MEMORANDUM

CEDAR RADAR RADIO ANNEX

DERP-FUDS SITE RESEARCH

DATE: 13 December 2004

TO: File

FROM: Grace R. Dirling

SUBJECT: DERP-FUDS Inventory Project Report
Supplemental Site Research
J08UT002100 Cedar Radar Radio Annex, Utah

REFERENCE: SAIC Project No. 01-0440-01-4440
GSA Task ID 674-V40066; Contract No. GS-10F-0076J

SITE LOCATION: Cedar Radar Radio Annex is located in Iron County, approximately 20 miles southeast of Cedar City, Utah. The site is located on the top of Blowhard Mountain within the Dixie National Forest at 37° 35' 35'' Latitude North, 112° 51' 49'' Longitude West. The Cedar Radar Radio Annex falls within Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region VIII and U.S. Congressional District Number 2.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In the fall of 1961, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began building a radar installation on Blowhard Mountain in Iron County, Utah at an elevation of 10,693 feet. The facility became operational in February 1962 with Air Route Surveillance Radar - Model 2 (ARSR-2) long-range radar. According to *Searching the Skies, The Legacy of the United States Cold War Defense Radar Program*, June 1997, by David F. Winkler, FAA radars supported the Air Defense Command (ADC) radar network. In 1966, Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown called for phasing out most military radars around the periphery of the United States. Many detection duties were then assumed by FAA radars that fed information into military control centers. The Cedar Radar Radio Annex supported the Air Defense Command (ADC) radar network as part of the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) air defense system with SAGE identification Z-216.

The current equipment at the site is ARSR-2 long-range radar. Based on information provided by a radar technician currently working at the site, the facility has been in continuous use by the FAA since 1962. The radar facility has never been under the control of the Department of Defense (DOD). However, since the mid-1960s, the Air Force has been able to track flights by microwave and telephone ties with FAA receiving stations in Los Angeles, Denver, and Salt Lake City from signals originating at the

Blowhard Mountain site. Thus, the only DOD joint use is of radar tracking data, through electronic information links. The FAA long-range radar site is currently data-tied into the Joint Surveillance System.

A National Weather Service Doppler radar station KICX is located approximately 1,000 yards south-southeast down the mountain.

CONTACTS:

1. FAA Flight Services, Cedar City, Utah, Chris Reid, Supervisor of Flight Services, (866) 667-3858, provided the telephone number of the Blowhard Mountain FAA facility and stated that the three people working there did not provide 24/7 coverage.

2. Blowhard Mountain FAA facility, Utah, Ralph Mortensen, FAA Radar Technician, (435) 586-4875, provided historical and current information on the facility, as well as its location in relation to Cedar City. He also provided information about the National Weather Service site down the mountain.

3. Blowhard Mountain FAA facility, Utah, Don Boyd, FAA Radar Technician, (435) 586-4875, stated that the US Air Force could be paying FAA to get their radar signals.

4. Air Defense Radar Museum, Internet website provided photographs and a site map of the Blowhard Mountain facility. http://www.radomes.org/museum

5. FAA Real Estate and Utilities Branch, Northwest Mountain Region, 1601 Lind Avenue, Renton, Washington 98055, Albert Lee, Real Estate Contract Officer, (425) 227-1361. FAA real estate records indicate that on 28 April 1961 the US Forestry Service office at the Dixie National Forest, Cedar Ranger Region granted a special use permit to the FAA for the construction of a long-range radar facility, maintenance and operation afterwards, and an access road to the site. The FAA then assigned a reference number to the permit: ARM-141. There does not appear to be an expiration date on the permit.