



# UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

## MUNITIONS REVIEW

News of the MMRP project at Camp Williams, Utah

November 2011

### Moving the information repository

The information repository, which contains hard copies of project information associated with the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), was recently relocated from the Riverton city library to the Herriman city library.

The decision to move the repository to the Herriman library was made in order to bring the cleanup documents closer to those who would be interested in seeing them.

Initially, the Riverton library was selected as the location for the repository because it was the most central location for all of the communities impacted by the MMRP. Now that the UTNG has determined that the sites in Utah County are not in need of Remedial Action, a repository located in Herriman is closer to residents who are still impacted by the project.

“Following the Remedial Investigations, we determined that the sites located in Utah County did not require Remedial Action and would not need to undergo the next stage in the investigation and cleanup process,” said Robert Price, the MMRP technical lead for the UTNG. “The three MMRP sites located in Utah County did not have munitions hazards that would pose a threat to human health and the environment. We believe the sites are safe for current and future land use. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality is likely to concur that a No Further Action status at these sites is acceptable.”

The communities of Bluffdale, Herriman, and the unincorporated housing development of Hi-Country Estates are nearest the remaining MMRP sites. Moving the repository will provide these community members a closer access point for information about the MMRP.



In addition to the physical repository now located at the Herriman library, there is an electronic repository available on the project Web site, [www.campwilliamsrab.org](http://www.campwilliamsrab.org). The online repository contains the same information as the Herriman library, just in an electronic format. This ensures community members who may not live in close proximity to the physical repository may access the same information online.

“We want community members who are interested in project information to be able to find it, and we hope that the online repository and the new location of the physical repository will provide convenient ways to obtain information,” said Price.

The repository was moved from the Riverton city library to the Herriman city library in November of 2011. The Herriman city library is located at 5380 W Main Street, Herriman UT, 84096.

### RAB Appoints New Community Co-Chair

The Camp Williams Restoration Advisory Board, or RAB, recently appointed a new community co-chair. Sandra Steele, a resident of Saratoga Springs, has served on the RAB since its formation in January of 2010 as the Saratoga Springs community representative. She was nominated to serve as the new community co-chair at the September 28, 2011 RAB meeting. Along with Ms. Steele, the RAB is co-chaired by the Utah National Guard Environmental Program Manager, Robert Price. The co-chairs work together to prepare and plan for RAB meetings and handle other RAB-related business.

## RAB attends Live Fire Exercise

A cool, windy November day provided members of the Camp Williams Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) with a unique opportunity – an opportunity to attend a Live Fire Exercise at Camp Williams, conducted by the 640<sup>th</sup> Regional Training Institute.

RAB members and other guests met at the Camp Williams outpost for a short safety briefing and were then bussed out to the firing point. Upon arrival at the firing point, RAB members and other guests donned hearing protection and Kevlar helmets, then stood back and watched the M109A6 Paladin, a self-propelled 155mm howitzer nicknamed the Paladin, in action.

With each shot, the Paladin's massive gun recoils about three to four feet, showcasing its immense power. While the recoil can be seen from a long distance, it is even more impressive up close. Some RAB members and guests were able to be inside the Paladin with soldiers during the exercise and were able to pull the lanyard, the cable that initiates the firing of the artillery round.

Jeff Fitzmayer, one of the RAB guests, explained, “The recoil was impressive and nearly knocked me over. It was a rare opportunity to participate in the exercise, and I was very appreciative of the soldiers who took time away from their training to explain the firing process and let me pull the lanyard that sent the round downrange.”

Steve Mumford, the RAB city representative from Eagle Mountain had a similar experience. “To be



The M109A6 Paladin, a self-propelled 155mm howitzer preparing to fire.

involved in the artillery firing exercise was an amazing experience. I was able to go inside the Paladin with the soldiers in training, ask a multitude of questions, and actually fire a round,” said Mumford. “The artillery shell is fired with such power that everyone inside and anywhere near the Paladin actually gets pushed back off of their feet.”

The UTNG emphasized that safety during exercises is their number one priority. “Considering the potential dangers, it was great to hear about the safety and quality-control checks in place at Camp Williams,” said Dave Allison, a RAB representative from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. “Safety was emphasized as the top priority and encompassed the entire scope of the range area before, during, and after the training event.”

One word that RAB members and guests kept mentioning following the Live Fire Exercise was appreciation. “I have a great appreciation for the soldiers that train to perform the firing of this gun and others like it because I know that they will be risking their lives for our freedom,” said Sandra Steele, the RAB community representative from Saratoga Springs. “To me, the sound of the artillery is the sound of freedom.”

“I really appreciate the National Guard and understand that this type of training is necessary so our soldiers are prepared for the battle field,” said Mumford. “Even though I can hear and feel each round that is fired at my house, it is vital to the



RAB members and other guests surround an inactive Paladin. Guests could climb inside and look at the interior of the gun.

mission of the Guard and the success of our soldiers.”

The Live Fire Exercise lasted two days with an estimated 300 - 400 rounds being fired over the two-day period. The UTNG conducts similar exercises several times a year to ensure troops undergo training to keep them battle-ready.



155mm high explosive artillery shells that were used during the Live Fire Exercise. Similar artillery, some expended and unexpended, have been found at one of the munitions response sites included in the MMRP.



RAB members and guests stand behind the Paladin awaiting the next shot. Some guests were able to go inside the Paladin with soldiers and pull the lanyard, the cable that initiates the firing.

RAB members are assisting with the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP), a program that addresses old munitions that may be present from previous training, in most cases from several decades ago.

## Time Critical Removal Action

This fall, a new munitions response effort began at the Wood Hollow Training Area and the Artillery Impact Area Buffer Zone Munitions Response Sites. This new effort, known as a time-critical removal action, came in response to special circumstances at each of the sites.

A time-critical removal action is one of three types of removal actions that typically occur during an environmental investigation like the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) taking place at Camp Williams. The first type of removal action is known as an emergency removal. This type of removal would come in response to imminent hazards that are present at a site and usually happens in a timeframe of hours.

The time-critical removal action generally comes in response to hazards or special circumstances at a site,

which prompt a faster removal. A time-critical removal action would usually happen in a timeframe of weeks to months.

The last type of removal action is known as a non-time-critical removal action. This is the most common type of removal action used during environmental investigations and usually happens in a timeframe of months to years.

Sites can undergo more than one type of removal action. For example, a portion of a site may require an emergency removal while the rest of the site can await a non-time-critical removal. A portion of the Wood Hollow Training Area and the Artillery Impact Area Buffer Zone will undergo a time-critical removal action this fall, while the remaining portions of the sites will be evaluated for the need for additional response actions.

## Wood Hollow Training Area

The Wood Hollow Training Area is comprised of low-lying hills and ridges along the northeast boundary of Camp Williams, near the cities of Bluffdale and Herriman. This site is also near a mining project being carried out by Staker Parson Companies. The area is being mined for rock materials that are used in construction and landscaping projects.

“This mining project is what prompted the time-critical removal action at Wood Hollow,” said Robert Price, the MMRP technical lead for the UTNG. “Staker Parson Companies is in the process of building a new mining access road that will cut through a portion of the site.”

The road will cut through an area that has been recommended to undergo Remedial Action or further investigation and cleanup, which means there is potential for this area to contain munitions.

Results from the recently completed Remedial Investigation indicate a potential for munitions to be present at this site. Approximately 32 acres of land will be cleared during the time-critical removal action, which will ensure the area is cleared of potential explosive hazards prior to road construction.

## Artillery Impact Area Buffer Zone

The Artillery Impact Area Buffer Zone is located immediately north of Camp Williams, near the northwestern corner of the installation. A portion of this site was impacted by a September 2010 wildfire that began on the Camp Williams installation, and burned northward.

The area of the Artillery Impact Area Buffer Zone that was burned will undergo a time-critical removal action this fall. “The vegetation at this site is very thick, which makes it difficult to traverse the terrain with munitions detection equipment, and usually requires some brush cutting, said Price. “In areas where the wildfire burned, the vegetation has just begun to grow back, but is not as thick as it usually would be.”

Because this previously vegetated area is now more accessible to the recreating public and their potential to encounter munitions greater, the UTNG will complete the time-critical removal action, using the thinned out vegetation to their advantage. The 176 acres that will be cleared during the time-critical removal action are located within the boundary of the

larger area that is being recommended to undergo Remedial Action, or further cleanup and investigation.

## What will happen during the time-critical removal action?

The time-critical removal action will be similar at the Wood Hollow Training Area and the Artillery Impact Area Buffer Zone. Crews will begin work at the Wood Hollow Training Area and will then move to the Artillery Impact Area Buffer Zone, with some of the work being done concurrently.

During the time-critical removal action, three seven-man clearance teams will be removing munitions and munitions debris on the surface at the Artillery Impact Area Buffer Zone and from the surface and subsurface at the Wood Hollow Training Area.” To accomplish this, the clearance teams will be using specialized munitions detection equipment.

“Discovered munitions and munitions debris may be moved to be detonated, if they are stable,” said Price. “If munitions are not stable, they will be blown in place.” The explosives required for the detonation will be brought in as needed. Crews will not have explosives with them at all times and detonations will be conducted by trained individuals.

## Why are only a portion of the sites being cleaned up?

The time-critical removal action does not address the entire areas of concern for the two sites. “The two sites are large, and a complete investigation and cleanup would take a lot of time to plan and orchestrate,” said Price. “What the time-critical removal action will do, is allow these small portions of the sites, where munitions response is timelier, to be cleaned up immediately.” Feasibility Studies are being developed concurrent with the removal action to comprehensively address the entirety of Wood Hollow Training Area and the Artillery Impact Area Buffer Zone to determine what additional response actions are appropriate.

The time-critical removal action began in early November 2011. If weather impedes the crew's progress, it may carry over into spring 2012.

Would you like to be added to our mailing list?  
If so, call 801-825-3570 or sign up on our  
Web site, [www.campwilliamsrab.org](http://www.campwilliamsrab.org)