



United States Air Force
15th Air Base Wing
Environmental Restoration Program

HISTORICAL REVIEW

EE/CA for OU1

Bellows Air Force Station Oahu, Hawaii



Appendix A

Information Resources and Research Methods

Appendix A: Information Resources and Research Methods

Information Resources

A variety of repositories were searched for aerial and still photographs, maps, plans, drawings, memos, and reports regarding the development of and activities at Bellows Air Force Station (AFS). The following provides a summary of the information resources and research methods used in preparing the Historical Review.

CH2M HILL staff visited the following repositories in Hawaii and found the following types of information:

Hawaiian Repository	Documents Found
• U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Directorate of Public Works	Plans
• U.S. Army Museum at Fort DeRussy	Photos
• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Real Estate Directorate	Plans
• University of Hawaii Hamilton Library	Maps, photos
• 15 th Air Base Wing, Civil Engineer Squadron	Plans, reports, aerial photos
• 15 th Air Base Wing, Headquarter History Office	Photos, records, aerial photos
• R.M. Towill Corporation, Honolulu	Aerial photos
• CH2M Hill, Honolulu	Aerial photos

The repositories in Hawaii were searched with varying degrees of success. The most productive location for original data was the 15th Air Base Wing, Civil Engineer Squadron (15 CES) Drafting Department map and plan archive. Several hundred sheets were reviewed for direct and indirect indications of the four Installation Restoration Program (IRP) sites at Bellows AFS.

Researchers reviewed environmental records and reports located at the 15th Air Base Wing (15 ABW) Historian's office and at the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron/Environmental Restoration Element (15 CES/CEVR) library. Research also included review of documents maintained by the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron/Environmental Compliance Element (15 CES/CEVC).

Other Department of Defense information sources in Hawaii included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, Real Estate Directorate; the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, Directorate of Public Works; and the U.S. Army Museum at Fort DeRussy. Various types of information, as indicated above, were located at these repositories.

Records housed at the University of Hawaii Hamilton Library were also examined.

Mainland repositories and the types of information found at each comprise the following:

Mainland Repository

Documents Found

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| • National Archives Records Administration, Washington D.C., College Park, Maryland | Photos, plans, memoranda, correspondence |
| • Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama | Plans, photos, memoranda |
| • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers History Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia | Maps, real estate files |
| • U.S. Geologic Survey Earth Resource Observation Systems Data Center, Sioux Falls South Dakota | Aerial photos |

The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Data Center is located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The USGS EROS Data Center serves as the repository for all public aerial photographs dating from 1950 to the present. It maintains an inventory of black and white, color, and color infra-red images of varying scales. Most of the images are of the 9-inch by 9-inch or 9-inch by 18-inch format. Appendix C presents a listing of the aerial photos obtained and reviewed for this project, and prints of those most relevant to the report.

Research was also conducted at The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at College Park, Maryland and the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. These repositories contain a variety of historical information, ranging from construction plans and specifications to aerial photos. Due to the nature of construction records from the World War II period, when most of the construction at Bellows Field took place, a number of records were incomplete. For instance, many unit histories, as well as correspondence, do not include referenced enclosures or attachments. In particular, maps, which would have provided information about specific locations, were missing.

Research Methods

Research began with a review of previous studies and reports submitted to the 15 ABW, 15 CES/CEVR, and 15 CES/CEVC at Hickam AFS, Hawaii. After establishing and understanding the general setting and history of the subject sites at Bellows AFS, the researchers sought out current and former base personnel that may have knowledge of the sites. Concurrently, the maps, plans, and drawings located in the 15 CES Drafting Department archives were examined for relevant information. Copies of the pertinent portions of these items were made for detailed review and for comparison with information obtained from other sources.

Research at mainland U.S. repositories began after preliminary data gaps and areas of interest were established based on locally available information. In addition to searching the mainland repositories for maps, plans, photographs, and drawings, the researchers sought out any reports, personal diaries, memoranda, and similar documents not available at the Hawaiian repositories. A summary of all items reviewed was compiled for reference and use by the U.S. Air Force in future projects. The summary is provided in Section 7.0 of the Historical Review.

When found, materials were interpreted by persons familiar with that particular type of document. For example, aerial photos were reviewed by an individual familiar with interpreting aerial photos. Environmental reports and construction memoranda were reviewed by persons with experience in the environmental field.

Interviews with several knowledgeable persons were attempted. One key interviewee had passed away, and two more had been transferred out of Hawaii, one to Okinawa, the other to the mainland. Another key interviewee has not made contact with interviewers as requested and has an unlisted phone number. Only two individuals were interviewed.

Jane Kubota, a Bellows employee for 51 years, was interviewed. She noted that the Fire Department did controlled burns at the base dump once a week but was not able to identify the location of the dump or the time period when the burning was done.

Discussions with Keenan Powell of EA Engineering, Science, and Technology (EA) yielded information about sites DP17, DP06, and SD22. Powell managed the removal of abandoned drums from several sites at Bellows AFS, including three of the four IRP sites discussed in the Historical Review. LF01 was not part of the Multi-Drum Project at Bellows. He was not at EA during their preliminary assessment/site investigation contract, but does have access to information from the geophysical survey they performed.

Overall, the information gained from personal communications proved to be of limited value to the research. Summaries of the interviews are included in Appendix B.