

# **NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative**

## **Otis Air National Guard Base/Camp Edwards Falmouth, Massachusetts**

On October 26, 2007, EPA deleted a portion of the Otis Air National Guard (USAF) Superfund site from the National Priorities List (NPL). This partial deletion pertains to 61 source area sites and does not include the other portions of the site. A source area site is defined by: soil; structures, if present; and does not include any contaminated groundwater plumes that may be below the site. This Federal Facility site is known locally as the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR). The United States Air Force Center for Engineering and Environment (AFCEE) is the lead agency at the MMR Superfund Site.

The Otis Air National Guard (USAF) occupies over 22,000 acres of land in portions of the Towns of Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee, and Sandwich. This partial deletion pertains to 482.1 acres of the site. The site was listed on the NPL in 1989. The military's Installation Restoration Program (IRP) was established in 1982 leading to numerous soil and groundwater investigations and cleanups in the southern, developed half of the base. In addition, the military has extended public water supply lines into neighborhoods where plumes have affected groundwater underneath homes which had relied on private wells.

Site investigations have identified 80 source area sites and 12 groundwater plumes. This partial deletion will remove 61 source area sites ranging in size from half an acre to 80.7 acres. Seventeen source sites were investigated, but were found to have no contamination and no CERCLA or non-CERCLA actions have been taken. The remaining 44 source sites have been investigated and have had actions (CERCLA and non-CERCLA) to reduce and/or eliminate any risk to human health and the environment, and to prevent soil contamination from leaching into groundwater.

Contamination on the site originated from various activities throughout the site starting as early as the 1940s. The site was used in activities ranging from carpentry, vehicle maintenance, dry cleaning, coal storage, steam plant, asphalt plant, gas station, weapons repair shop, pesticide mixing and storage area, landfill, illegal dumping, waste storage, and waste disposal. Several fuel spills also occurred on the site.

EPA has issued a total of four Administrative Orders for investigation and cleanup, and prohibition of all live fire of munitions, propellants and pyrotechnics, demolition training, firing of lead from small arms, planned detonation of ordnance, or explosives except for unexploded ordinance (UXO) activities and certain other training related activities.

EPA with concurrence from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has determined that all appropriate CERCLA response actions have been completed at the sites being deleted and that protection of human health and the environment has been achieved in these sites.