SS83 Environmental Cleanup

Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

Summer 2004

3rd Wing Public Affairs, (907) 552-8970, fax (907) 552-5111, www.elmendorf.af.mil

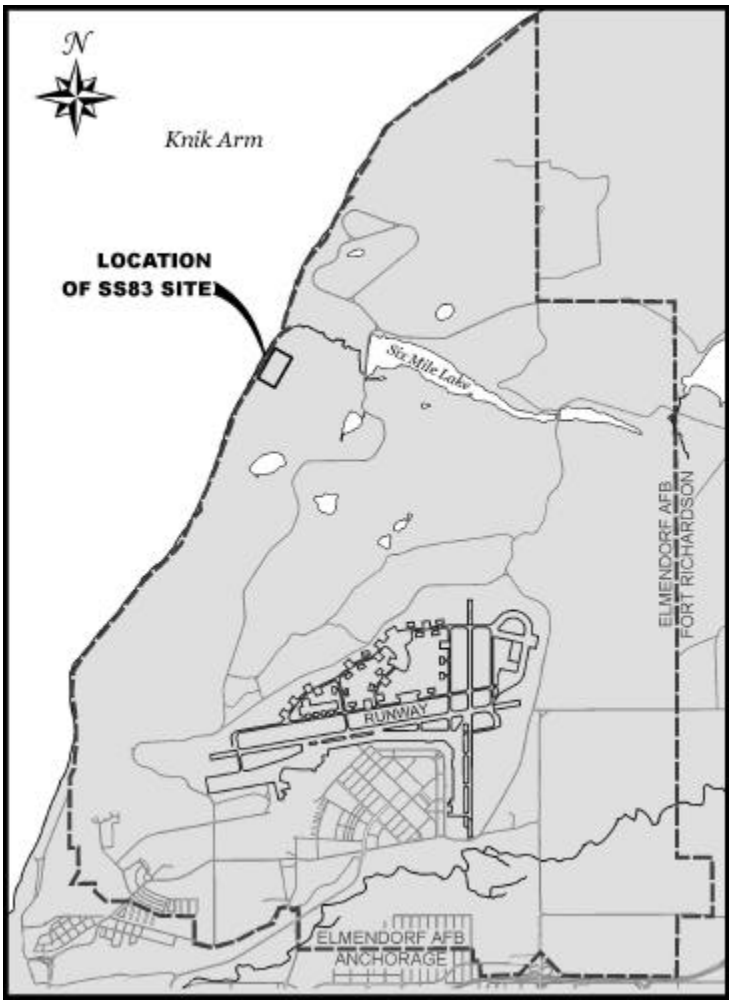

Figure 1. The location of the SS83 site.

Site Description

SS83 is located in the northwestern portion of Elmendorf Air Force Base between Six Mile Lake and Knik Arm and consists of approximately 20 acres (see Figure 1). Base records from 1949 indicate this was originally the Search Light Area No. 4 site, and contained five small log structures. Records from 1951 show this area was expanded to contain 24 buildings and housed the Alaska Scouts Combat Intelligence and Battery D of the 96th Anti-Aircraft Artillery.

Historical information suggests that anti-aircraft artillery batteries were constructed according to standardized designs. The camps usually consisted of Quonset huts, a splinter-proof radar shelter, a semi-underground ordnance shop, ammunition magazines, a fuse storage shelter, and revetments for 90-millimeter, and later, 120-millimeter guns. The site was decommissioned in the 1960s and is currently used as the Rosette Antenna Site operated by the 3rd Communications Squadron.

Contaminants of Concern

Field investigations at SS83 include an engineering evaluation and cost analysis (EE/CA) performed in 2000 and a site investigation of the SS83 Landfill performed in 2002 and 2003. Results of the site investigation indicated that six areas contained soil contamination which exceeded Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation cleanup levels for diesel-range organics (DRO) and residual-range organics (RRO). These areas include the Drum Bunker, Large Foundation, Motor Pool, Small Foundation, Bermed Bunker, and Lookout Pad (see Figure 2). The contaminants of concern in soils at SS83 are summarized below:

Contaminant of Concern (Soil)	Maximum Concentration (ppm)	Cleanup Level (ppm)
DRO	6,480	250*
RRO	94,000	10,000*

ppm = parts per million

Notes:
*Most stringent 18 Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) 75.341 Table B2, Method 2, under 40-inch zone criteria.
Results are from field work conducted during the 2000 EE/CA.

At four areas (the Underground Bunker, Ravine, Docking Area and Landfill), site contaminants were not detected at concentrations above cleanup levels and no further action is required for these areas.

Potential Pathways and Receptors

Potentially complete pathways for skin absorption, ingestion, and inhalation exist for both human and ecological receptors for surface and near-surface soils. Public access to the site is restricted. Workers in the area could become exposed to the contaminants of concern. Animals, such as moose and bears, frequent the area. Groundwater and surface water data indicate that contaminants are not migrating from the site.

Summary

The decision document signed in 2003 requires excavation of approximately 100 cubic yards of soil from six areas, removal of two previously closed underground storage tanks, and removal of a drain discharge pipe (if present). Removal of all or portions of the concrete foundations may be required to access the contaminated soil. Soil that is removed from the site will be transported off-base and thermally treated. When removal and disposal are complete, sampling will be conducted to confirm that the contaminants have been removed. Removal action activities are scheduled for summer 2004.

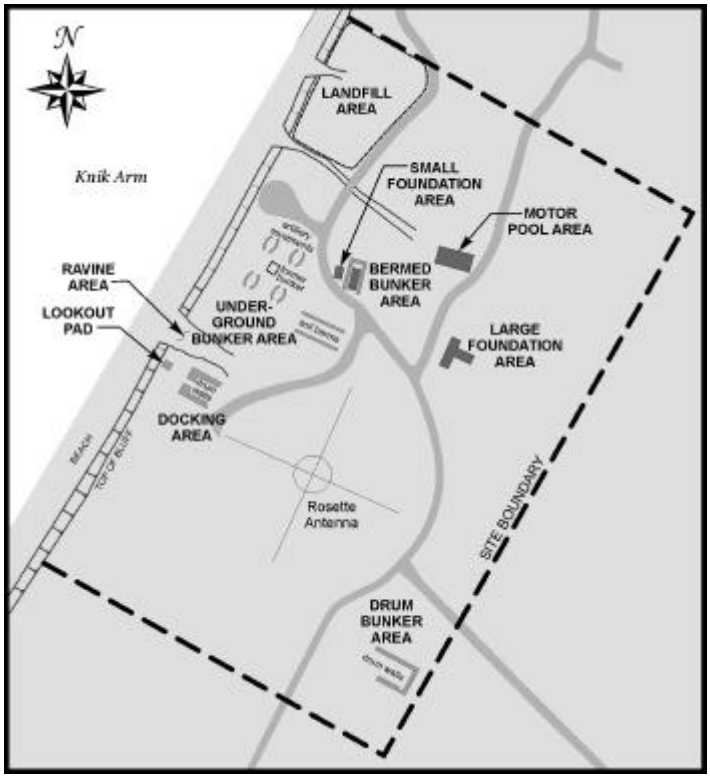

Figure 2. Areas within SS83.

Information Repositories

Documents associated with these project activities are available for public review at:

Z.J. Loussac Public Library
3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 343-2975

Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS)
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 272-7547

The Air Force will continue to update the community on the progress of environmental activities on Elmendorf Air Force Base. If you have questions or comments pertaining to the SS83 site, please contact 3rd Wing Public Affairs by telephone at (907) 552-8970, or at 10480 22nd Street, Suite 118, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-2500.