

FACT SHEET

Installation Restoration Division
CPT Steven Bird
AUTOVON 584-3921/2828
30 June 1990

SUBJECT: Fort Richardson's Poleline Road Disposal Area Expanded Site Investigation

1. PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the current status at the Poleline Road Disposal Area (PRDA) .

2. FACTS:

a. The Poleline Road Disposal Area (PRDA) was brought to the attention of the 6th Infantry Division Commander by a citizen of Anchorage. He had knowledge of chemical items which were buried on Fort Richardson during the post World War II era. USATHAMA first became aware of the problem when they received a memorandum dated 13 Nov 89, signed by Col Ruff requesting USATHAMA's assistance on how to proceed with the investigation. Shortly thereafter, 1LT Bird (now CPT Bird) drafted a scope of work (SOW) to characterize the site utilizing initially non-intrusive measures (ground penetrating radar and electromagnetic conductivity) followed by intrusive measures such as soil sampling, well drilling, and ground water monitoring.

b. On 28 Dec 89, 1LT Bird and Mr. Ali Alavi, USATHAMA project officers, conducted a preliminary site meeting with Ft. Richardson personnel and a later meeting with representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). The draft SOW and proposed time schedule was presented and all representatives were pleased with the thrust of the scheduled investigation. The EPA and ADEC were especially pleased to be brought into the investigation at such an early stage.

c. To date, members of the 23rd Engineer Company surveyed the PRDA and conducted a sweep of the area with negative results utilizing an ANPSS-11 metal detector. Sixteen signs designating the PRDA as a "possible contaminated area, authorized personnel only" were built to warn personnel who may stray into the area to keep out. Additionally, due to the location of the Anchorage Municipal Landfill, a wealth of knowledge exists about groundwater flow, direction, speed, and chemical characteristics, in the PRDA. A search also occurred to locate the chemical officer who was in charge during the 1950's when the alleged burials occurred. The officer was contacted, but his memory of what was actually buried was nil.

d. Field work began 25 Jun 90 with non-intrusive analysis (geophysics) of the PRDA. Preliminary findings give the indication that trenches and buried drums may exist in the area. Soil borings and well drilling initially scheduled to begin 9 Jul 90 have been delayed until 16 Jul 90, due to problems by ESE in hiring a drilling sub-contractor. This delay should have no effect on delivery of the final report. The final report is due in the late January, early February 1990 timeframe.

e. Due to the possibility of finding some type of chemical surety materials (CSM) special procedures must be followed to ensure that CSM's are not shipped to contractor laboratories. The Fort Richardson EOD unit will provide chemical agent screening of all environmental samples taken utilizing the M-18 kit and the new chemical agent monitor (CAM). The CAM's, provided by Technical Escort, will provide confirmation of a negative test by the M-18 kit. The CAM also provides near real time monitoring of the air in the immediate working area. Samples tested negative for the M-18 and CAM will be sent as environmental samples to the ESE chemical laboratory for analysis. Additionally, the hospital at Elmendorf Air Force Base has been alerted to the investigation and an ambulance with aid man has been designated to remain on site during all intrusive operations. ~~Additionally, the hospital at Elmendorf Air Force Base has been alerted to the investigation and an ambulance with aid man has been designated to remain on site during all intrusive operations.~~