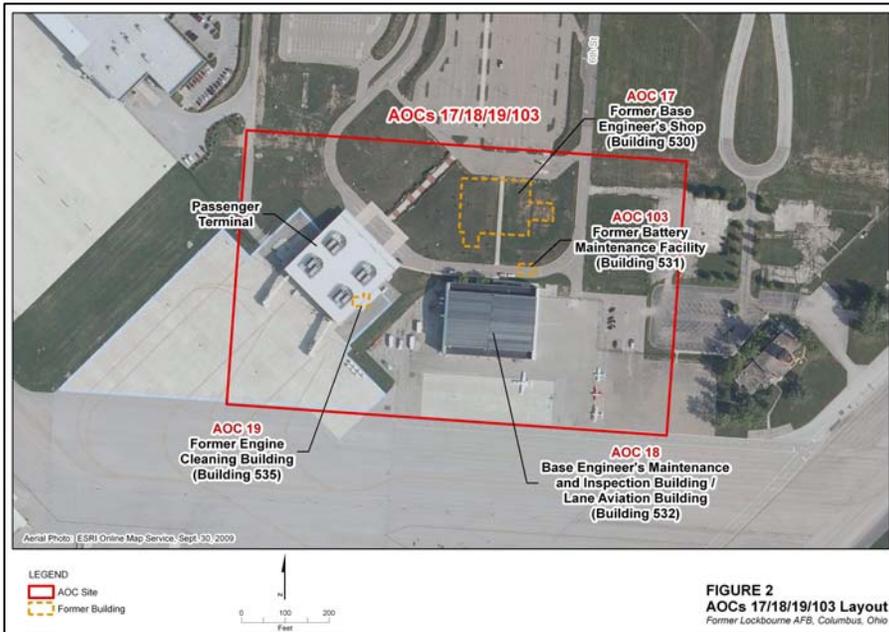


FIGURE 2
AOCs 17/18/19/103 Layout
Former Lockbourne AFB, Columbus, Ohio

AOCs 17 and 103 now consist of grass- and pavement-covered areas. Lane Aviation uses the building at AOC 18. This group of AOCs is adjacent to a broad tarmac, about 1,000 by 2,000 feet (Figure 2).



FIGURE 3
AOC 94 Layout
Former Lockbourne AFB, Columbus, Ohio

The Precision Maintenance Lab (Building 247, AOC 94) is a 1-acre area within the RIA boundary (Figure 3). The chemicals used at the lab are not known, and no release has been documented there. The building was demolished before 1999. The operating airport management entity for RIA reportedly noticed stained soil during a visual inspection of the former building area. The same area was inspected in 2000, but no stained soil was observed. The grassy area is surrounded by RIA buildings.

What is Next?

The USACE and CH2M HILL are planning environmental investigations at the five AOCs. Previous environmental investigations concluded that work was needed to estimate the extent of soil, indoor air, and groundwater contamination resulting from surficial spills of degreasing solvents. The investigation will also look into groundwater treatment options for AOCs 17/18/19/103. Investigations at AOC 94 will be completed to determine whether further ecological assessment is needed.

Fieldwork is expected to begin in early 2013. The investigation results will be presented in a report referred to as the remedial investigation report. The results of sampling will determine the next steps. If needed, a feasibility study report will identify and evaluate cleanup options, known as remedial alternatives, to address contamination that may pose risk to human health or the environment. The USACE will hold annual public meetings and issue fact sheets such as this to update the public on the environmental restoration activities. The first public meeting will be held late in 2012.

For more information about upcoming environmental investigations at the AOCs, please visit the USACE website at <http://bit.ly/LockbourneAFB> or contact:

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