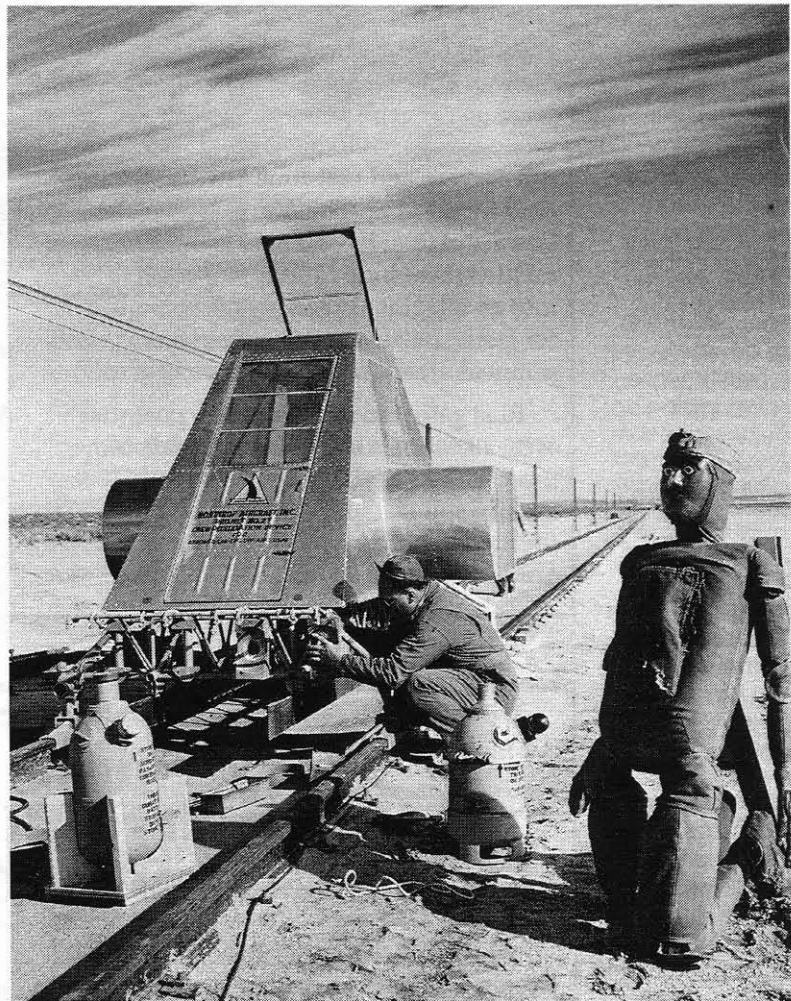


Report to STAKEHOLDERS

August 1996

While a dummy awaits the next ride, a technician makes an adjustment to a rocket sled at the north base sled track in the early 1950s.
Photo by Jake Superata from the AFFTC History Office Collection.



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North Base is Remote — Depending on Your Perspective

North base, renowned for its remoteness, proved to be the perfect location for the research and testing of many Air Force projects.

That's why it's so ironic that north base is closer to the base boundary and a neighboring civilian community, North Edwards, than any other active base area.

until I die. I'm also concerned about what's going down the hill from Phillips Laboratory to Desert Lake and Boron."

The people working in the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) are concerned also.

"We'll do all in our power to protect the health of not only our employees at north base, but also the people of our neighboring communities, including North Edwards, Aerial Acres, Desert Lake, Boron and California City," said Keith Dyas, Air Force project manager of operable unit 10, which comprises the north base area outside of the NASA/JPL boundaries.

"Many of the off-base residents in these areas depend solely on groundwater for all of their water needs," he continued. "Therefore, we take the responsibility of protecting this precious water source very seriously."

As early as September, those involved with the IRP will conduct initial screening tests that will help address the concerns brought forth by Messersmith at the June 27 working meeting of the RAB.

As a result of Messersmith's comments, Mary Spencer, AF project manager for operable unit 5 (the NASA/JPL complex), has opted to take soil gas and soil boring samples

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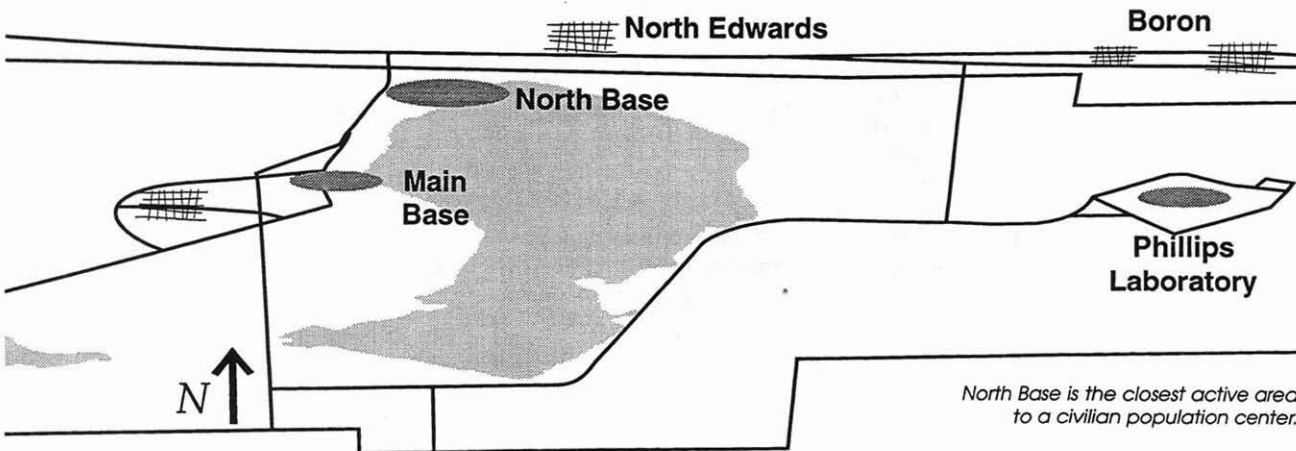


WP Photographic

Hangar 4305 today (left back). This hangar was used during World War II when the XP-59 was tested here.

Ruby Messersmith, North Edwards representative of the Restoration Advisory Board, feels this proximity could present the greatest *potential* hazard of contamination to an off-base population.

"We have people closer than anyone else in the other communities," said Messersmith. "I've been here since 1952 and I'll be here



North Base is the closest active area to a civilian population center.

