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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "AIR FORCE PLANS CLEANUP OF CARSWELL WASTE DITCH"  
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**NAVAL AIR STATION  
FORT WORTH JRB  
CARSWELL FIELD  
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**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD  
COVER SHEET**

AR File Number 19

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# Air Force plans cleanup of Carswell waste ditch

By BRUCE MILLAR  
Star-Telegram Writer

The Air Force plans to begin next month a \$250,000 cleanup of a drainage ditch identified three years ago as the worst hazardous waste disposal site at Carswell Air Force Base.

The ditch is within 3,000 feet of a water well, and test results have confirmed soil contamination by a "moderate quantity" of hazardous wastes, said Capt. Paula Hoffmann, an Air Force spokeswoman.

A consultant's report in 1984 listed the site as the worst of 12 on the base, but Air Force officials chose not to begin a cleanup until after further testing.

The 800-foot-long ditch receives runoff of water, jet fuel and solvents from an area where aircraft are cleaned and serviced.

It poses no immediate threat to health, Hoffmann said. She said that determination was made by the Austin consulting firm Radian Corp. and the surgeon general's office of the Strategic Air Command.

But if the site isn't cleaned up, Hoffmann said, it holds the poten-

cial for contamination of the Trinity River. However, she said, "There is no long-term threat, as all necessary corrective action will be taken."

The Air Force estimates that the cleanup will take about a year. A contract will be awarded, probably in March, Hoffmann said.

Last month, the Air Force said in a news release that the ditch was "needing and ready for corrective action." No further details were provided.

The news release said possible cleanup actions include dredging and removing soil, installing a concrete liner and repairing a pipe that had been leaking jet fuel into the ditch since 1979. Hoffmann said Wednesday that the leak has been fixed and the pipeline is functioning properly.

In written responses to questions submitted Jan. 16 by the Star-Telegram, Air Force officials provided details about recently released test results.

Twenty-four soil samples collected at the ditch by Radian contained  
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heavy metals including arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium and silver.

Tests showed that samples from the surface of the ditch contained high levels of oil and grease — greater than 50 micrograms per gram. "However, no distinct pattern of contamination could be determined," the Air Force said.

Radian did not drill wells to monitor contamination near the ditch.

Instead, the consultants collected surface samples at three locations and used a hand-auger at six other locations to drill 10 feet for samples.

High concentrations of heavy metals and oil and grease in the soil at the southern end of the drainage ditch are "unexplained," Hoffmann said.

One possible explanation is that water may pool in this area, allowing more infiltration of contaminants into the soil, officials said. The high-

er concentration indicates that other sources of contaminants might be contaminating that part of the ditch, the Air Force said.

The final Radian report was submitted to the Air Force on Oct. 29. It was released three months later. Radian was paid \$269,636 for its work.

No cleanup has been scheduled for the other 11 sites identified by Radian in 1984. The consultants recommended further monitoring and testing at those sites.

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