



# GET INVOLVED!

Shaw A.F.B. Restoration Advisory Board

Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.



The Shaw Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board is the cornerstone of a proactive community involvement program to promote communication between civilian neighbors and the Air Force regarding environmental cleanup at the base.

Restoration advisory boards are unique to the Department of Defense and are part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program. Such boards help DoD fulfill its legal and ethical obligations to be open about cleanup activities to its neighbors. Since 1994, DoD officials have set up more than 300 RABs at defense sites around the nation.

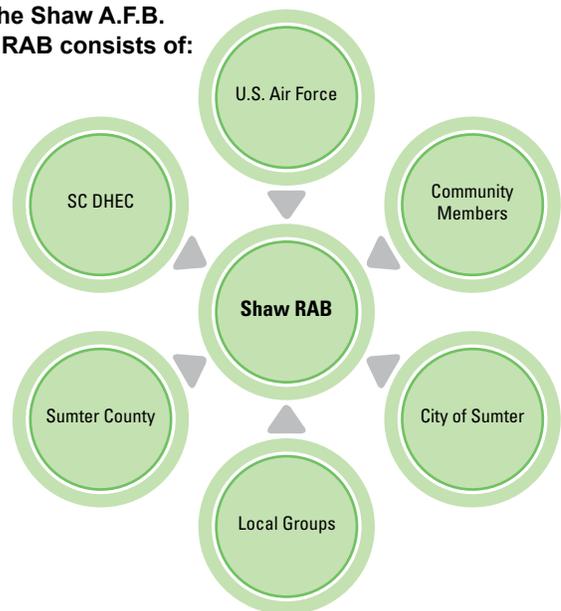
All these boards must comply with Part 202 of the 32 Code of Federal Regulations, also known as the DoD "RAB Rule," which was updated and issued in 2006.

The RAB is an advisory board, not a policy-making board. The Air Force holds the ultimate responsibility for making cleanup decisions, in partnership with the lead agency, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. However, the RAB is not without influence. The RAB brings community members and interested parties together to explore and present their interests and concerns.

Furthermore, the RAB provides the community with the opportunity to become involved in the environmental cleanup process either as a RAB member or by attending the meetings. Participants can influence cleanup decisions through discussion and input to the installation decision makers. Because representatives of the environmental agencies overseeing cleanup participate in the RAB, the RAB offers members and the public the opportunity to share their questions, concerns and ideas with various agencies involved in the cleanup.

Shaw's RAB meetings normally are held in June and December off base so they are easily accessible. Meetings are open to the public and advertised in local media.

The Shaw A.F.B. RAB consists of:



## RESPONSIBILITIES OF RAB MEMBERS:

- **Attendance** – Semi-annual meetings and any training meetings, workshops or site tours that may be scheduled.
- **Represent community** – Communicate community interests and concerns to the RAB.
- **Availability to community** – As go-betweens, RAB members are encouraged to share information and communicate with community members about Shaw cleanup.
- **Volunteer** – As volunteers, members receive no compensation for time or travel.
- **Document review** – Review, evaluate and comment on documents and plans related to cleanup.

## OTHER CHARACTERISTICS ABOUT RABs

- RABs are advisory bodies, not policy-making bodies that vote on issues. RABs provide the public with a focused and interactive forum, the opportunity to influence cleanup decisions through discussion, to share questions and concerns, and provide input to Air Force decision makers and regulators.
- RABs do not work as consensus bodies, since diversity of opinion is important.
- RAB community representatives are not selected by the Air Force, but by the RAB. Diverse and balanced membership is the goal.
- RABs have two co-chairs: one Air Force and one community representative.
- The RAB creates its own charter containing a mission statement and operating procedures, in accordance with the Department of Defense RAB Rule.
- The RAB sets the agenda, meeting times and locations.



*A transparent community partnership is a critical part of successful cleanup.*

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### POINTS OF CONTACT

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)  
South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control: [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

