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**Preliminary Assessment Report for
Bee Caves Armory
(Former Nike BG-80 Fire Control Facility),
Installation 48055,
Austin, Texas**

Prepared for

National Guard Bureau, Army Directorate
Aberdeen, Maryland

August 1993

Prepared by

Applied Geosciences and Environmental Management Section
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Acronyms

ACM	asbestos-containing material
ARNG	Army National Guard
ATCHD	Austin-Travis County Health Department
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
DHUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
ECAS	Environmental Compliance Assessment System
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESO	environmentally significant operation
FISP	Facility Inventory and Stationing Plan
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GFC	Generator and Frequency Changer
HIPAR	High-Power Acquisition Radar
IC	Interconnecting Corridor
IFC	Integrated Fire Control
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
LPD	low-pressure dosed
LPG	liquid propane gas
MLA	Missile Launch Area
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PA	preliminary assessment
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
POL	petroleum, oils, and lubricants
TPWD	State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TWC	Texas Water Commission
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
USAEC	U.S. Army Environmental Center (formerly USATHAMA)
USATHAMA	U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency (now USAEC)
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UST	underground storage tanks
USTP	Underground Storage Tank Program

**Preliminary Assessment Report for
Bee Caves Armory
(Former Nike BG-80 Fire Control Facility),
Installation 48055,
Austin, Texas**

Summary

This report presents the results of the preliminary assessment (PA) conducted by Argonne National Laboratory at the Texas Army National Guard (ARNG) property in Austin, Texas. Preliminary assessments of federal facilities are being conducted to compile the information necessary for completing preremedial activities and to provide a basis for establishing corrective actions in response to releases of hazardous substances. The principal objective of the PA is to characterize the site accurately and determine the need for further action by examining site activities, quantities of hazardous substances present, and potential pathways by which contamination could affect public health and the environment. This PA satisfies, for the Bee Caves Armory property, the requirements of the Department of Defense Installation Restoration Program.

The Bee Caves Armory is a 12.55-acre site located in Travis County in the central portion of Texas just west of the city limits of Austin, the county seat and state capital. On the basis of the review of both historical and current activities, the Bee Caves property poses minimal risk to human health and the environment. Formerly a Nike-Hercules Missile Program Integrated Fire Control Area, the facility is now occupied by the 111th Area Support Group and the 1104th Transportation Detachment. The two units, with authorized strength totaling 139, assemble for training one weekend per month. Training of signal battalion personnel neither involves the use of hazardous materials of any consequence nor results in the generation of hazardous wastes. Vehicles assigned to the units are serviced and maintained at nearby Camp Swift. The ARNG activities performed at the facility, including the storage and use of limited quantities of hazardous or flammable fluids required for grounds- and housekeeping activities, do not result in the release of significant amounts of hazardous waste.

Of concern is the potential for hazardous waste to be present on the property as a result of the former Nike Missile Base operations or in the form of original construction materials. Environmentally sensitive operations associated with the property from that period include (1) underground fuel storage, (2) hazardous materials storage/use, (3) disposal of hazardous

waste into two dry wells, and (4) release of untreated or hazardous waste water from the former facility water treatment system. Actions have been taken to mitigate these potential problems:

1. The abandoned 6,000-gal underground diesel fuel storage tank has been removed. Inspection of the underground storage tank and excavated soil/rock indicated that release of significant quantities of hazardous chemicals did not occur.
2. Aside from diesel fuel used to power the on-site electrical generator, lead-containing paints represented the largest quantity of hazardous material used as part of the former Nike operations. Lesser quantities of lubricating oils, solvents, and herbicides were also present. The volume of hazardous materials required on-site as part of Nike missile fire control activities was low, and most of these materials were consumed. A survey performed in early 1993 under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers confirmed that asbestos is present on-site in the form of building construction and insulation materials.
3. No records are available regarding disposal of Nike operations waste fluids. Whether two dry wells that, according to the 1959 site plan of the former Nike site, were located in the northwestern portion of the property were used for disposal of waste fluids is unknown. The presence of the dry wells could not be confirmed during the site survey. If the dry wells were present as indicated in the site plan and then were filled at the time of deactivation of the former Nike site, use of the dry wells for disposal of the limited quantities of hazardous waste fluids generated as part of the former Nike operations is unlikely to have resulted in the release of hazardous constituents sufficient to pose a significant threat to the environment or to the surrounding population.
4. Finally, the former, aging sewage treatment facility has been replaced by an upgraded treatment facility approved by the local health authorities.

Because of the actions taken to mitigate potential contamination at the site, no further preliminary assessment/Installation Restoration Program action is recommended for this property. To protect workers on the site, abatement of asbestos-containing materials, as outlined in the February 1993 asbestos survey, is recommended.

1 Introduction

This document is a report of the preliminary assessment (PA) conducted by Argonne National Laboratory at the Texas Army National Guard (ARNG) property known as Bee Caves Armory, located in Austin, Texas. The facility is a former Nike-Hercules Missile Defense Program Integrated Fire Control Area.

1.1 Authority for the Preliminary Assessment

The National Guard Bureau, Army Directorate, has engaged Argonne to perform PAs of selected ARNG properties. These assessments are being done in a manner consistent with both the Department of Defense Installation Restoration Program (IRP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Potential Hazardous Waste Site Preliminary Assessment Guidance. Preliminary assessments of ARNG properties are conducted under the authority and direction of the IRP; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or, more commonly, Superfund); and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-499).

1.2 Objectives

This PA report is based on existing information from the ARNG records that were made available to Argonne investigators and from other sources. Although this PA effort did not extend to the generation of new data, it nonetheless identifies areas where existing data are incomplete, unreliable, or ambiguous and recommends ways to address such shortcomings.

The objectives of the PA are to satisfy the requirements of the IRP and to

- Identify and characterize the environmentaily significant operations (ESOs),
- Identify property areas or ESOs that may require a site investigation,
- Identify ESOs or areas of environmental contamination that may require immediate removal,

- Identify properties for which no further action is needed, and
- Provide information sufficient to prescore the site with the EPA's PA Score Sheets (September 1991).

1.3 Procedures

The PA began with a review of ARNG files located at Texas ARNG Headquarters at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas, on May 24, 1993. Other relevant information was obtained on May 25 from the Texas Water Commission, the Soil Conservation Service, and other state and federal agencies. A site visit was conducted on May 26, to obtain additional information through direct observation and interviews with personnel familiar with the property and its operations (Dennis 1993).

1.4 Report Format

This PA report presents a summary and evaluation of the data relevant to the PA for this property. Section 2 describes the property and its surrounding environment and land uses. Section 3 identifies and characterizes the ESOs at the site. Section 4 discusses known and suspected releases to the environment, and Section 5 discusses potential human and environmental receptors for such releases. Section 6 summarizes the findings and conclusions, discusses the quality and reliability of the supporting information, identifies areas requiring further action, and (as appropriate) suggests how such actions can be accomplished. Section 7 lists pertinent materials reviewed. The Appendix gives interview information.

2 Property Characterization

2.1 General Property Information

The Bee Caves Armory is located in Travis County in central Texas, just west of the city of Austin, the county seat and state capital. Total land within post boundaries comprises 12.55 acres. The property, which is partitioned in four parcels, is situated on a hill at the intersection of Bee Caves Road (State Road 2244) and St. Stephens Road (GSA 1988). The 8.71-acre armory and training area is located on the crest of the hill. A second 0.72-acre parcel located partially down the hill contains the entrance to the site along with the former facility sewage treatment plant. A third 0.93-acre parcel at the base of the hill is the reception point for utility services. Roadway easements connecting the three parcels of land make up the remaining 2.19 acres. The area surrounding the ARNG property has been developed as a high-value, urban residential area. Commercial development along Bee Caves Road is limited. Figure 1 shows the general location of the Bee Caves ARNG property, and Table 1 lists pertinent information about it. Figure 2 provides a layout of the Bee Caves ARNG property.

2.2 Description of Facilities

The Bee Caves ARNG property is licensed to the Texas National Guard as an armory and division data center. The facility is occupied by the 111th Area Support Group and the 1104th Transportation Detachment. The two units, with authorized strength of 135 and 4, respectively, assemble for basically classroom-type training one weekend per month. Regular full-time personnel number 17 (GSA 1988). The property was originally developed in approximately 1960 as a U.S. Nike-Hercules Missile Defense Program Integrated Fire Control (IFC) Area. Some site facilities were removed when Nike operations were terminated. Others have since been abandoned. The ARNG uses some facilities for purposes other than their original designations. Use of other facilities remains unchanged.

2.2.1 Former Nike IFC Operations

General information on the Nike Missile program has been compiled by both the Army Corps of Engineers (ESF 1984) and the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency

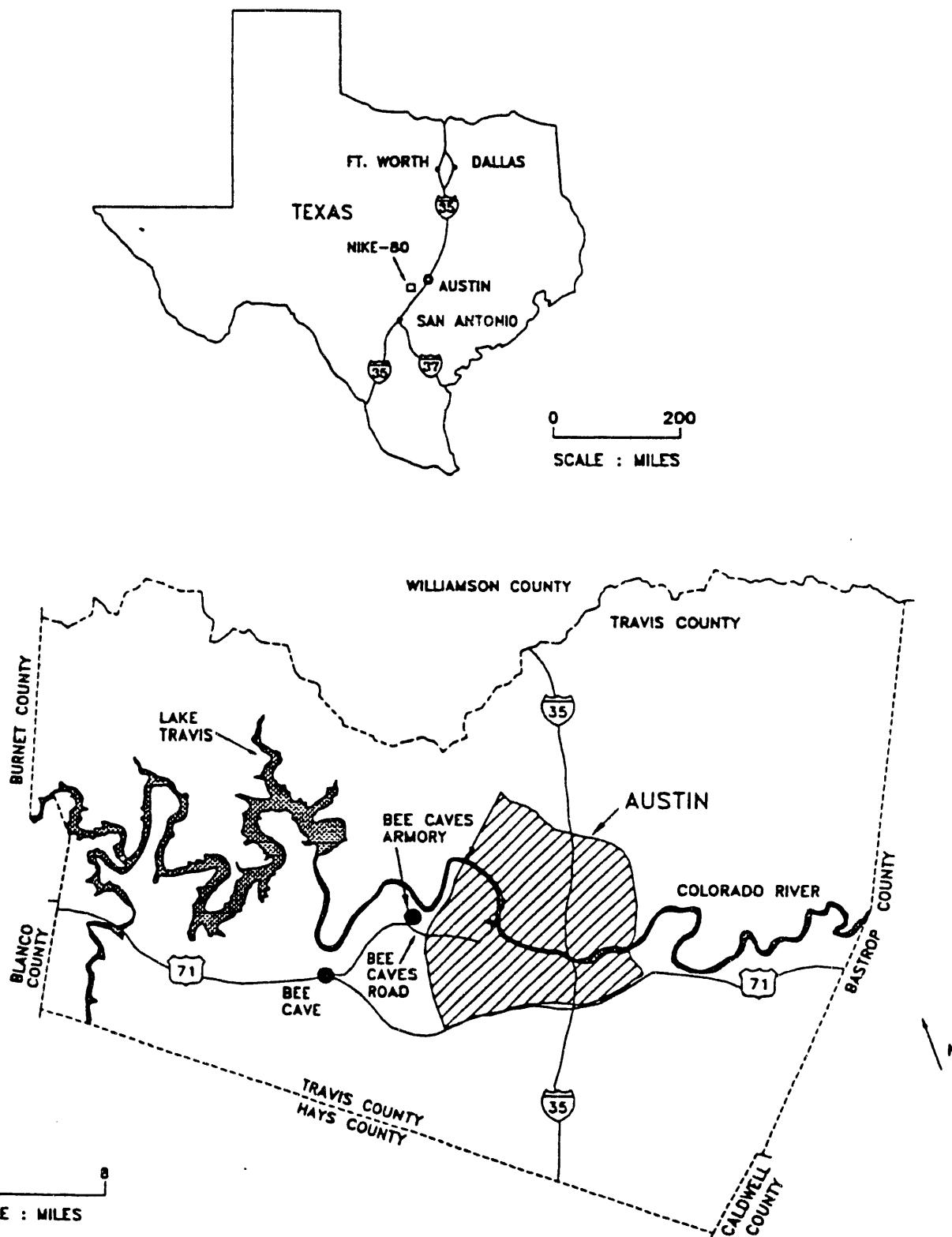


FIGURE 1 General Location of Bee Caves Armory (Sources: USGS 1988a, USGS 1988b)

TABLE 1 Identifying Information for Bee Caves Armory

Installation address	Bee Caves Armory 408 St. Stephens Road Austin, Texas 78746
Geographic location	
Latitude	30° 16' N
Longitude	97° 43' W
FISP ^a installation number	48055
Commander	LTC Raymond C. Peters
Types of facilities	Armory
License information	Federally owned, licensed to the state of Texas
Principal contact	Paul Powell (512) 465-5629

^a Facility Inventory and Stationing Plan.

(USATHAMA) (LET 1986). Although some information about the Nike defense program is available, much remains classified for reasons of national security. Nevertheless, taken together, these two reports represent the most complete assemblage of information on the Nike Missile program from an environmental perspective.

A typical Nike battery consisted of two distinct and separate operating units, the Launcher area and the IFC area (ESE 1984). The Launcher area was usually 40-50 acres in size, and the IFC was typically 10-50 acres. Because of instrumentation requirements, the two areas were separated by a minimum distance of 0.56 mi to a distance of 2.98 mi, with a line of sight between them for communication and tracking purposes. When topography permitted, as was the case for the former Bee Caves Nike facility, the IFC was placed at the higher elevation. Barracks facilities were either included as a third battery area or, as for the Bee Caves facility, were incorporated into the IFC area.

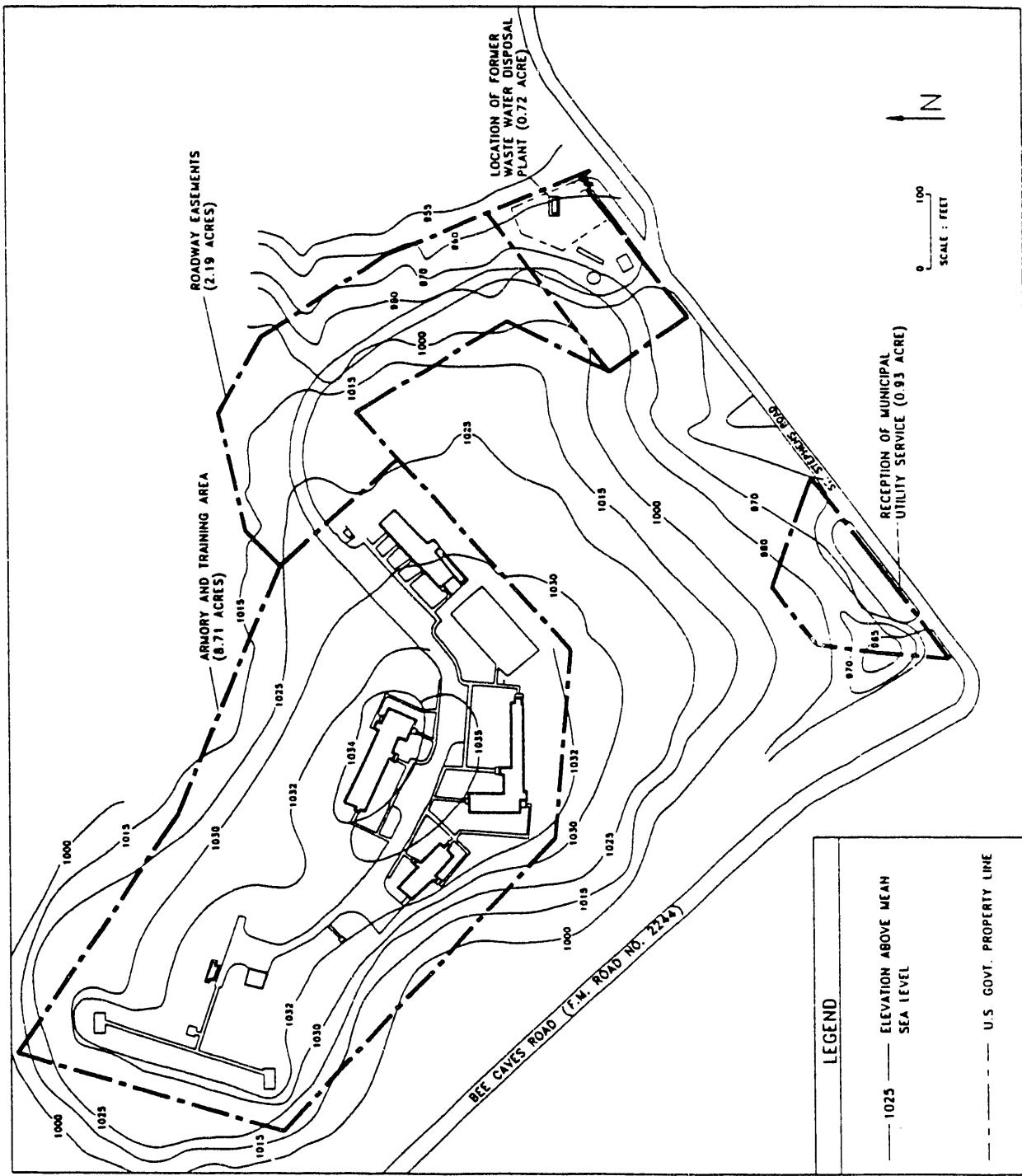


FIGURE 2 Layout of Bee Caves Armory Property (Source: COE 1959a)

Of the two operating areas making up a missile battery, the control area clearly has a lower potential for environmental contamination. Potential areas of contamination at a typical IFC area include:

- Motor pool maintenance area, if present;
- Diesel fuel, fuel oil, and/or gasoline storage systems;
- On-site landfill or unofficial, conveniently located disposal areas; and
- Facility waste water treatment system.

Documentation regarding deactivation of the Bee Caves IFC area was unavailable for this PA, although a June 1959 site plan of the former Nike installation was available (COE 1959b). The plan of the former installation and the site survey that was performed indicate that motor pool facilities, including vehicle maintenance operations and gasoline storage, were not a part of the Nike IFC operations. When the Nike facility was deactivated before transfer of the property to the ARNG, the power generating equipment and radar and communication equipment associated with Nike operations were removed. A 6,000-gal underground storage tank (UST) containing diesel fuel for operation of the power generating equipment was drained at the time of Nike deactivation but not removed. As discussed in Section 4.1.1, the tank has since been removed. No evidence of an on-site landfill or other waste disposal area was seen during the site survey, although the site plan for the former Nike facility identifies the locations of two dry wells. The Nike facility waste water treatment system remained in operation after transfer of the property to the ARNG; it was replaced in 1991. The two dry wells and the former facility waste water treatment system are discussed further in Sections 3.3 and 3.4, respectively.

2.2.2 Armory and Training Site

The 8.71-acre armory, as depicted in Figure 3, contains eight buildings totaling approximately 23,000 ft² of floor space (TXARNG 1980). The buildings, constructed in approximately 1960 for the former Nike Missile Fire Control Area operations, are set on concrete slab foundations with cinder block walls and generally have flat tar-and-gravel roofs. The four main buildings are used by the ARNG for administrative, dining, assembly, and classroom training activities. Four smaller structures are used for storage. Building identification numbers are those specified in National Guard Bureau's Facility Inventory and Stationing Plan (NGB 1987).

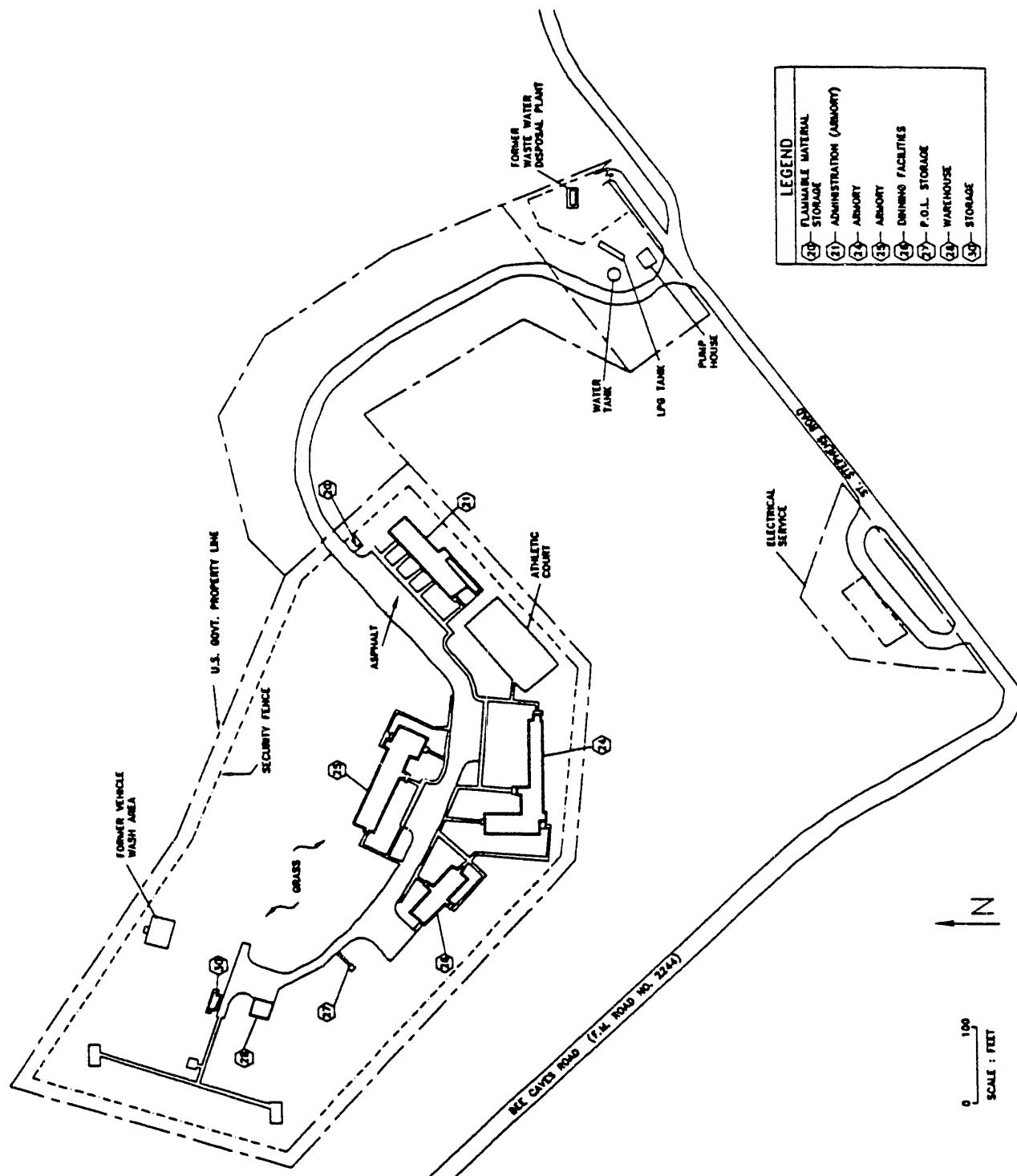


FIGURE 3 Bee Caves Armory Site Plan (Source: TXARNG 1980)

Building 20 is a single-room storage shed for lawn mowers and other groundskeeping equipment. Small quantities of gasoline for mowers and paint-related products are also stored. Water, heat, and air conditioning are not available to the building. During the former Nike activities, the 39-ft² building served as a sentry post or guard house.

Building 21 is a single-story structure consisting of offices, workrooms, storage, heater room, and latrine. During the former Nike activities, the 4,232-ft² building served as administrative headquarters.

Building 24 consists of classrooms, supply rooms, offices, a mechanical room, and a chapel. A former shower area has been converted to a photographic process dark room. During the former Nike activities, the 7,126-ft² building served as a barracks.

Building 25 consists of two large rooms used for the materials service sections, store rooms, and offices. The building also contains a latrine and boiler room. During the former Nike activities, the 5,209-ft² building served as a barracks.

Building 26 is the unit kitchen and dining area. A boiler room, pantry-storage rooms, and latrine are also available. During the former Nike activities, the 2,391-ft² building also served in this capacity.

Building 27 is a single-room storage shed for small quantities of petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POL). Water, heat, and air conditioning are not available to the building. During the former Nike activities, the 54-ft² building also served as the POL storage building.

Building 28 consists of a single, large, open space used as a warehouse, with one small office and a latrine. During the former Nike activities, the 819-ft² building contained the generator and frequency change equipment, removed when the Nike facility was deactivated. A 6,000-gal UST containing diesel fuel and located adjacent to the building served the generator.

Building 30 is a single, large, open space used for storage of nonhazardous materials. An enclosed, nonoperational heating/air conditioning system is present in the building. During the former Nike activities, the 367-ft² building served as an interconnecting corridor between the battery control van and the radar control van. Both of these structures were removed from the site during deactivation of the Nike operations.

2.2.3 Former Vehicle Wash Area

Some wheeled vehicles (six to eight) are available for use by the site personnel. Vehicle maintenance and service are performed at nearby Camp Swift, located southeast of Austin. A vehicle wash area, approximately 25 ft \times 25 ft, was located in the north portion of the ARNG property, with wash water running off to the surrounding ground. According to site personnel, the wash area was seldom used in years past, and use of the wash area has now been terminated (Dennis 1993). The former limited vehicle washing activity is dismissed as an environmentally sensitive operation because of its negligible potential impact to human health and the environment.

2.2.4 Facility Sewage Treatment System

In 1991, a low-pressure dosed (LPD) trench-type septic system was installed, replacing the existing waste water treatment system. The new septic system comprises two 4,314-gal single-compartment septic tanks, one 1,250-gal pump tank with duplex pump system, and LPD trench drainfields containing 2,870 ft (linear) of trenches installed on 5-ft centers (Ellison 1990). The location and design of the new treatment system are depicted in Figures 4 and 5, respectively.

The capacity of the septic system was determined by two sewage flow calculations: (1) typical monthly water consumption and (2) water consumption during a period when a full contingent of personnel was present at the site for training. In the first calculation method, the estimated monthly water consumption for May 17 through June 16, 1988, was 34,300 gal, yielding a consumption of 1,147 gal per day. In the second calculation method, water consumption during the three-day training period of September 8 through September 11, 1989, was 8,500 gal, yielding a maximum expected water consumption of 2,833 gal per day. To meet the maximum required design capacity, a drainfield area of 14,350 ft² and a septic tank volume of 8,628 gal were provided. A septic system depends on the filtration and adsorption properties of topsoil to cleanse the water. Generally, 3-6 ft of medium- to fine-textured soil with a permeability of 2-6 in./hr is desirable to ensure protection against pathogens. To compensate for the rock substrata present at the ARNG property, a 50% overdesign of the drainfield area was installed. A description of soils in the vicinity is presented in Section 2.5.3.2.

The design of the abandoned waste water treatment system is discussed in Section 3.4.

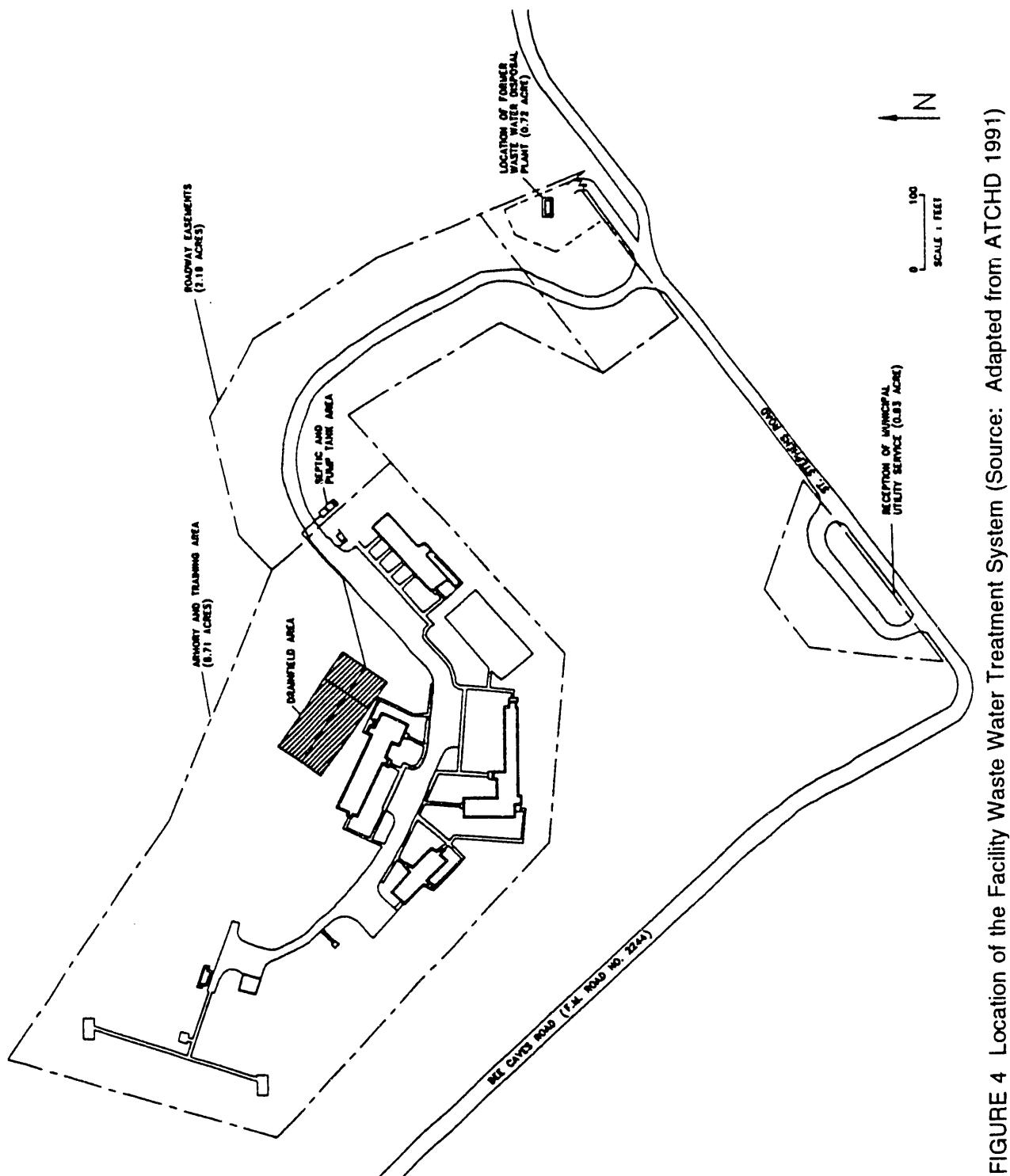


FIGURE 4 Location of the Facility Waste Water Treatment System (Source: Adapted from ATCHID 1991)

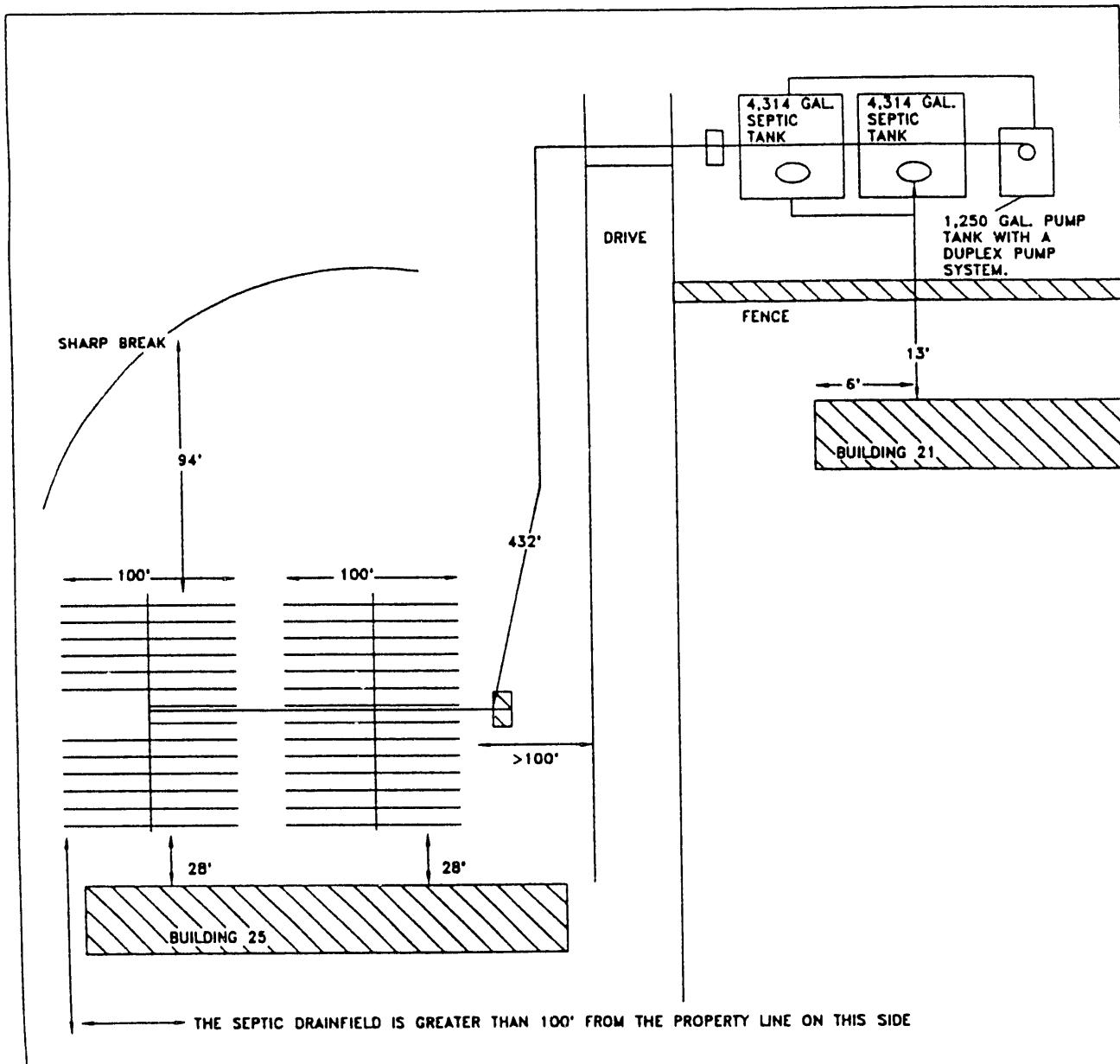


FIGURE 5 Design of the Facility Waste Water Treatment System (Source: Adapted from ATCHD 1991)

2.2.5 Utilities

The reception point for municipal electrical service (City Electric of Austin) and the water service (Water District No. 10 Austin) is a 0.93-acre parcel of land near the intersection of Bee Caves Road and St. Stephens Road. A pump house located in the 0.72-acre parcel up the hill pumps water to a 20,000-gal storage tank. The property contains 2,616 ft of water line. Building heating is provided by using liquid propane gas (LPG) fuel that is stored in an aboveground 3,500-gal tank. The property contains 1,498 ft of gas line. The LPG tank, located in a secured fenced area, is regularly inspected and serviced by the provider (Southern Ohio Gas Company). Its use is not considered in this PA to be an ESO.

2.3 Property History

The Bee Caves ARNG property was originally developed in approximately 1960 as one component in the U.S. Nike-Hercules Missile Defense System. The Bee Caves installation (Nike-Hercules Defense Site BG-80; so designated because of its location within the Bergstrom Defense area) is located about 0.5 mi west of Austin; the Elroy, Texas, installation (Nike-Hercules Defense Site BG-40) is located about 10 mi southeast of Austin. These two installations made up the Bergstrom Defense Area, with headquarters at Bergstrom Air Force Base (ESE 1984). Together these facilities provided protection from aerial attack for the greater Austin area. The IFC area of Defense Site BG-80 was located at the Bee Caves ARNG property. It contained all the radar, guidance, electronic, and communications equipment needed to identify incoming targets, launch the battery's missiles, and direct the missiles in flight. The exact location of the Missile Launch Area (MLA) of Defense Site BG-80 is unknown, although instrumentation limitations required that the control and launch areas be separated by a distance of at least 0.56 mi and no more than 2.98 mi (ESE 1984).

On July 1, 1966, the Texas National Guard received authorization from the Department of the Army to use the two excess Nike-Hercules Bases near Austin for armory purposes (Bishop 1965; Rochford 1966). The terms of the agreement stipulated use of the facilities for a period of one year, to be renewed annually. Activation of the Bee Caves facility by the ARNG occurred in May 1967 (Webster 1967). Under Amendment 1 to License DACA63-3-81-0502, which was accepted on May 28, 1985, and governs the Bee Caves ARNG property, use of that facility by the Texas National Guard was extended for 25 years, to June 30, 2015 (Starr 1985).

2.4 Permitting Status

This installation has no ESOs that require RCRA permits, and no ESOs at this property are designated for CERCLA activities. The design and construction of the current sewage treatment system at the Bee Caves property was approved by the Austin-Travis County Health Department in June 1990 (Ellison 1990). On April 30, 1991, the Austin-Travis County Health Department issued a license to the Texas ARNG to operate the treatment facility (ATCHD 1991).

2.5 Surrounding Environment and Land Use

2.5.1 Demographics and Land Use

The Bee Caves Armory is located in Travis County in central Texas approximately 0.5 mi west of the corporate boundary of the city of Austin. The surrounding area is high-value urban residential development, with some limited commercial ventures along Bee Caves Road. The Rob Roy Subdivision, to the north and east of the ARNG site, is an area of approximately 200 homes with an estimated population of 600. East of the site approximately 3-4 mi, as shown in Figure 6, are West Lake Hills (population 2,542) and Rollingwood (population 1,388). Austin has a population of 465,622 (Rand McNally 1992).

The growth of the city of Austin and development of major highways into the region have stimulated large-scale subdivision development. Through provision of water and sewer services, the city has directed most of this development along two north-south corridors following Interstate 35 and State Highway 183. As discussed in the following sections, much of the area west of the city is environmentally unsuitable for substantial residential development. In spite of the rugged appearance of the hill country in which the ARNG property is located, the ecology of the area is fragile. Rainfall is low, and soils are thin, resulting in a very low regenerative capacity. Residential development in the western region is scattered and relatively sparse. One area of residential development since approximately 1980 is the ravine adjacent to the ARNG property. Approximately 50 homes have been constructed there.

Because of its hilltop location, the Bee Caves site is considered to have high potential for development as residential property. In fact, during the development of the surrounding area in the

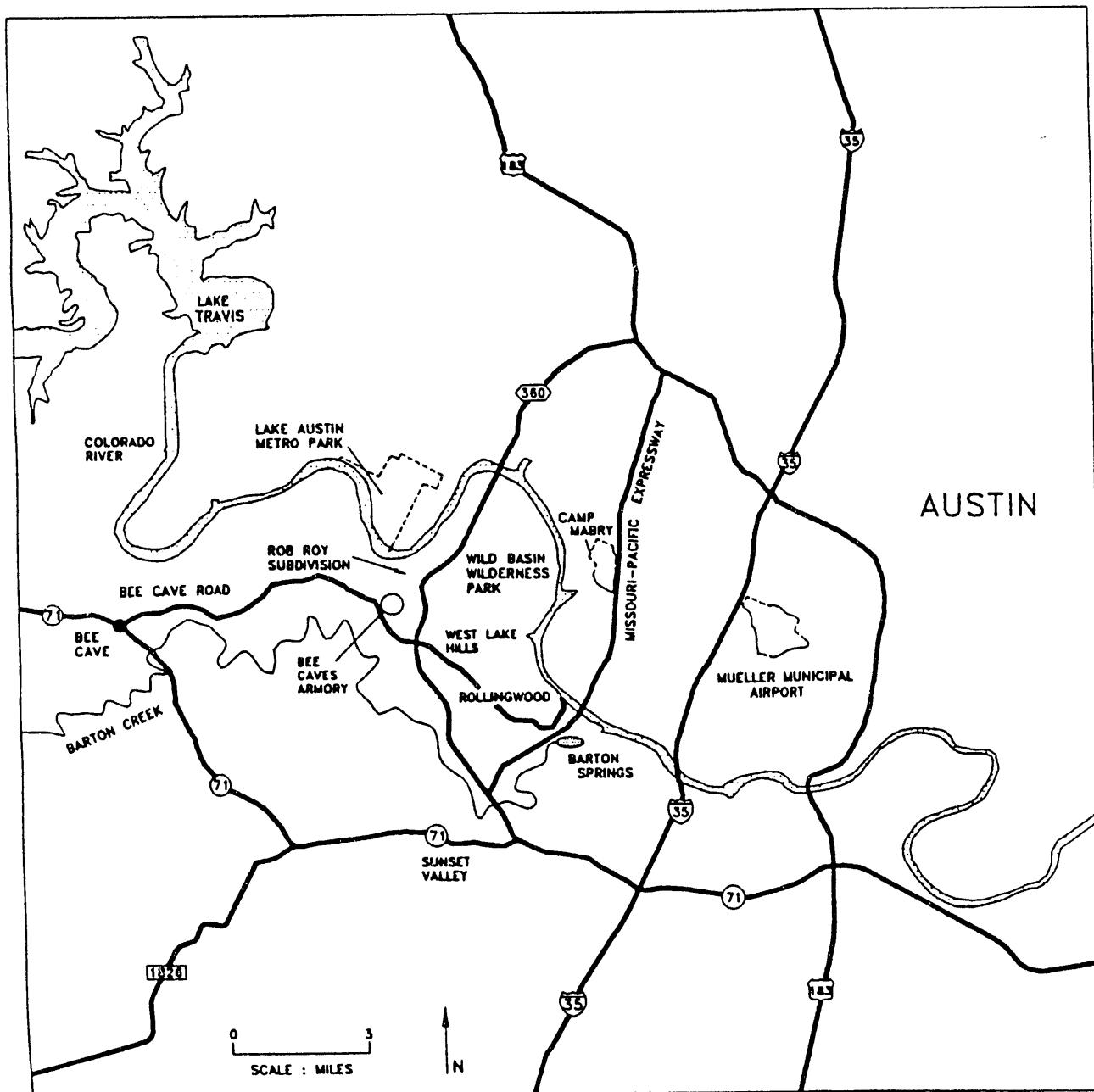


FIGURE 6 Vicinity of Bee Caves Armory (Source: Adapted from USGS 1988a, USGS 1988b)

past decade, attempts have been made to obtain easements into the property. A 1977 request (Lloyd 1977) to connect the new housing development to the ARNG facility sanitary sewage system in use at that time was rejected by the Texas ARNG on grounds that the existing system could not accommodate added use without a corresponding increase in operating costs and, further, that state and federal funds appropriated for military purposes could not properly be used for private endeavors (Starr 1978a). A 1978 request (Bradley 1978) to construct a water tower on ARNG property was rejected as a hazard to flying aircraft (helicopters) and as being inconsistent with military purposes (Starr 1978b). A 1985 request for permission to install an 8-in. water line through a portion of the ARNG property that would serve a planned 29-unit single-family residential development was approved (Cain 1985).

Approximately 1 mi north of the Bee Caves ARNG property flows the Colorado River, primary source of drinking water for the Austin region. Approximately 1 mi south of the property flows Barton Creek. On the north bank of the Colorado River north of the ARNG property is the Lake Austin Metropolitan Park. North and northeast of the property (north of West Lake Hills) lies the Wild Basin Wilderness Park. Both areas are public parks and wildlife habitats associated with the Lake Austin and Town Lake reservoir development projects. Further discussion of these sensitive environments is provided in Section 2.5.5.

2.5.2 Climate

The climate of Travis County is humid subtropical (NOAA 1988). Short, mild winters with temperatures below freezing occurring on average less than 25 days each year are followed by short springs and long, hot summers. Rather strong northerly winds accompanied by sharp drops in temperature, occasionally occur during the winter months in connection with cold fronts. Cold spells are usually of short duration, however, rarely lasting more than two days. Daytime temperatures in summer are high, but summer nights are usually pleasant with average daily minima in the low seventies. The mean maximum temperature for July is around 95°F, and the mean minimum temperature for January is about 41°F. The average length of the growing season or frost-free period is 270 days, lasting on average from March 3 to November 28.

Precipitation records furnished by the U.S. National Weather Service at Austin from 1900 through 1976 indicate an average annual precipitation of 33.5 in. (Brune 1983). The maximum officially recorded annual rainfall occurred in 1919 with 64.68 in. The minimum officially recorded annual rainfall in the period of record occurred in 1954 with 11.42 in. Monthly gross

surface evaporation ranges from 2.3 in. in January to 9.2 in. in August. Average annual gross evaporation is 61.7 in.

Precipitation is distributed throughout the year, with the heaviest amounts occurring in late spring. A secondary rainfall peak occurs in September. Precipitation from April through September usually results from thunderstorms, with fairly large amounts falling within short periods of time. Although thunderstorms and heavy rains have occurred in all months of the year, most of the winter precipitation occurs as light rain. Snow is insignificant as a source of moisture and usually melts as rapidly as it falls. The area may experience several seasons in succession with no measurable snowfall.

2.5.3 Physiography, Soils, and Surface Hydrology

The following sections describe the local and regional surface physiography and hydrology (Brune 1983; DHUD 1981; Patterson 1963; Senger et al. 1984; Slade et al. 1986).

2.5.3.1 Physiography

Texas comprises four physiographic provinces: (1) the Basin and Range province, (2) the Great Plains province, (3) the Central Lowland, and (4) the Coastal Plain (Figure 7) (Patterson 1963). The Great Plains province covers the greater part of west-central and west Texas and comprises the High Plains (the relatively flat area of West Texas), the Edwards Plateau, and the Central Texas section. The Coastal Plain occupies southeast Texas. A series of geologic fault zones defines the boundary between the Great Plains province and the Coastal Plain province. One of these zones, the Balcones Fault Zone, is a belt of northeast-trending normal faults extending over nine counties from Kinney to Bell (Senger et al. 1984). The fault zone traverses Travis County, and the ARNG property is located approximately 2 mi west of the fault zone.

The predominant physiographic feature of Travis County is the Balcones Fault Zone, approximately 6 to 8 mi wide. It marks the transition between the Edwards Plateau in the western portion of the county and the Blackland Prairie in the east. The Edwards Plateau region is characterized by precipitous cliffs and ridgelines with scenic views. To the east are rolling plains. Topographically, the altitude above mean sea level in the county varies from approximately 1,350 ft in the northwest corner to approximately 365 ft in the bed of the Colorado River where it crosses the eastern boundary of the county.

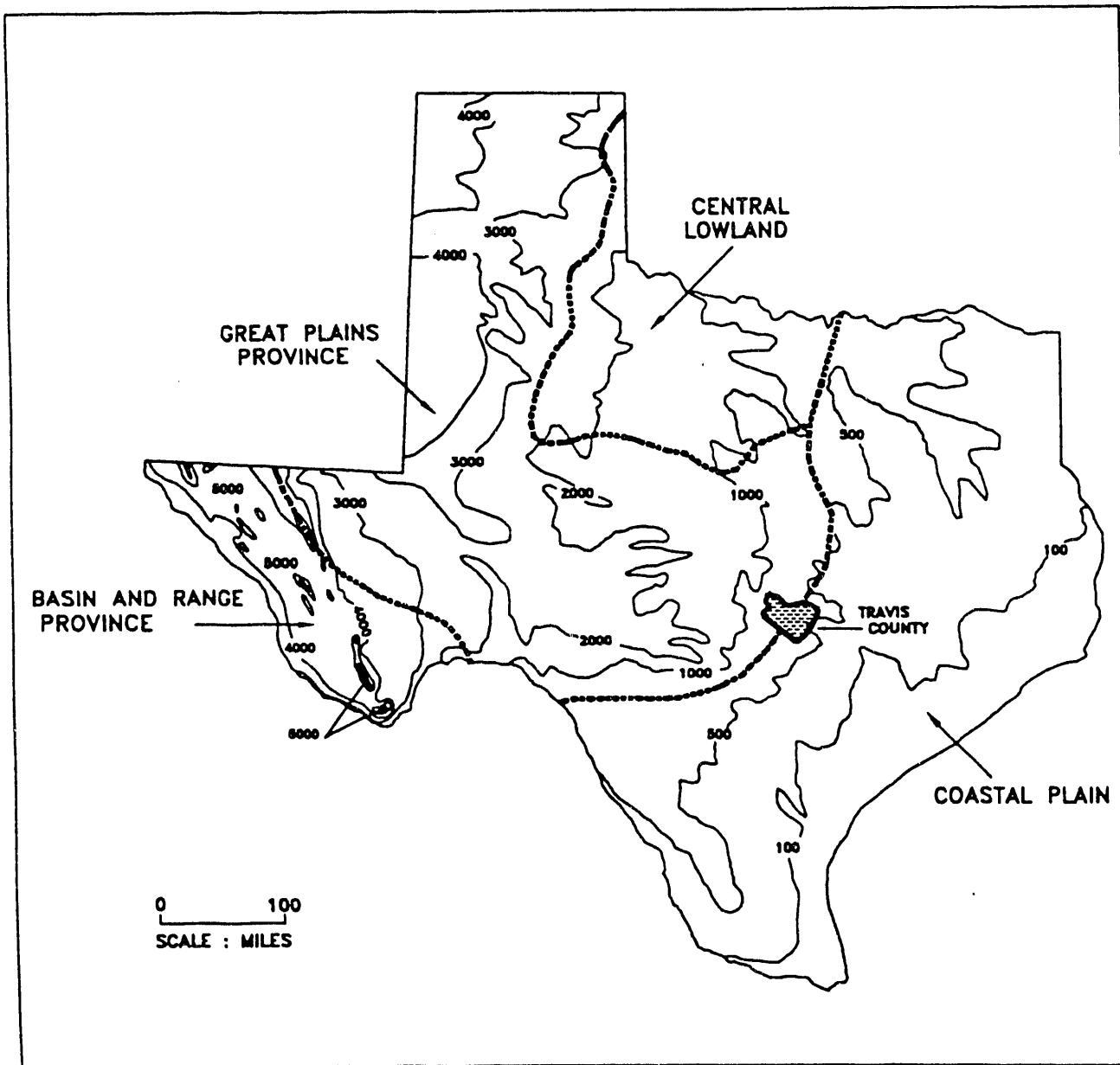


FIGURE 7 Major Physiographic Provinces of Texas (Source: Patterson 1963)

The geologic formations of the Edwards Plateau and the Blackland Prairie differ. The gently eastward-dipping Cretaceous rocks were displaced by the extensive faulting, resulting in the juxtaposition of different types of rock exhibiting varying degrees of resistance to erosion. The differential erosion parallel to the numerous northeast-trending faults of the zone is evident in the diversity of vegetation supported on the outcrop. At some locations, the major creeks are entrenched into limestone valleys that have nearly vertical slopes (Slade et al. 1986). The primary significance of the fault zone lies in the development and recharge of the Edwards aquifer. The Balcones Fault Zone and the Edwards aquifer are discussed further in Section 2.5.4.

2.5.3.2 Soils

The soils that characterize the region are primarily related to their substrate (DHUD 1981). The Edwards Plateau, location of the ARNG property, consists of a hard or mixed limestone rock base, covered by a thin, gravelly, clay-loam topsoil. The Bracket, Speck, and Tarrant soil associations dominate. The Blackland Prairie to the east consists of clay and soft limestone rock covered by a thick topsoil of calcareous clays, silty clay, or clay-loam. The deep soils are dominated by the Houston Black-Heiden and Austin-Eddy associations. The central fault zone is difficult to characterize because of the geologic displacements. It forms the outcrop of the Edwards aquifer in the Travis County region of central Texas. The bedrock consists of hard to soft limestone with interbedded marl. Topsoils are typically dark brown, grayish brown, and reddish brown silty to clayey loams.

Topsoil in the vicinity of the ARNG property is typically less than 3 ft thick with low permeability. Depth to bedrock for the Bracket soil series is generally 10-20 in.; permeability is 0.20-0.63 in./hr. Depth to bedrock for the Speck soil series is generally 14-18 in.; permeability is 0.06-0.20 in./hr. Depth to bedrock for the Tarrant soil series is generally only 4-14 in.; permeability is 0.06-0.20 in./hr. Once disturbed, this shallow topsoil on the steep slopes of the Edwards Plateau "Hill Country" in which the Bee Caves ARNG property is located is prone to erosion. In some locations on the steep slopes, washout of the shallow topsoils during heavy rainfall has exposed the underlying bedrock.

2.5.3.3 Surface Hydrology

Numerous bodies of surface water are present in Travis County, as depicted in Figure 8 (Brune 1983). The Colorado River flows through the center of the county from northwest to southeast. A number of reservoirs have been built on this river for hydroelectric power generation, for flood control, and to provide a source of drinking water and recreation. The uppermost reservoir is Lake Travis, which backs up into Burnet County. The Mansfield Dam, completed in 1942, forms the reservoir whose surface area is 18,930 acres for an estimated capacity of 1,172,600 acre-ft. The next reservoir downstream is Lake Austin, formed by the Tom Miller Dam completed in 1940. The surface area and capacity of the reservoir are 1,830 acres and 21,000 acre ft, respectively. Town Lake, formed by Longhorn Dam just downstream from Lake Austin, has a surface area of 416 acres and capacity of 3,520 acre-ft. Approximately 10 mi east of Austin is the Walter E. Long Lake. It has a surface area of 1,269 acres and a capacity of 33,940 acre-ft.

Several tributaries enter the Colorado River in Travis County. Near the western boundary of the county, the Pedernales River enters Lake Travis from the south. The chief tributaries entering from the north are Cow, Sandy, and Bull creeks. Tributaries from the south include the Bear, Slaughter, Williamson, Barton, and Onion creeks. Recharge to the Edwards aquifer occurs predominantly along these five major southern tributaries to the river (Slade et al. 1986) (Section 2.5.4.3). Barton Springs, widely known as a recreational center, discharges along Barton Creek a short distance above its mouth.

The Bee Caves ARNG property is located between the Colorado River to the north and Barton Creek to the south. East of the site lies the greater Austin area and Lake Austin and Town Lake. The city of Austin treats surface water from those two reservoirs as well as Barton Springs and distributes it to the entire surrounding area, including the ARNG property. Surface water provides the majority of water supplied.

2.5.4 Groundwater and Hydrogeology

The following sections describe the local and regional geology and groundwater (Baker et al. 1986; Brune 1983; Flores 1990; Senger et al. 1984; Slade et al. 1986; TWC 1989; TWC 1993; TWDB 1976).

PA for Bee Caves Armory

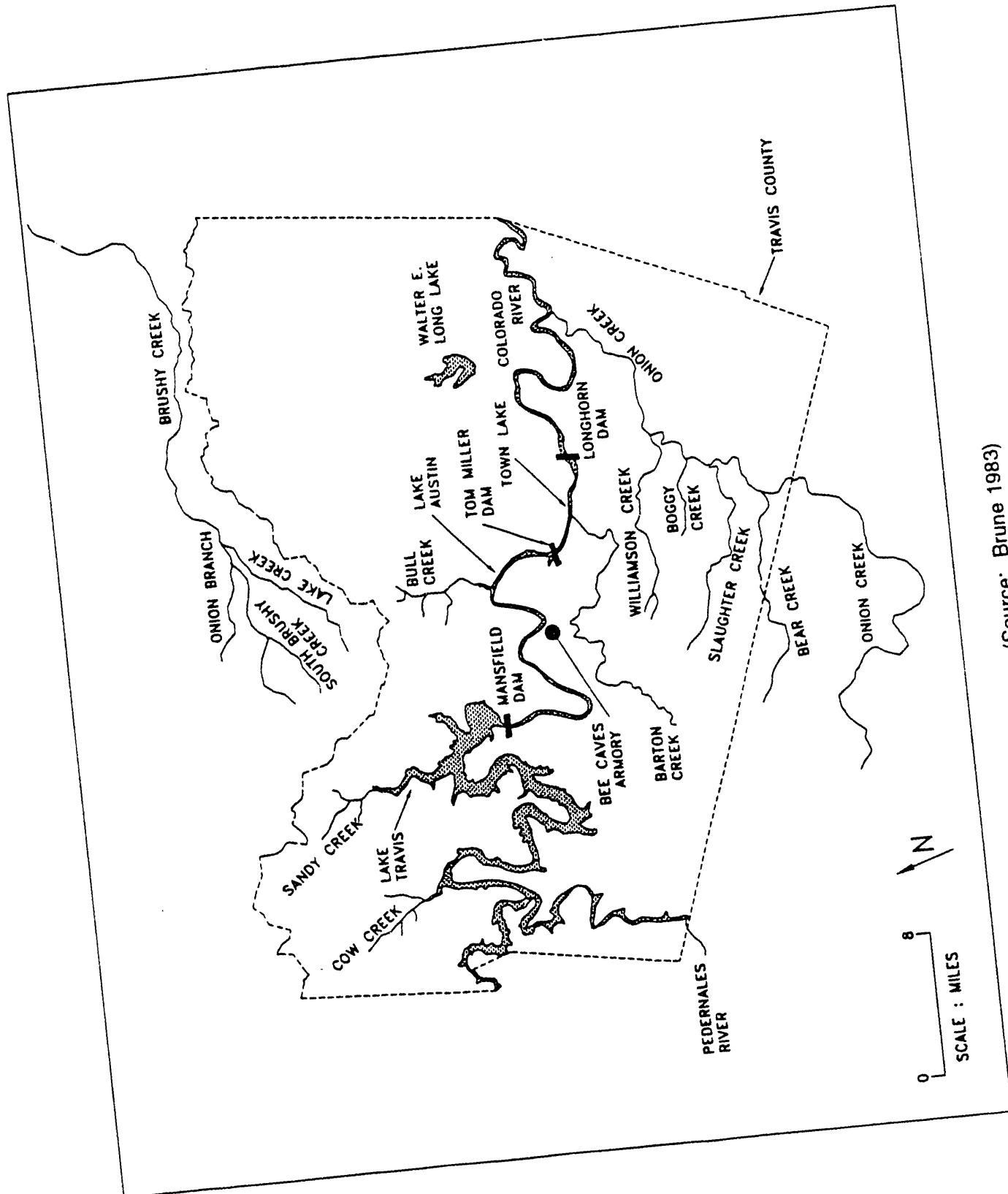


FIGURE 8 Location of Regional Surface Waters (Source: Brune 1983)

2.5.4.1 Regional Geology

The geologic history of central Texas, which includes Travis County and the area to the southeast, toward the Gulf of Mexico, is complex (Brune 1983). During Precambrian time when the sea extended northward into the region, limestone, sandstone, carbonaceous shales, and other marine sediments were deposited. This sedimentary basin existed during most of the Paleozoic era. Deposition in the basin was terminated during Pennsylvanian time, when the area to the west of Travis County was raised above sea level. Known as the Llano Uplift, this folding caused regional tilting to the west and extensive faulting through central Texas. Most of Texas became dry land as the seas retreated south toward the Gulf of Mexico. Then, at the beginning of the Cretaceous period, the sea advanced again from the south and east, eventually covering all of central Texas. This period is marked by a series of regressions and transgressions, resulting in the sequences of limestone, sandstone, and shale deposition evident in Travis County. The uplift continued, and the seas retreated south and east, marking the end of the Cretaceous period in central Texas. In Tertiary time, only the extreme eastern portion of the county, outside the immediate area of concern, was again invaded by the sea. During the Cenozoic era, in Miocene and Pliocene times, much readjustment of the previously deposited sediments occurred, resulting in extensive faulting. During Pleistocene time, the many river terraces and high gravel deposits were laid down upon the older sediments.

The stratigraphic units underlying Travis County are composed largely of limestones, chalk, shale, sand, and clay. Smaller amounts of gravel, silt, dolomite, gypsum, anhydrite, conglomerate, siltstone, and sandstone are also present. Figure 9 is a geologic section traversing Travis County from northwest to southeast (Brune 1983). The exposed geologic units are mainly of Cretaceous age. The Edwards Plateau, location of the ARNG property, consists of older Cretaceous rocks including the Walnut Clay and the underlying Glen Rose Limestone, covered by a thin, gravelly, clay-loam topsoil. East of the central Balcones Fault Zone is the Blackland Prairie consisting of younger rocks and clays including the Navarro and Taylor groups, the Austin Chalk, the Eagle Ford Group, the Buda Limestone, and the Del Rio Clay, covered by a thick topsoil of calcareous clays, silty clay, or clay-loam. Underlying the Del Rio Clay are the Georgetown and Edwards formations. Underlying the Glen Rose Limestone on both sides of the Balcones Fault Zone is the Travis Peak Formation, consisting of limestone, sand, and shale.

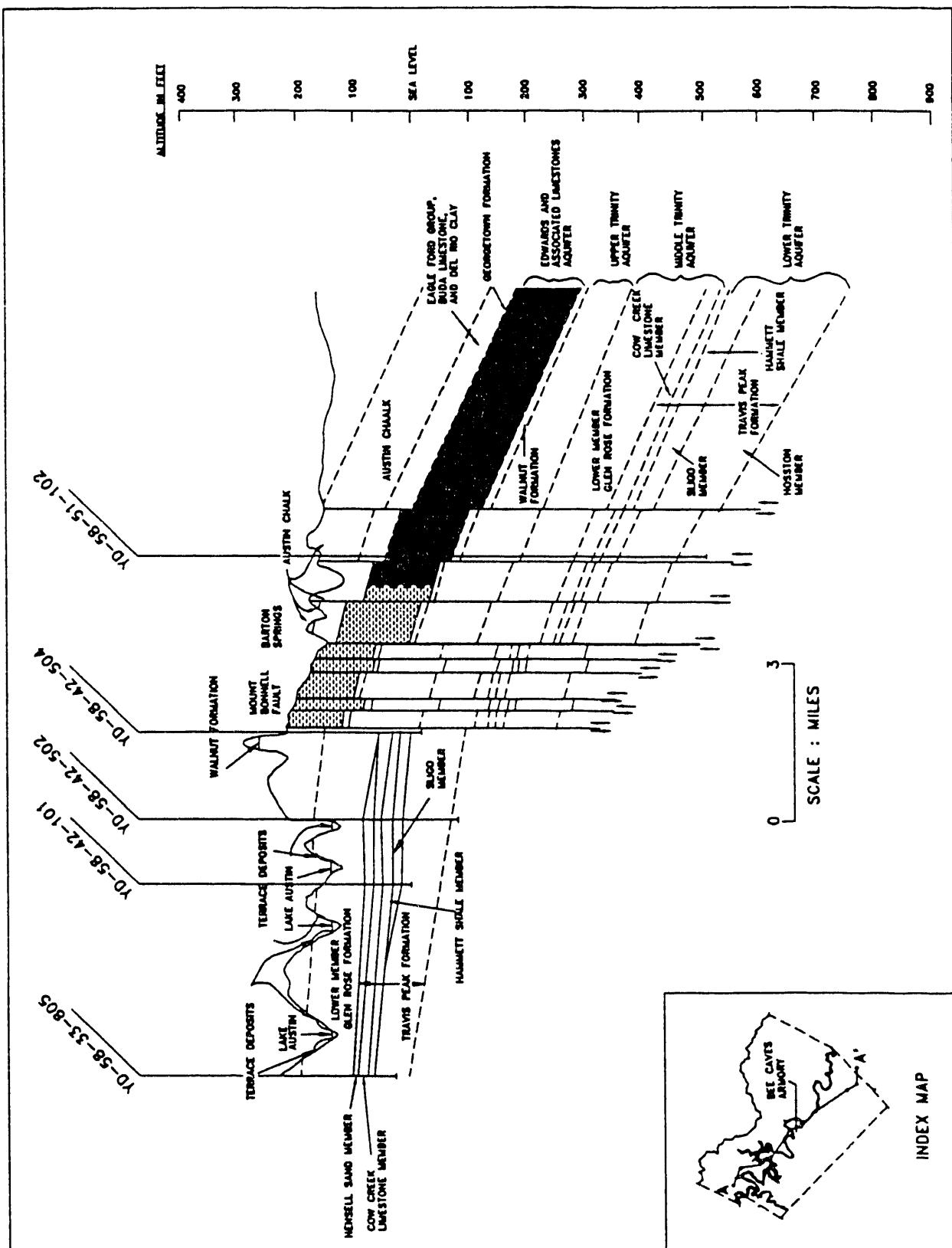


FIGURE 9 Geologic Section across Travis County, Texas (Source: Brune 1983, Figure 26)

The Travis Peak Formation is composed of the Hosston, the Sligo, Hammett Shale, Cow Creek Limestone, and Hensell Sand members. The Hosston is composed of pebbly, sandy conglomerate, sometimes containing boulders more than 1 ft in diameter, cemented with calcite or silica cement. Various colored shales and occasionally streaks of limestone are also present. The Hosston is sometimes called the "lower Trinity sand" or the "second Trinity sand" by water well drillers. The Hosston varies in thickness in downdip areas from about 150 ft in northwest Travis County to 800 ft in the southeast. The Sligo member exists only in the southeastern portion of the county, where it attains a maximum thickness of about 300 ft. This transitional unit grades upward into a fossiliferous, dolomitic limestone that is crystalline to chalky. The Hammett Shale member of the Travis Peak Formation is the result of the second transgressive marine phase. It is predominantly a shale, gray to buff in color, with some dolomitic limestone in the upper part. The unit has a relatively constant thickness of about 60 ft throughout the county. The Cow Creek Limestone overlies the Hammett Shale and is composed of cream-to-tan colored, massive, fossiliferous limestone with some gypsum or anhydrite beds. Thickness of the Cow Creek ranges from 50 ft in the northwest part of the county to 100 ft in the southeast. The upper member of the Travis Peak Formation is the Hensell Sand, often called the "first Trinity sand" or "upper Trinity sand." It consists of poorly sorted, cross-bedded conglomerate cemented with silica and varicolored sand, sandstones, silts, clays, and shales. The grain size of the sand decreases to the southeast, grading into sandy limestone and dolomite beds that are difficult to distinguish from the overlying Glen Rose Formation (Brune 1983).

The lower member of the Glen Rose Formation consists of massive, fossiliferous limestone and dolomite in the basal part, grading upward into thin beds of limestone, shale, marl, anhydrite, and gypsum. The beds of gypsum are usually partially dissolved, leaving solution channels. Over a wide portion of central Texas, an approximately 1-ft-thick accumulation of the fossil clam *Corbula martiniae* forms an iron-stained ledge separating the lower and upper members of the Glen Rose Formation. Subsurface thickness of the lower member increases from about 180 ft in northwestern Travis County to 330 ft in the southeast (Brune 1983).

The upper member of the Glen Rose Formation consists of shale and marl alternating with thin beds of impure limestone and dolomite. Beds of gypsum and anhydrite may occur, but usually these have been dissolved, leaving solution channels. Gypsum and anhydrite are not known to occur in surface outcrops and usually not above the water table. The upper member of the Glen Rose Formation outcrops in the northwestern two-thirds of the county. Its downdip thickness ranges from 220 ft in the northwestern part of the county to about 600 ft in the southeast.

The upper 100 ft contains much weathered, soft, porous dolomite and burrowed limestone; hence, it forms gentle slopes and has many springs (Brune 1983).

The various members of the Walnut Clay combine to make up a gray to tan, soft to very hard limestone. The formation consists of fine- to medium-grained fossiliferous limestones with layers of fine-grained marl, marly limestone, clays, and nodular limestone. The formation yields little or no water (Flores 1990).

The Edwards Limestone outcrops extensively within the Balcones Fault Zone east of the Mount Bonnel Fault. The formation also outcrops northward into Williamson and Bell counties. In the subsurface, the Edwards consists of 200 to 360 ft of brittle, thick-bedded to massive limestone, commonly dolomite, containing minor beds of shale, clay, and siliceous limestone. Beds of chert and flint are common. Several solution-collapse zones in the Edwards Limestone represent former beds of gypsum that have been removed by solution, and interconnected voids from which shell material has been dissolved are common (Brune 1983).

The Georgetown Formation is a nodular limestone, usually gray to tan, massive, and interbedded with layers of marl or marly shale. It is fossiliferous, commonly contains burrows filled with fossil fragments, and also contains some minor solution zones. Downdip thicknesses of the formation range from 40 to 110 ft. However, the Georgetown and Edwards Formations are seldom differentiated by drillers in the area (Flores 1990).

The Del Rio Clay is a greenish-gray to olive-brown, selenitic, calcareous, pyritic, and fossiliferous clay. The confining clay obtains a maximum thickness of 85 ft within the study area (Flores 1990).

The younger rocks of the Blackland Prairie east of the Balcones Fault Zone (i.e., the Eagle Ford, Austin, Taylor and Navarro Groups) consist predominantly of marl, shale, limestone, and igneous rocks.

2.5.4.2 Local Geology

Well YD-58-42-401 is located approximately 1 mi south of the ARNG property. This public supply water well was drilled in 1950 to a depth of 690 ft into the Hosston Member of the Travis Peak Formation (Brune 1983). In 1951, the well was deepened from 690 to 716 ft. The

driller's log of the well describes the local geology (Table 2) (TWDB 1976). The surface elevation of the well is 820 ft. The well first penetrates the upper Glen Rose Formation for approximately 200 ft. The highly fossiliferous layer encountered at 190 ft probably marks the transition to the lower Glen Rose. The upper sand of the Travis Peak Formation is not noted, but the massive clay unit is probably the Hammett Shale. The well produces from the lower Trinity aquifer.

2.5.4.3 Regional Groundwater

Two major aquifers provide groundwater resources in Travis County: the Trinity Group aquifer and the Edwards aquifer (TWDB 1976). An overview of the hydrogeologic framework within Travis County is depicted in Figure 10 (Flores 1990).

The entire study area is underlain by the Trinity aquifer. Because of markedly different hydrologic relationships, the water-bearing rocks of the Trinity Group aquifer are divided into three aquifer units: (1) the lower Trinity aquifer consisting of the Sligo and Hosston members of

TABLE 2 Driller's Log of Well YD-58-42-401, near the Bee Caves ARNG Property

Description of Soil/Rock	Thickness (ft)	Depth (ft)
Topsoil	10	10
Limestone, hard, white	40	50
Limestone, pale tan, compact, fairly hard, sugary	90	140
Limestone, white, soft	40	180
Marl, soft	10	190
Limestone, white, many shells	20	210
Limestone, soft, nodular, marly	100	310
Limestone, pale tan, sugary	30	340
Limestone, white	10	350
Limestone, hard, white, nodular	20	370
Limestone, hard, white	150	520
No record	35	555
Limestone, hard	10	565
Limestone, hard, grayish-tan, sugary	15	580
Limestone, grayish-tan, crumbly	10	550
Clay, gray, massive	30	620
Limestone, hard, sugary	70	690

Source: TWDB 1976.

PA for Bee Caves Armory

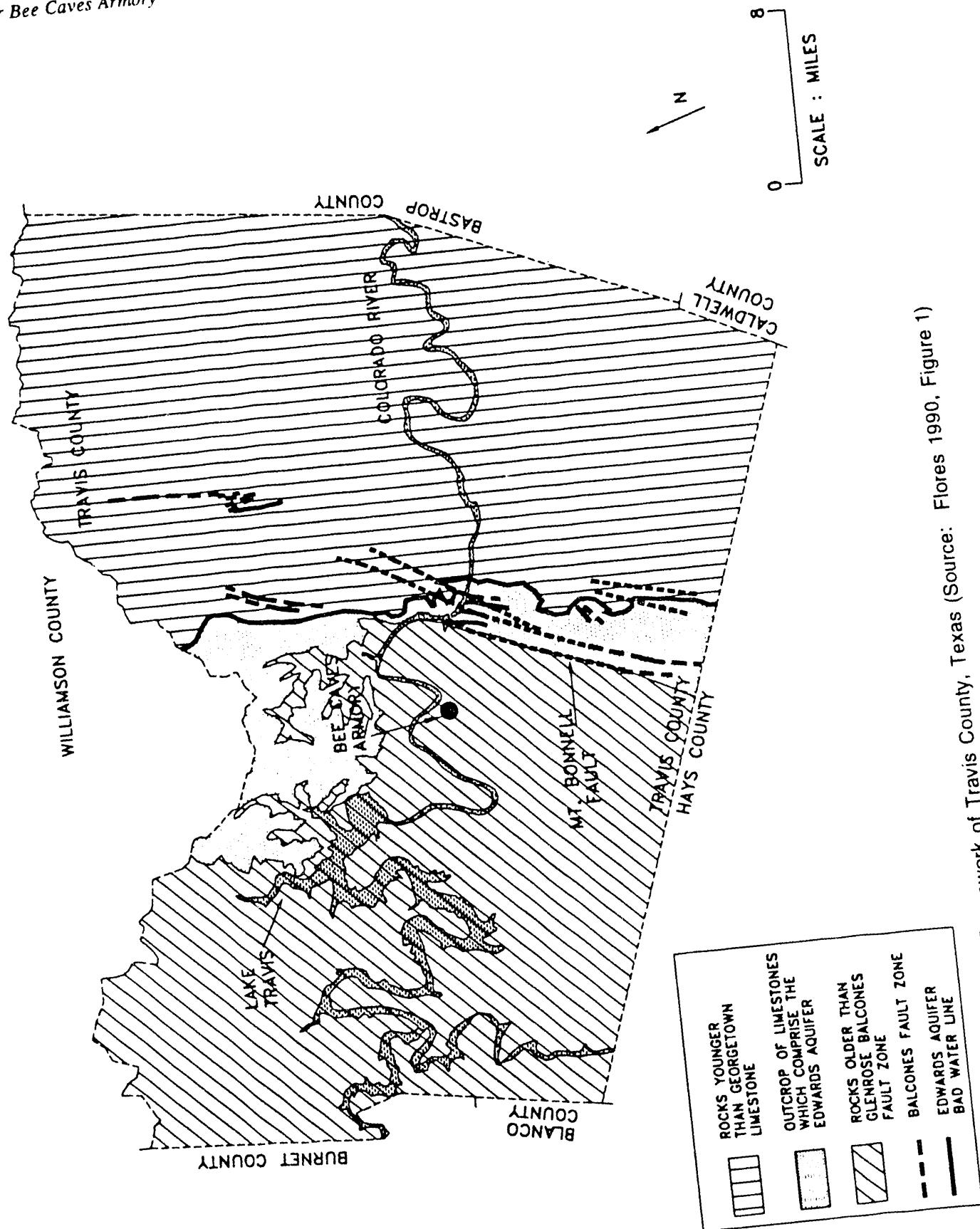


FIGURE 10 Hydrogeologic Framework of Travis County, Texas (Source: Flores 1990, Figure 1)

the Travis Peak Formation, (2) the middle Trinity aquifer consisting of the lower member of the Glen Rose Formation and the Hensell Sand and Cow Creek Limestone members of the Travis Creek Formation, and (3) the upper Trinity aquifer consisting of the upper member of the Glen Rose Formation and the Paluxy Formation. In the immediate area of the ARNG property, the upper Trinity aquifer is not present. The Hammett Shale Member of the Travis Peak Formation acts as a hydrologic barrier separating the lower and middle Trinity aquifers (Brune 1983). Total thickness of the lower Trinity aquifer ranges from only a few feet in northwestern Travis County to more than 1,000 ft in the downdip area in the southeast. Thickness of the middle Trinity varies from approximately 300 ft to more than 450 ft along the same northwest-to-southeast geologic section. The beds of the lower and middle Trinity dip east-southeast at rates ranging from 15 to 320 ft per mile.

Recharge to the Trinity Group aquifer is derived primarily from rainfall on the outcrop, as well as recharge from underflow, vertical leakage and seepage from lakes and streams. The Glen Rose Formation and the Hensell Sand Member of the Travis Peak Formation outcrop over the majority of the western portion of Travis County; therefore, these units receive the maximum recharge. Groundwater in the Trinity Group aquifer moves slowly downdip to the south and east-southeast toward lower elevations. Permeability varies from approximately 4.8 to 32 gal per day per square foot. Water level measurements indicate that the hydraulic gradient of the potentiometric surface is about 5-100 ft per mile (Brune 1983).

The Edwards aquifer exists in the middle portion of Travis County (east of the ARNG property) as a narrow and shallow area paralleling the Balcones Fault Zone (Senger et al. 1984; Flores 1990). The Mt. Bonnell fault, the largest fault along the western boundary of the fault zone, marks the western boundary of the aquifer. To the east, as identified in Figures 9 and 10, the boundary of the aquifer is marked by a "bad water line," beyond which the groundwater contains a high level of total dissolved solids.

The vertical cracks and fissures associated with the fault activity allowed the aquifer to form by providing a pathway for large amounts of groundwater to move toward discharge points at lower elevations within the bottoms of the incised stream valleys. Cavern porosity was created along vertical fractures and horizontal bedding planes. After discharge sites were established, a continuously circulating groundwater flow system developed. Today, recharge to the Edwards aquifer occurs predominantly along five major creeks flowing south of the ARNG property. These watersheds and their respective annual recharges to the aquifer are (1) Onion Creek, 34%; (2) Barton Creek, 28%; (3) Bear Creek, 20%; (4) Slaughter Creek, 12%; and (5) Williamson

Creek, 6%. Precipitation in the fault zone runs into the creeks, which then lose up to 100% of low-flow water to the aquifer (Senger et al. 1984). Although speculative, the "bad water line" in the Edwards aquifer-Balcones Fault Zone has been interpreted as the eastern extent of the groundwater circulation flow system. That is, as groundwater movement into the deeper, less permeable sections of the Edwards Formation became largely restricted, solution channels into the limestone were not formed, and the extent of the groundwater flow system was limited (Senger et al. 1984).

In the northeastern portion of Travis County, the Edwards aquifer is approximately 300 ft thick (Senger et al. 1984). The dip of the Edwards aquifer is to the east-southeast (toward Hays County) at a rate of 50-100 ft per mile. South of Travis County, the Edwards aquifer is approximately 400 ft thick. Coefficients for the Edwards aquifer vary greatly because of the nature of the aquifer. Flow is primarily through the cavities and caves associated with faults, fractures, and joints, and secondarily through porous media within the limestone (Slade et al. 1986). Permeability varies from 8.7 to 877 gal/day/ft². Well yields vary from small (10 to 30 gal/min) to large (over 300 gal/min), depending on the location of the well with respect to one of the solution zones.

2.5.4.4 Local Groundwater

Groundwater is used by residents or communities away from the surface water resources of the Colorado River, including Lake Travis, Lake Austin, and Town Lake. Numerous wells have been drilled in past years in the immediate area surrounding the ARNG property, as shown in Figure 11 (TWC 1993; TWDB 1976). Table 3 describes water wells within an approximate 4-mi radius of the property. As the city of Austin has expanded its water supply network toward the Bee Caves facility, use of some of the domestic wells has probably been discontinued.

Groundwater flow direction is to the east-southeast (DHUD 1981). Wells to the east-southeast of the Bee Caves ARNG property are in the 500 and 800 series (Figure 11, Table 3). Wells in the 500 series are located at an average elevation of 838 ft above mean sea level. The water level in these wells is at an average depth of 299 ft below the land surface. Wells in the 800 series are located at an average elevation of 738 ft above mean sea level. The water level in these wells is at an average depth of 217 ft below the land surface.

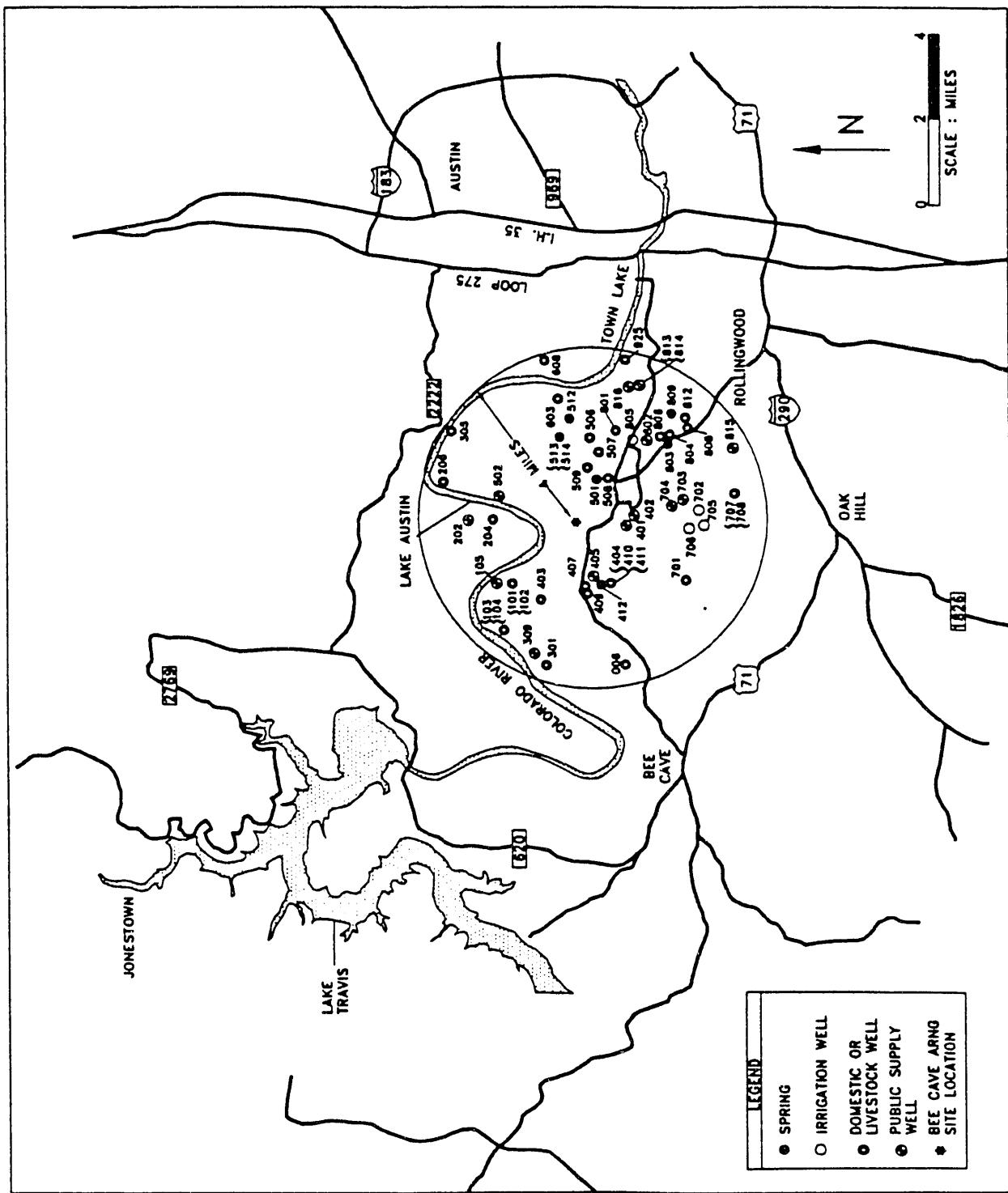


TABLE 3 Water Wells in the Vicinity of the Bee Caves Armory^a

Well ID	Year	Depth of Well (ft)	Altitude of Land Surface (ft)	Depth below Surface ^b (ft)	Water-Bearing Unit	Use of Water
YD -						
58-41-006	1988	870	480	---	Kcgrl	D
301	1967	500	640	139	Kcho	D
309	1970	480	630	101	Kcho	P
58-42-101	1966	499	520	31	Kcgr	D
102	1959	490	500	10	Kcho	D
103	1950	466	640	157	Kcho	D
104	1968	361	530	29	Kcho	D
105	1963	60	497	25	Qter	P
202	1965	651	660	162	Kcho	P
204	1968	777	520	68	Kcgrl	D
206	1967	305	550	113	Kche	D
305	1967	190	500	---	Kcgr	D
401	1950	716	820	239	Kcho	P
402	1962	930	830	274	Kcho	P
403	1969	372	620	185	Kcgr	D
404	1970	375	850	90	Kcgr	D
405	1967	840	880	350	Kcho	P
407	1941	417	843	---	Kcgr	D
409	1974	550	860	---	Kche	D
410	1976	800	840	---	Kcho	D
411	1976	800	835	---	Kcho	D
502	1949	1015	753	234	Kcho	P
506	1950	938	872	---	Kcho	D
507	1955	1045	880	320	Kcho	D
508	1954	495	880	342	Kcgrl	D
509	1942	627	800	---	Kcgrl	D
512	---	Spring	510	---	Kcgru	P
513	---	Spring	505	---	Kcgru	P
514	---	Spring	505	---	Kcgru	P
603	1963	400	680	222	Kcgrl	D
608	1939	145	540	101	Kce	D
701	1931	900	845	242	Kcho	D,S
702	1972	560	620	55	Kcho	Irr
703	1972	620	680	164	Kcho	P
704	1972	740	810	264	Kcho	P
705	1972	525	630	46	Kcho	Irr
706	1972	530	660	55	Kcho	Irr
707	1930	420	840	---	Kcgrl	S
708	1961	485	910	19	Kcgrl	D
801	1955	846	760	180	Kcho	D,S
802	1946	1043	740	193	Kchr	P

TABLE 3 (Cont.)

Well ID	Year	Depth of Well (ft)	Altitude of Land Surface (ft)	Depth below Surface ^b (ft)	Water Bearing Unit	Use of Water
YD -						
58-42-803	1955	897	760	208	Kcgrl	D
804	1956	1035	750	240	Kcgrl	D
805	1954	876	770	184	Kcho	Irr
806	1967	1130	800	200	Kcho	D
808	1956	638	720	---	Kcgr	D
809	1949	340	720	286	Kce	D,S
812	1958	375	745	277	Kce	D
813	----	300	660	217	Kce	P
814	----	300	660	214	Kce	P
815	1952	516	751	198	Kce	P,Irr
816	1964	290	640	---	Kce	P
925	1975	180	670	143	Kce	D

^a Explanation of abbreviations:

D = Domestic

Irr = Irrigation

Kce = Edwards and associated limestones

Kcgrl = Lower member of the Glen Rose Limestone

Kcgru = Upper member of the Glen Rose Limestone

Kcho = Hosston member of the Travis Peak Formation

P = Public supply

Qter = Terrace deposits

S = Livestock

^b Water levels were taken on various dates.

Sources: Brune 1983; TWC 1993.

2.5.5 Sensitive Environments

The vicinity of the Bee Caves ARNG property is an area of great natural diversity, encompassing portions of the Blackland Prairie, the precipitous Balcones Escarpment, and the rocky hills of the Edwards Plateau. The Wild Basin Wilderness Park and the Lake Austin Park to the north are protected areas with significant scientific, aesthetic, and recreational value. No direct surface water pathway flows to these protected wilderness areas from the ARNG property.

Woodland vegetation occurs on the steep hillsides and canyons of the Edwards Plateau and major drainage valleys. The general inaccessibility of the area has slowed the rate of urbanization. Upland woodlands are characterized by Spanish oak (*Quercus texana*), mountain live oak (*Quercus fusiformis*), Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*), and cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*). Although they are abundant in other regions of the state, several plants are considered to be threatened or endangered in the Austin area. None are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as being protected from disturbance; moreover, none of these species as listed in Table 4 are protected by the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) (DHUD 1981).

Common woodland animal species include sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, barred owl, red-headed woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, golden-fronted woodpecker, vermillion flycatcher, wood thrush, ruby-crowned kinglet, tufted titmouse, Carolina chickadee, several species of wood warblers, fox sparrow, song sparrow, white-tailed deer, eastern fox squirrel, gray fox, eastern cottontail, fulvous harvest mouse, southern gray tree frog, green treefrog, Strecker's chorus frog, eastern and western box turtle, green anole, ground skink, eastern hognosed snake, garter and ribbon snakes, Texas coral snake, and copperhead. Several animal species listed by the FWS as endangered or threatened, or by the TPWD as protected nongame species, may potentially be found in the vicinity of the ARNG property. These species are listed in Table 5. The southern bald eagle, arctic peregrine falcon, interior least tern, and whooping crane are endangered species that migrate over the area but do not reside in the area at the present time. The white-faced ibis and osprey may be found in large bodies of water (not present on the ARNG property). In the spring, the golden-cheeked warbler nests in mature juniper trees on the Edwards Plateau. The endangered black-capped vireo is known to inhabit areas east, south, and west of the site, within a 3-mi radius. The TPWD also protects the Texas horned lizard and Mexican milk snake, both of which may be found in the greater study area (DHUD 1981).

TABLE 4 Rate or Endangered Plants in the Vicinity of the Bee Caves ARNG Property^a

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status/Local Habitat
<i>Andrachne phyllanthoides</i>	Missouri maidenbush	Scarce, endangered in Texas. Reported in Travis, Hays, and Williamson counties. Found in bed of Barton Creek.
<i>Arabis petiolaris</i>	Rock cress	Scarce, endangered in Texas. Endemic in areas of Barton Creek.
<i>Anemone edwardsiana</i>	Plateau anemone	Scarce, endangered in Texas. Endemic in limestone crevices of bluffs along Barton Creek and Bull Creek.
<i>Berberis swaseyi</i>	Texas barberry	Scarce, endangered in Texas. Reported in Austin, Blanco, and Hays counties.
<i>Carex oligocarpa</i>	Few-seed sedge	Very rare on wooded calcareous slopes. Acutely endangered in Texas but found regionally in North America.
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	Common shooting star	Scarce, endangered in Texas. Has been found in marshy areas along Bull Creek north of Austin and south of Highway 71 in Oak Hill (located south of Austin).
<i>Euphorbia roemeriana</i>	Roemer spurge	Scarce, endangered in Texas. Has been found in rich, deep, shaded soil along Barton Creek.
<i>Matelea edwardensis</i>	Plateau milkvine	Scarce. Reported in Bexar, Real, San Saba, and Travis counties. Limited distributions grow on stony, gravelly soil; rocky shaded areas; open woodland; and limestone slopes.
<i>Onosmodium helleri</i>	Heller false-gromwell	Scarce, endangered in Texas. Reported in Bexar, Kendall, Kerr, and Travis counties. Identified on banks of Walnut Creek (north of Austin) and Bee Creek (in northwest Travis County).
<i>Pavonia lasiopetala</i>	Rose pavonia	Scarce, endangered in Texas. Identified in Austin east of Barton Creek near Loop 360.

TABLE 4 (Cont.)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status/Local Habitat
<i>Perityle lindheimeri halimifolia</i>	Rock daisy	Endangered in Texas. Reported in Kendall, Kerr, Real, Val Verde, and Travis counties. Found growing in crevices of limestone rock.
<i>Prunus minutiflora</i>	Texas almond (smallflower)	Scarce, endangered in Texas. Reported in Bell, Bastrop, Williamson, Travis, Burnet, Comal, Mason, Bexar, Edwards, Val Verde, Uvalde, Medina, Zavala, Frio, and Live Oak counties. Identified in Austin area near Lake Travis and in a few areas near Interstate Highway 35.
<i>Styrax platanifolia</i>	Sycamore-leaf snowbell	Very rare, acutely endangered in Texas. Reported in Kendall, Bandera, Uvalde, Bexar, Guadalupe, and Travis counties. Has been identified along banks of Barton Creek.

^a As identified by the EPA's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

Source: DHUD 1981.

TABLE 5 Rare or Endangered Animals in the Vicinity of the Bee Caves ARNG Property^a

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat
Birds		
<i>Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus</i>	Southern bald eagle	May be found near Colorado River in areas having tall trees or cliff ledges for nesting sites.
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> tundras	Arctic peregrine falcon	Rare migrant. May be found along perennial waterways.
<i>Sterna albifrons</i> althassos	Interior least tern	Migratory. May be found at sewage oxidation ponds.
<i>Grus americana</i>	Whooping crane	Migratory.
<i>Ajaia ajaja</i>	Roseate spoonbill	Rare migrant in Austin area. Permanent lakes and ponds. Occasionally seen at sewage oxidation ponds.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	Rare migrant in Austin area. Can occur throughout area.
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	Rare migrant in Austin area. Can occur throughout area.
<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	White-faced ibis	Infrequently seen at sewage oxidation ponds.
<i>Pandion haliaetus carolinensis</i>	Osprey	Possible in areas near Colorado River having tall trees or cliff ledges for nesting sites.
<i>Dendroica chrysoparia</i>	Golden-cheeked warbler	Woodlands (in mature stands of Mountain Cedar (<i>Juniperus ashei</i>) and Spanish Oak (<i>Quercus texana</i>) on hills of Edwards Plateau.
<i>Vireo atricapillus</i>	Black-capped vireo	Known to inhabit areas east, south, and west of the site, within a 3-mi radius.

TABLE 5 (Cont.)

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat
Reptiles			
	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	Texas horned lizard	Brushlands, grasslands, croplands.
	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum annulata</i>	Mexican milk snake	Throughout.
Amphibians			
	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	American alligator	Rare in Austin area. Can occur in permanent waterways.
Fishes			
	<i>Micropterus treculii</i>	Guadalupe bass	Rare in Austin area. Can occur in the creeks, rivers, and lakes of the area.
Mammals			
		None.	

a As identified by the EPA's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; FWS; TPWD.

Source: DHUD 1981.

3 Environmentally Significant Operations

Current ARNG operations have little potential for risk to human health or to the environment. Training of the ARNG signal battalion personnel does not involve the use of significant quantities of hazardous materials and does not generate hazardous wastes. Solid waste disposal is through a low-bid private contractor, as needed. Of greater concern is the potential for hazardous waste to be present on the property as a result of the former Nike Missile Base operations or in the form of original construction materials. The PA team from Argonne identified four ESOs at the Bee Caves ARNG property: (1) underground fuel storage; (2) hazardous materials storage/use; (3) disposal of hazardous waste in dry wells; and (4) release of untreated waste water. Each ESO is described here. Figure 12 shows the general layout of the former Nike IFC facility and the locations of ESOs.

3.1 Underground Fuel Storage

Radar operations at the former Nike IFC facility required considerable electricity. An emergency power generator located in the Generator and Frequency Changer (GFC) Building (Figure 12) was served by a 6,000-gal UST containing diesel fuel that was constructed and installed in approximately 1958 (USTP 1986). The generating equipment inside the GFC Building was removed from the site when the Nike facility was deactivated, but the UST was left in place. During the years of Nike operations, generators were carefully maintained and routinely tested to ensure facility readiness. Throughput of diesel fuel at the former IFC area was considerable, requiring frequent refilling of the UST. Fuel storage in the UST is considered a potential ESO because fuel was likely to have spilled during the transfer and pumping operations. Additionally, the USTs may have leaked while the site operated, and fuel left in the tank after deactivation may have leaked as the UST deteriorated.

3.2 Hazardous Materials Storage and Use

The ARNG training activities do not require the use and storage of significant quantities of hazardous or flammable materials, although minor quantities are present primarily for house- and groundskeeping activities. A greater volume of hazardous materials was required as part of the former Nike IFC operations. Building 27 (the POL Storage Building) has been the primary storage location for hazardous materials since it was constructed in approximately 1960.

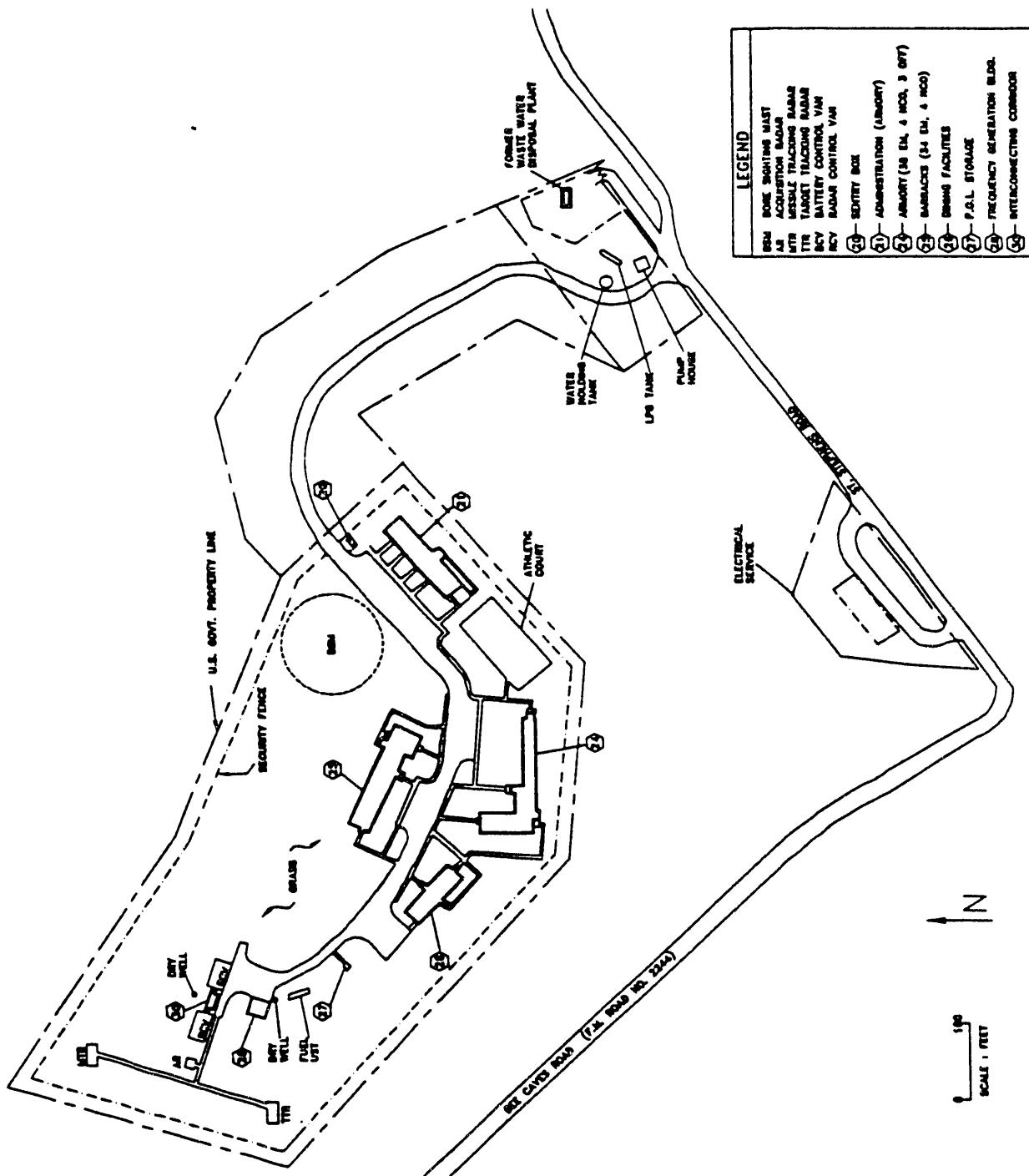


FIGURE 12 Locations of Environmentally Significant Operations at Nike BG-80 Fire Control Facility
 (Source: COE 1959b)

Building 20 (the former Nike IFC guardhouse) is used by the ARNG as a storage location for minor quantities of gasoline and paint-related products. The locations of Buildings 27 and 20 are shown in Figure 12. The following sections describe the hazardous materials that have been used at the facility as part of current or former operations or that are present on-site as construction materials.

3.2.1 Use of Hazardous Materials in ARNG Operations

The ARNG personnel use minor quantities of petroleum products to maintain, when necessary, the proper levels of motor oil and related fluids in the vehicles assigned to the unit. Regular vehicle maintenance and service are performed off-site. Minor quantities of gasoline and paint-related products are present for house- and groundskeeping. Ammunition is secured in the armory vault. Weapons cleaning performed twice per year requires the use of solvent. Pesticides and herbicides have only limited use at the ARNG facility. Table 6 contains an inventory of hazardous materials regularly used as part of ARNG operations at the Bee Caves facility (Hoffmann 1991).

3.2.2 Use of Hazardous Materials in Nike IFC Operations

The primary mission of the Nike IFC facility was radar tracking and missile guidance. Radar did not require extensive chemical use. Maintenance of radar was mostly electrical, using relatively small amounts of solvent for cleaning. The High-Power Acquisition Radar (HIPAR) system used a coolant pumping system consisting of an ethylene glycol circulating system and pump. The ethylene glycol was replaced annually. The pump was oil lubricated. Paint was the most significant chemical used on the radar systems. Common paints of the Nike period had lead (20 to 30%) as a pigment.

Pesticides and herbicides had limited use at former Nike facilities. Pesticides were applied in limited amounts as warranted. Herbicides were used to maintain vegetation-free areas around site perimeters, primarily for fire control. As part of former Nike IFC operations, waste oil and hydraulic fluids were sometimes used to control vegetation along cable runs connecting a Nike IFC area with the MLA (LET 1986).

TABLE 6 Bee Caves Armory Hazardous Chemical Inventory^a

Chemical	Use	Consumption Rate	Quantity Stored
<i>Petroleum products</i>			
Motor oil	Maintain engine oil level	2 qt/mo	2 qt
Dexron II	Vehicle transmission fluid	2 qt/mo	2 qt
Siliconiz	Vehicle brake fluid	1 qt/mo	5 gal
Ethylene glycol	Engine antifreeze/coolant	5 gal/yr	5 gal
<i>Solvents</i>			
Varsol	Weapons cleaning	5 gal/yr	5 gal
<i>Flammable products</i>			
Gasoline	Groundskeeping equipment	-	10 gal
Paint related ^b	Minor paint touch-up	-	Approx. 20 gal
<i>Ammunition</i>			
22 Cal LR	Range qualification	<500 rounds/yr	4,200

^a As reported in Bee Caves Hazardous Materials Inventory Checklist prepared June 26, 1991, for the TX ARNG 91-92 Waste Management Pollution Prevention Plan.

^b As reported by Peters (1991).

Fire control electronics used certain electronic tubes that contained low-level radiation sources in minute amounts. Regulation of these materials in the early years of the Nike program was less strict, and tubes may have been disposed with solid waste or "tossed on the ground" (LET 1986). In the later years of the Nike program, these materials were more strictly controlled. A probable maximum of six of these tubes per year may have been discarded indiscriminately, and the risk to human health or the environment is considered negligible.

The quantity of hazardous materials stored and used at the Nike BG-80 IFC facility is unknown. However, as part of an investigation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of former Nike missile sites for potential toxic and hazardous waste contamination, a general materials inventory of the Nike sites was formulated. Table 7 contains an inventory of hazardous materials likely used at the former BG-80 facility (LET 1986).

TABLE 7 Nike Integrated Fire Control Facility Hazardous Chemical Inventory^a

Material	Use	Annual Quantity Used
Asbestos	Insulation/fire proofing	500 lb (total)
Diesel fuel	Fuel for generators	10,000 gal
Electrical insulating oil	Electronics lubricant	20 gal
Ethylene glycol	HIPAR coolant	25 gal
Herbicides	Vegetation control	20 lb
Low-level radiation sources	Electrical tubes	<1 lb
Mineral spirits ^b	Solvent/paint thinner	500 gal
Paints (hydrocarbons and pigment)	Radar equipment, buildings	300 gal
Polychlorinated biphenyls	Electric insulator	100 gal (total)
Zinc chromate	Paint	100 lb

^a Materials typically used at a Nike IFC Facility.

^b Other solvents may also have been used.

Source: LETC 1986.

3.2.3 Hazardous Construction Materials

Two hazardous materials were typically used as construction materials when the facility was developed as a Nike IFC area: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and asbestos (LET 1986).

3.2.3.1 Polychlorinated Biphenyl Compounds

The PCBs in use at Nike sites were a component of dielectric fluid in transformers. When deactivation occurred, transformers remained on-site. Eventual deterioration of the sealed units may result in unit rupture with the subsequent release of small quantities of this carcinogen. The PCBs are relatively immobile in soils, and contamination, if release occurred, would be limited to the area in the immediate vicinity of the leaking transformer. Minor PCB contamination of surface soils has occurred at the facility as a result of a leaking transformer (ECAS 1992). See Section 4.3.2 for further discussion.

3.2.3.2 Asbestos

Asbestos was in widespread use at Nike sites for building/equipment insulation purposes and as a component of some construction materials, including floor and ceiling tiles and wall siding. Asbestos is likely to have remained in place during and after Nike operation and would therefore be present on-site in its original form in buildings and on piping and ductwork, constituting a potential ESO. An asbestos survey performed in early 1993 confirmed the presence of asbestos in some building materials (Geo-Marine 1993). (Asbestos is not listed as a hazardous waste under CERCLA.) See Section 4.4 for further discussion.

3.3 Disposal of Hazardous Waste in Dry Wells

The locations of two dry wells are identified in the site plan of the former BG-80 IFC facility (COE 1959b). One well is located north of Building 30, formerly the Interconnecting Corridor (IC) between the Battery Control Van and the Radar Control Van, both of which were removed when the Nike facility was deactivated. The second well is located southeast of Building 28, the former GFC Building. Both the IC Building and the GFC Building are now used by the ARNG for storage of nonhazardous materials. The existence, locations, and use of the two dry wells could not be verified during the site survey, either by inspection of the site or through interviews with long-term ARNG personnel.

During the period of the Nike operations, dry wells were sometimes installed for the disposal of waste fluids such as oils, solvents, acids, and paints. These fluids were not strictly regulated at that time, and disposal in dry wells was an accepted disposal practice. A dry well is typically a narrow (2-3 ft in diameter), shallow (5-15 ft in depth) shaft, with concrete sidewalls and gravel/soil base.

3.4 Release of Untreated or Hazardous Waste Water

An abandoned sewage treatment plant, installed before 1960, is located at the entrance to the ARNG Site. The 15,000-gal-capacity system, designed to accommodate a 150-person military unit and serve some 14 latrines, consisted of a chlorine treatment tank and clarifier tank with 1,662 ft of line through the ARNG site (Bullock 1972). Treatment consisted of natural bacterial action breaking down the solids and disposal of liquids via evaporation (Day 1986). A system

overflow discharge was located in the ravine southeast of the plant, where private homes have since been constructed.

In the years following transfer of the Bee Caves property to the ARNG, the integrity of the sewage treatment system became questionable. The system did not undergo regular maintenance, according to site personnel, including the periodic addition of chemicals required for proper operation. Although contents of the facility holding tank did not appear to increase appreciably and no discharge from the tank was observed, the lack of proper operation and maintenance could have allowed untreated sewage to drain into a creek off the facility property (Peters 1986). Because of the age of the system, the breaks in the underground sewer line could have occurred over time, thus allowing the underground discharge of untreated sewage before it reached the treatment plant. After an inspection of the former facility sanitary treatment system in July 1986, the facility was reported to be inoperative (Day 1986).

A new sewage treatment system has since been constructed and the former system abandoned. At that time, the discharge pipe was permanently sealed, and the treatment unit tanks were filled with sandy loam and seeded (Whisenhunt 1990; Dennis 1993).

During the years of Nike IFC operations, restrictions regarding the type of materials that could safely be disposed into a waste water treatment system were limited. In the absence of other convenient disposal options such as the two dry wells depicted in the 1959 site plan of the former Nike IFC facility, a waste water treatment system offered a convenient disposal option for some hazardous fluids, including solvents, herbicides, and neutralized battery acid. The presence of the dry wells as waste fluid disposal locations would likely preclude use of the waste water treatment system for this purpose.

4 Known and Suspected Releases

4.1 Releases to Groundwater

The ESOs discussed here have the potential to release hazardous chemicals to groundwater in the vicinity of the Bee Caves Armory.

4.1.1 Underground Fuel Storage

The 6,000-gal diesel fuel UST adjacent to Building 28 was not used after ARNG operations began. Because of its age (approximately 30 years), the UST was considered to have a high probability of tank deterioration and subsequent leakage. Pressure testing of the UST in the spring of 1988 revealed that the fuel dispensing lines leading from the UST to the former generating equipment inside the building had been cut to prevent discharge of the fuel. As the UST pressure test was initiated, an estimated 5-10 gal of diesel fuel were released inside the former GFC Building, used by the ARNG as a warehouse. The pressure test was terminated, and the released fuel was removed and discarded (Dennis 1993). The UST was excavated and removed in 1991. Topsoil at the ARNG property is thin and gravelly, so the UST was located in a limestone bed that minimized tank deterioration. Inspection of the UST and excavated soil/rock by site personnel indicated the tank to be in good condition with no evidence of significant subsurface contamination (Dennis 1993).

4.1.2 Disposal of Hazardous Waste in Dry Wells

The Bee Caves Nike IFC facility site plan dated June 1959 identifies the location of two dry wells, one north of the former IC Building and another near the southeast corner of the former GFC Building (COE 1959b). The existence and location of the two dry wells could not be confirmed during the site survey. Whether disposal of hazardous wastes into either or both of these dry wells occurred is unknown. If it did, the dry wells constitute a migration pathway to groundwater in the vicinity.

Table 7 provides an inventory of hazardous materials typically present at the Nike facilities. The total volume of hazardous chemicals used at the site was not large, and most materials such as diesel fuel, paints, solvents/thinners, and herbicides would be largely consumed so that only a

fraction would be disposed as waste. Other materials, such as asbestos and PCBs, were left in place when the former Nike IFC facility was deactivated. At a 5% disposal rate, the volume of hazardous fluids, principally paint and solvents, potentially discarded into the dry wells each year can be estimated at less than 50 gal.

4.1.3 Release of Untreated Waste Water

In the years following transfer of the Bee Caves property to the ARNG, the integrity of the sewage treatment system became questionable. Contents of the facility holding tank did not appear to increase appreciably, and no discharge from the tank was observed. Because of the age of the system, the possibility was considered that breaks in the underground sewer line may have occurred over time, thus allowing the underground discharge of untreated sewage before it reached the treatment plant. An inspection of the former facility sanitary treatment system in July 1986 showed that the facility was inoperative (Day 1986). A new sewage treatment system has since been constructed and the former system abandoned.

During the years of use by the ARNG, the sewage treatment plant was significantly underutilized. ARNG activities consisted primarily of training one weekend per month. If subsurface releases of untreated waste water occurred in past years, the volume released was low. During this period, no noticeable odors or incidents of effluent entering the waterway were reported (Day 1986).

4.2 Releases to Surface Water

No permanent bodies of surface water are present on-site. As discussed in Section 2.5.3.3, the ARNG property is located at the summit of a hill so that surface drainage is away from the property in all directions. Site elevation is shown in Figure 2. The Colorado River is located approximately 1 mi north of the property, and Barton Creek is located approximately 1 mi south of the property. The volume of hazardous materials historically used at the property as part of the former Nike operations, as well as the current ARNG operations, was low. Because of the distance to the nearby surface waters and the permeability of the surface soils, it is highly unlikely that hazardous materials released to the surface soils at the property would have been carried via surface drainage to either surface water body.

4.3 Releases to Soil

The ESOs discussed here have the potential to release hazardous chemicals to the soil in the vicinity of the Bee Caves Armory.

4.3.1 Underground Fuel Storage

Emergency power generators were routinely tested as part of normal Nike IFC operations, consuming large quantities of diesel fuel. An investigation of former Nike facilities for potential toxic and hazardous waste contamination by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers noted that leakage and spillage of fuel during tank refilling operations was common (LETC 1986). No evidence of surface staining or stressed vegetation was evident at the former IFC UST location, however.

4.3.2 Hazardous Materials Storage and Use

Building 27 has been used to store hazardous materials (primarily petroleum products) during the former Nike IFC operations as well as during the current ARNG operations. Building 20 is currently being used by the ARNG to store minimal supplies of gasoline and paint-related products; it was used as a guardhouse during the former Nike IFC operations. Both buildings have concrete foundations and sidewalls. Storage of hazardous materials has been of a limited volume over the years of operation. Inadvertent spills that may have occurred within the storage buildings would have been cleaned so that migration of contaminants outside the storage areas would have been minimized. Of greater risk to the environment and to human health are spills or releases of hazardous materials that have occurred beyond the Building 27 and Building 20 storage areas.

4.3.2.1 Pesticides, Herbicides, and Waste Oil

Pesticides and herbicides have limited current and historical use at the Bee Caves property. Application is sporadic and of low volume. As part of the former Nike IFC operations, waste oil and hydraulic fluids were routinely used to control vegetation along underground cable runs connecting the IFC area with the MLA. The volume of waste oil products generated as part of Nike IFC operations was low, limiting the volume available for this purpose.

4.3.2.2 Polychlorinated Biphenyl Compounds

Formerly, PCBs were used as a component of dielectric fluid in transformers. Deterioration of a sealed transformer located on-site resulted in rupture of the unit and the subsequent release of a small quantity of this carcinogen in approximately 1990. Contamination was limited to the area in the immediate vicinity of the leaking transformer. Contaminated surface soils were removed by the local electrical utility when the leaking transformer was observed and reported (ECAS 1992).

4.3.3 Release of Untreated Waste Water

The former sewage treatment system had an overflow discharge directed to the ravine adjacent to the Bee Caves property. During the approximately 30 years since installation of the treatment system, private homes have been constructed in the ravine. The discharge point was periodically inspected during the years of ARNG operation, and no discharge from the system overflow point was observed. Because the system was underutilized, the potential for overflow was greatly reduced.

When the new sewage treatment system was completed and the former system abandoned, the discharge pipe was permanently sealed, and the treatment unit tanks were filled with sandy loam and seeded (Whisenhunt 1990; Dennis 1993).

4.4 Releases to Air

Routine operations performed as part of current ARNG activities or during the former Nike IFC activities did not result in the release of significant quantities of hazardous materials to the air. Fugitive dust and emissions resulting from the limited use of vehicles during current ARNG training exercises are discounted as an ESO.

A survey performed in early 1993 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers confirmed the presence of asbestos in certain building materials, including floor tiles and mastic, pipe lagging, transite boards, boiler covers, stack boot tar, and sheetrock duct work covers (Geo-Marine 1993). A total of 83 bulk samples of building materials were collected from the nine buildings inspected (the eight buildings located within the armory and training area at the crest of the hill and the water

pump station located down the hill). Forty of the samples collected were identified as asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). Table 8 presents a summary of the samples of building construction materials collected that contained asbestos. Friable ACMs can be hazardous to building occupants because of the potential for release of asbestos fiber to the atmosphere. Recommendations for abatement of the friable and nonfriable ACMs were made in the survey report.

4.5 Other Releases

4.5.1 Fire and Explosion

Limited amounts of flammable materials are stored in the well-secured Flammable Storage Building (Building 20). An aboveground 3,500-gal LPG storage tank is, likewise, properly maintained and located within a fenced area. The threat of fire and explosion or direct contact by unauthorized persons is, therefore, minimized.

4.5.2 Radiation

Electronic tubes that contain low-level radiation sources in minute amounts were often disposed of indiscriminately in earlier portions of Nike site operations (LETC 1986). Tubes may have been disposed with solid waste or even "tossed on the ground." In later portions of the Nike program, these tubes were more strictly controlled. A probable maximum of six of these tubes per year were discarded in this manner, according to site interviews performed as part of the Corps of Engineer's toxic and hazardous waste investigation of former Nike sites (LETC 1986). Any tubes that may have been discarded on-site have almost certainly been destroyed by groundskeeping activities. The residual hazard of this material is negligible.

TABLE 8 Summary of Samples of Building Construction Materials Collected Containing Asbestos

Sample No.	Asbestos-Containing Material	Condition	Amount ^a	Asbestos Type/Amount ^b
BC24-01	Black floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	600 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC24-02	Tan floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	2,280 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC24-07	Duplicate of BC24-02	Not damaged, nonfriable		
BC24-03	Brown floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable		
BC24-08	Duplicate of BC24-03	Not damaged, nonfriable	2,280 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC24-05	Transite board	Not damaged, nonfriable	154 SF	Chrysotile 45%
BC24-06	Black floor tile w/ mastic	Not damaged, nonfriable	600 SF	Chrysotile 2%
BC24-10	Transite ceiling	Not damaged, nonfriable	650 SF	Chrysotile 40%
BC24-11	Transite siding	Not damaged, nonfriable	120 SF	Chrysotile 45%
BC24-12	Gray floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	248 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC24-14	4-in. pipe lagging	Damaged, friable	35 LF	Chrysotile 10%
BC24-17	Boiler cover	Damaged, friable	70 SF	Chrysotile 10%; Amosite 15%
BC24-18	3-in. pipe elbow	Not damaged, nonfriable	80 E, 20 T	Chrysotile 10%
BC24-21	3-in. pipe lagging	Not damaged, friable	200 LF	Chrysotile 5%
BC3-01	Brown floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	2,100 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC3-02	Tan streaked floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	2,100 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC3-04	Tan mottled floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	154 SF	Chrysotile 3%
BC3-05	Transite ceiling	Not damaged, nonfriable	500 SF	Chrysotile 3%
BC3-06	Black floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	850 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC3-18	Duplicate of BC3-06	Not damaged, nonfriable		
BC3-16	Gray felt paper	Not damaged, nonfriable	100 SF	Chrysotile 10%
BC3-12	Boiler cover	Not damaged, nonfriable	36 SF	Chrysotile 2%; Amosite 10%
BC3-13	3-in. pipe lagging	Damaged, friable	35 LF	Chrysotile 5%
BC21-03	Black floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	450 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC21-04	Tan floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	1,000 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC21-05	Brown floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	1,000 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC21-08	Transite board	Damaged, nonfriable	100 SF	Chrysotile 45%
BC21-09	Gray floor tile	Not damaged, nonfriable	1,350 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC21-10	4-in. elbow	Not damaged, nonfriable	10 E, 5 T	Chrysotile 3%

TABLE 8 (Cont.)

Sample No.	Asbestos-Containing Material	Condition	Amount ^a	Asbestos Type/Amount ^b
BC21-11	4-in. pipe lagging	Not damaged, friable	200 LF	Chrysotile 10%
BC21-12	4-in. pipe "T"	Damaged, friable	3 E, 3 T	Chrysotile <1%; Amosite <1%
BC4-01	White floor tile	Damaged, nonfriable	500 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC4-02	Green floor tile	Damaged, nonfriable	500 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC4-03	Black floor tile	Damaged, nonfriable	100 SF	Chrysotile 5%
BC4-06	Transite board	Not damaged, nonfriable	2,800 SF	Chrysotile 40%
BC4-07	Duplicate of BC4-06			
BC4-08	Sheetrock duct cover	Damaged, nonfriable	160 SF	Chrysotile 10%
BC4-10	4-in. pipe lagging	Damaged, friable	140 LF	Chrysotile 2%
BC4-11	4-in. elbow	Not damaged, nonfriable	20 E, 2 T	Chrysotile 5%
BC4-14	Stack boot tar	Not damaged, nonfriable	20 SF	Chrysotile 5%

^a SF = square feet; LF = linear feet; E = number of elbow junctions; T = number of T junctions.

^b When more than one asbestos amount analytical result is available, the highest value is reported.

Source: Geo-Marine (1993).

5 Human and Environmental Receptors

5.1 Groundwater

Groundwater from the Trinity and Edwards aquifers is used in the region as a source for municipal and domestic water, as well as irrigation and livestock needs. Underlying the ARNG property are the middle and lower Trinity aquifers. To the east of the ARNG property, the Edwards aquifer overlies the Trinity aquifer. The volume of hazardous waste present at the site in the form of surface or subsurface contamination is minimal because of the relatively low volume of hazardous materials used at the site during its years of operation. However, since infiltration of rainfall and surface water is the primary recharge mechanism for groundwater in the region, the potential for groundwater contamination must be considered.

Wells in the vicinity of the ARNG property that are drilled into the lower Trinity aquifer (typically the Hosston member) are not considered to be at risk because the impermeable Hammett Shale member of the Travis Peak Formation acts as a hydrologic barrier between the middle and lower Trinity aquifers. Nearby wells drilled into the middle Trinity aquifer (typically the lower Glen Rose Formation) are at minimal potential risk because of rainfall infiltration. The depth to the aquifer and the distance from the site to nearby wells combine to reduce the risk to well users.

The Edwards aquifer is largely separated from the ARNG property by the Balcones Fault Zone. Recharge to the Edwards aquifer is predominantly by several surface water flows located south and southeast of the ARNG property. No connecting surface water flow to any of these streams exists. The distance between the Bee Caves facility and any of the recharge streams would minimize the risk to the Edwards aquifer from any contamination present on the ARNG property.

5.2 Surface Water

No on-site permanent streams or surface water bodies connect to the nearby Barton Creek to the south or the Colorado River to the north, the primary source of drinking water for the Austin area. The quantity of hazardous materials historically used at the property is low, and the porous and gravelly soils of the site cause nearly all precipitation to be rapidly absorbed. No impact to surface water resources in the area is evident.

5.3 Soil

Releases to surface soils as a result of ARNG activities (i.e., groundskeeping activities or the previously used vehicle wash rack) are not considered a significant environmental concern. Releases to surface soils during the former Nike IFC operations (i.e., spills that likely occurred during the frequent refilling of the 6,000-gal UST or application of herbicides or waste oil to deter vegetation growth) were not of a significant volume. Neither staining of surface soils nor distressed vegetation associated with past substantial surface releases is apparent. Surface drainage during the intervening 30 years has diluted the concentrations of the hazardous materials so that they are unlikely to pose a risk to site personnel or nearby civilians.

5.4 Air

Limited fugitive dust and vehicle emissions result from the use of military vehicles when the two units assigned to the facility assemble for training exercises. However, there are currently no permit requirements. Exposure via air of the off-site population to ARNG-generated contamination is unlikely.

Asbestos present in original building construction materials poses a risk to building occupants. The risk to persons off-site via air transport is minimal.

5.5 Other Receptors

The 12.55-acre ARNG property is enclosed by a fence and gate, preventing entrance by the surrounding civilian population. Because of the low volumes of hazardous materials that have historically been stored and used at the property, the potential for transport of significant quantities of these materials off-site is small. The transport of measurable quantities of hazardous materials via surface or subsurface pathways from the ARNG property to the Lake Austin and Town Lake reservoirs and public use areas and to the Wild Basin Wilderness Park is unlikely.

6 Preliminary Assessment Findings and Conclusions

6.1 Summary of Preliminary Assessment Findings

The ARNG Bee Caves Armory is 12.55 acres located in the western portion of Travis County, Texas, west of the city limits of Austin. The property is bordered by a residential area known as the Rob Roy subdivision. Separating this area from Austin, Texas, are the two suburbs of West Lake Hills and Rollingwood. West of the site, the area remains largely undeveloped. The Colorado River is located approximately 1 mi north of the property, and Barton Creek is located approximately 1 mi south of the property. These surface waters are the major source of drinking water for the region. Groundwater in the Trinity Sands aquifer at a depth of 200-700 ft is also a source of drinking water, primarily for rural populations located upgradient of the ARNG property (DHUD 1981).

The Bee Caves ARNG property is licensed to the Texas National Guard as an armory and division data center. The facility is occupied by the 111th Area Support Group and the 1104th Transportation Detachment. The two units, with a total authorized strength of 139, assemble for training one weekend per month. ARNG training activities at the facility are limited, consisting primarily of classroom-type activities. Hazardous materials are stored and used by site personnel only as part of general house- and groundskeeping activities. Wastes generated are not considered to be of a hazardous nature. Vehicles assigned to the unit receive service and maintenance at nearby Camp Swift.

The property was formerly used as part of the Nike-Hercules Missile Defense System. It was an IFC facility of the Bergstrom Defense area. The associated MLA was not part of this property. Four ESOs associated with the former Nike-Hercules IFC area operations were identified at the property: (1) underground fuel storage, (2) hazardous materials storage/use, (3) disposal of hazardous waste into two dry wells, and (4) release of untreated waste water.

6.1.1 Underground Fuel Storage

Pressure testing of the 6,000-gal UST located south of the former generator building was performed in 1987. Diesel fuel was determined to be present in the tank. Because of its age, corrosion and leakage of the tank were considered probable. The UST was removed in 1991.

After excavation, the UST was reported to be in good condition. Inspection of the UST and excavated soil/rock indicated that release of significant quantities of hazardous materials did not occur.

6.1.2 Hazardous Materials Storage and Use

The primary mission of the Nike IFC area was radar tracking and missile guidance. Radar did not require extensive chemical use. Maintenance of radar was mostly electrical, using relatively small amounts of solvent for cleaning. The HIPAR used a coolant pumping system consisting of the coolant ethylene glycol and an oil-lubricated pump. Paint was the most significant chemical used on radar systems. The volume of hazardous materials required on-site as part of Nike missile fire control activities was low, and most of these materials were consumed.

Two materials now recognized as hazardous were used as construction materials when the facility was developed in approximately 1960 as a Nike IFC Area. PCBs were formerly used as a component of dielectric fluid in sealed electric transformers. Deterioration of one transformer resulted in the leakage of a small quantity of PCBs to surface soils. The defective transformer was taken out of service, and the contaminated surface soils were removed (Dennis 1993). A survey of site buildings performed in early 1993 under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers confirmed the presence of asbestos in some building construction and insulation materials (Geo-Marine 1993).

6.1.3 Disposal of Hazardous Waste into Two Dry Wells

According to the 1959 site plan of the former Bee Caves IFC facility (COE 1959b), a dry well was installed north of Building 30, formerly the interconnecting corridor between the battery control van and the radar control van, both of which were removed when the Nike facility was deactivated. A second dry well was apparently installed southeast of Building 28, the former generator building. The presence of the dry wells could not be confirmed during the site survey. No documentation is available regarding the construction of the two dry wells or their use, although dry wells offered convenient disposal locations for potentially hazardous materials such as oil, solvents, and acids. Relatively minor quantities of these materials were typically present at Nike IFC facilities. If the dry wells were present as indicated in the site plan and then were filled at the time of deactivation of the former Nike site, use of the dry wells for disposal of the limited quantities of hazardous waste fluids generated as part of the former Nike IFC operations is unlikely

to have resulted in the release of hazardous constituents sufficient to pose a significant threat to the environment or to the surrounding population.

6.1.4 Release of Untreated or Hazardous Waste Water from the Facility Water Treatment System

The aging sewage treatment facility constructed when the property was developed as a Nike IFC facility has been abandoned. Contents of the system holding tank were removed for disposal, and the holding tanks were filled with sandy loam and seeded. The facility has been replaced by an upgraded treatment facility approved by the local health authorities.

6.2 Recommendations for Further Action

The primary objective of the PA is to identify and evaluate ESOs that would result in either (1) immediate action, (2) site investigation, or (3) no further PA/IRP action. The nature of the training activities at the Bee Caves Armory is such that no current ARNG operations are considered to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Storage of flammable materials in the POL Storage Building is extremely limited, only of the type and amount required for groundskeeping activities. A higher volume of hazardous materials was present on the site when it was used as a Nike-Hercules missile fire control area. Most of these materials were consumed on-site as part of normal operations or were removed at the time of deactivation of the site as a Nike facility. The volume of hazardous materials that may have been released to the surface and subsurface soils of the property is unlikely to pose a significant threat to human health or to the environment. Because of the actions taken to mitigate potential contamination at the site, no further PA/IRP action is recommended for this property. To protect workers on the site, abatement of ACMs, as outlined in the February 1993 asbestos survey, is recommended.

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Appendix:
Interview Information

Appendix:

Interview Information

Individuals and Agencies Interviewed

Environmental Officer
Texas Army National Guard
Camp Mabry
Austin, Texas

Environmental Officer
Texas Army National Guard
Camp Mabry
Austin, Texas

Construction Inspector (retired)
Texas Army National Guard
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